

425 000 landowners. On behalf of the public, provincial governments manage roughly 71 percent of Canada's forests, while the federal and territorial governments are stewards of about 23 percent.

The forest land base in Canada is extremely diverse. Each of the eight major forest regions in Canada has a different mix of predominant tree species. More than 60 percent of the forest cover is composed of softwoods, 15 percent is hardwoods, and 21 percent is mixed woods. All told, there are 165 tree species in Canada.

## **THE VALUE OF FORESTS**

**F**orests have many values, playing an essential role moderating the climate, regulating water systems, preventing erosion, alleviating air pollution, and providing wildlife habitat. Canadian forests also offer a multitude of recreational opportunities for Canadians and visitors from around the world.

In addition, many communities depend on the industry for much of their economic base. In 1995, the industry provided 369 000 direct jobs and another 511 000 indirect jobs, for a total of one job in fifteen in Canada. Forest products are also one of Canada's most important export industries. In 1995, the value of forest exports was \$41.3 billion. Three products account for the lion's share of these exports: softwood lumber, newsprint, and wood pulp. Two-thirds of those exports are to the United States. The European Union and Japan are the two other major importers of Canadian forest products.

## **FOREST MANAGEMENT—WIDER VALUES, WIDER PARTICIPATION**

**F**orest management is a matter of provincial jurisdiction in Canada. Each provincial and territorial government has its own set of legislation, policies, and regulations to govern the management of forests within its boundaries. However, all