

FACT SHEET

MANAGING CANADA'S DIVERSE FORESTS

Canada has more publicly owned forest land than most other countries, and manages this land to safeguard its natural diversity and its many values, while taking into account the interests of all users.

Canada is the world's second-largest country and is made up of 10 provinces and three northern territories. It stretches from the Pacific Ocean east to the Atlantic Ocean and north to the Arctic Ocean, and its 979.1 million hectares of land (about 2.4 billion acres) includes 402.1 million hectares (993.6 million acres) that are forest or other wooded land.

Under Canada's Constitution, the federal government and the provincial/territorial governments have specific roles in the care and governance of public forest areas, as well as sharing responsibility for matters such as environmental regulation and science and technology.

Each province and territory has strict rules governing forest practices on its public land, with regulations and laws that were recently cited by an independent academic study as being among the most stringent on earth. These are backed by comprehensive compliance and enforcement regimes.

Canada's rigorous forest management laws and regulations are complemented

by voluntary, third-party certification that gives customers added assurance that the products they are buying come from sustainably managed forests. Canada has more land certified to market-based sustainable forest management certification than any other country.

Governments involve Canadians in decisions related to how their forests are managed — policy development is open and transparent, based on community input and backed by comprehensive legislation.

Less than one per cent of the land available for commercial forest activities in Canada is harvested annually, and very little forest land has been permanently converted to other uses such as agriculture and urban development.

Federal/provincial roles

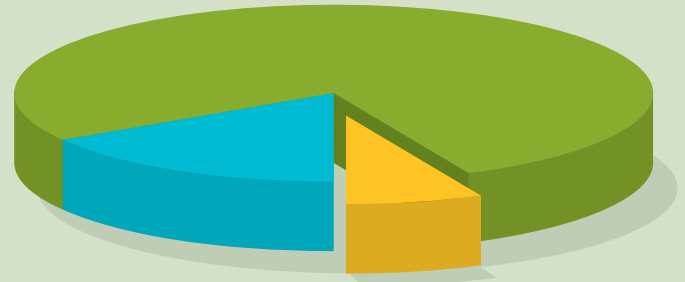
Canada's provinces and territories, which own 77 per cent of Canada's forest areas, have legislative authority over the enhancement, conservation

and management of their forest resources. They develop and enforce policies, legislation and regulations, allocate timber licences, collect forest management fees and gather data. While their laws may differ, the outcome is the same — sustainable management of forests that considers all values, including wildlife, fisheries, soils, biodiversity, community watersheds and scenery.

Private forest companies operating on public lands have forest management licence agreements with the provincial or territorial government. Each jurisdiction sets and enforces strict requirements for these companies and require that they regenerate all harvested areas to reflect the original natural diversity.

The federal government, which owns 16 per cent of Canada's forest areas, is responsible for issues related to the national economy, trade and international investments, federal lands and parks and Aboriginal peoples. Most federally owned forest land is not subject to harvesting activities.

Canada's Forest Land



Public Land (93%)

■ Provincial/Territorial (77%)

■ Federal (16%)

Private Land (7%)

■ Private (7%)



Involving Canadians

Forest management planning and decisions must incorporate the views of all Canadians and respect Aboriginal and treaty rights.

Each of Canada's provinces and territories has completed or is in the process of implementing broad scale strategic land use planning that identifies conservation and community objectives prior to development. The governments also consult a broad spectrum of forest users, including the public, forest industries, Aboriginal peoples and environmental organizations, to ensure that recreational, social, wildlife and economic values are considered in forest management activities and decision making.

Before any harvesting, regeneration, or other forestry interventions are approved, forest companies that operate on public land must demonstrate through forest management plans that they have invited and addressed public views. Many forest companies support informed dialogue by providing information through citizen advisory panels and/or producing environmental reports.

Innovative partnerships in every region of Canada — from temperate rainforests on the Pacific Coast to the northern boreal region — have turned conflicts regarding forest development and preservation into dialogues involving communities, governments, industry and a range of interest groups. Together, divergent interests are exploring issues ranging from biodiversity to climate change, and are finding consensus-based solutions by recognizing differences in needs and personal values.

Private forests

Almost one fifth of Canada's logs and pulpwood come from private forests and woodlots, as do most maple products, fuelwood, Christmas trees and many other products. Private forest lands also provide recreational opportunities, support wildlife habitat and biodiversity, help clean water, and contribute to the beauty of the forest landscape. Forest management on private woodlots is supported by provincial and municipal guidelines and a variety of partnership programs.

The amount of forest land that is privately owned varies widely from province to province, with the highest concentration in the eastern Atlantic provinces. In Prince Edward Island, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, all private forest land is owned by individuals or families — there is no private industrial forest land in those provinces.

