

Timber Values

Notwithstanding the emerging environmental values being placed upon Canada's forests, there can be no doubt about the profound economic values of the timber and wood fibre to be found and harvested in them. Yet, industrial managers in Canada fear that these more tangible benefits are frequently overlooked and taken for granted.

Finally, there are about 300 cities and towns across this land that depend on forest products operations as a principal focus. Without that export capability of which I have spoken, and without a sound forest base to back it up, the impact on those communities would be immense. In fact, it would be horrendous. — Howard Hart, President, Canadian Pulp and Paper Association (Issue 3:7).

Even more significant is the widely held professional judgement that the economic contribution from our forests *must continue to grow and be developed* to meet the aspirations and needs of Canadian society into the long-term future. This premise is one of the more daunting challenges of sustainable forestry development — *recognizing that the concept of sustainability must be established and realized, while at the same time increasing the scale of economic development of the resource.* In fact, we tend to agree with those who argue that our future targets for timber harvest could be double our present levels by the year 2050, and that *the future vision for our forests should have such growth goals established for strategic intervals in time*, and be distributed in all regions across Canada.

At the same time, obviously, there should be parallel quantified goals by 2050 for the use and enjoyment of the forests for recreation and other non-timber values. These must also be set at equal or greater magnitudes to meet the growing demands described earlier, with obvious regard for variable circumstances in each region. The Committee believes that these seemingly conflicting goals can be achieved *with the right process and structure for advanced planning towards sustainable forestry development.* Further, it must be done in such a way that each region of the nation will share fully in the bounty of the forests, and do so without sacrifice of either economic or environmental values. Such is the promise of sustainable forestry development, and such also is the immense challenge of attaining it in our forests.

Ownership of Canada's forests is primarily vested in provincial governments, but there are significant portions held privately by industry companies and by a large number of individual wood lot owners. Many people feel that *tenure* is a key factor in the practice of good forest management.