

sustainable forest management; and the need to complete a network of protected areas that are representative of Canada's forests.

The commitment to continue to pursue the collective goal of sustainable forests nationwide was confirmed in 1998 by the signing of the second Canada Forest Accord, this time by a substantially larger number of governmental and nongovernmental forest community leaders. Signatories have prepared action plans containing specific initiatives to meet the commitments under their area of responsibility.

New Rules and Regulations

Today, each province has its own legislation, regulations, standards, and programs through which it allocates forest harvesting rights and management responsibilities. In addition, many provinces have legislation that requires public participation as part of the forest management planning process. The broad spectrum of forest users — the public, forest industries, Aboriginal groups, and environmental organizations — are consulted to ensure that recreational, cultural, wildlife, and economic values are incorporated into provincial forest management planning and decision making.

Across the country, new forest laws based on the principles of sustainability and stricter enforcement of policies and guidelines indicate that steps are being taken by an increasing number of provinces and territories in response to the demands of sustainable forest management. For example, Saskatchewan's new Forest Resources Management Act (April 1999) requires unprecedented levels of public involvement, multilevel planning, independent audits, and regular monitoring. Amendments to Nova Scotia's Forests Act will enable the government to apply sustainable forest management principles to forest management programs throughout the province. Alberta has developed a framework that reflects the public's desire to maintain its access to the wide range of benefits provided by sustainable forest ecosystems. In addition, a number of provinces have announced incentives to encourage the sustainability of private woodlots through tax rebates and financing for silvicultural activities and education.

Government agencies across Canada have, without exception, adopted a consultative approach to developing forest policy and routinely seek public views and work closely with industries, Aboriginal groups, and environmental groups to incorporate recreational, social, wildlife, and economic values into forest management planning and decision making.

Tenure Agreements

Harvesting of Canada's commercial forest land is carried out almost exclusively by private forest companies through lease agreements with the provincial governments. While the exact terms of these agreements vary, depending on the province and the lease's duration, tenure agreements generally impose strict requirements on forest companies — requirements that attempt to balance the commercial goals of the industry with the broader goals of government and the public.

Forestry Research

The Canadian Forest Service of Natural Resources Canada is the principal federal forest research organization in Canada, although a number of other federal departments, networks, and agencies (including the National Research Council, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, Environment Canada, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and Industry Canada) support research relevant to forestry. In addition, at the national level, there are three cooperative industrial forest research institutes in Canada. FERIC (Forest Engineering Research Institute of Canada), Forintek Canada Corporation, and Paprican (Pulp and Paper Research Institute of Canada) are responsible for research in forest engineering, solid wood products, and pulp and paper, respectively. A number of companies also undertake research. Provincial research activities are generally of an applied nature, concerned with solving forest management problems and applying new technologies in forest operations.