

# **A Framework for Development of Saskatchewan's Forest Industry**

Saskatchewan's forest industry development framework is designed to:

- Assist the province's forest industry in moving from an industry based on commodity production to one delivering market-driven, value-added products.
- Ensure Saskatchewan maintains a competitive operating environment for forestry and provides quality infrastructure to support the industry's growth and development.

The following are the key actions the government intends to take to help the industry achieve new growth and development. The government will work in cooperation with Enterprise Saskatchewan's forestry sector team, the Council of Saskatchewan Forest Industries, the Independent Forest Operators Association and other organizations in the fulfillment of these actions and in other activities which may bolster the framework's intent.

## **Forest Management**

The provincial government will:

- Review sustainable cut levels associated with Forestry Management Agreement (FMA) areas as they come open for reallocation to ensure development opportunities are maximized, while ensuring both long-term forest ecosystem sustainability and long-term wood supply needs of existing Saskatchewan forest businesses are maintained.
- Enhance market-based systems to provide wood allocations to small, independent operators.
- Encourage adoption of forest management certification and ensure that provincial programs enable such adoption.
- Encourage development of multi-stakeholder FMAs and log merchandising focussed on getting the right wood and mills to produce the highest-value product as efficiently as possible.
- Ensure appropriate consultation with First Nation and Métis communities and that such communities in forest areas have sufficient resources and capacity to meaningfully participate in consultations and forest business opportunities.

## **Economic Infrastructure**

The provincial government will:

- Prepare a northern resource development plan, which will complement the rural highway strategy developed by the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure and the northern transportation policy currently under development.

- Reduce trucking costs related to forestry harvest and continue working with the forest industry to improve the safety of trucking operations and the efficiency of truck haul operations.
- Ensure transportation standards and regulations allow for the efficient export of forestry products.
- Support the development of regional economic planning and community infrastructure projects through Saskatchewan's allocation of Community Development Trust funding.

## **Taxation and Regulation**

The provincial government will:

- Ensure Saskatchewan's business tax levels are competitive and continue to investigate opportunities for further tax reduction.
- Ensure the government forestry dues system is competitive and as market- and value-focussed as possible.
- Undertake an independent review of regulatory measures affecting the forest industry.

## **Knowledge and Research**

The provincial government will:

- Develop a state-of-the-art forest inventory in collaboration with the industry that allows for assessment of quantity and quality for all potential uses.
- Assess value-added market development opportunities, including Wood First initiatives, by working with industry and research organizations, including FPInnovations (Note: Wood First is an initiative being championed in other jurisdictions that promotes wood as a primary material in new building construction).
- Provide enhanced adult basic education and skills training opportunities to workers and to communities in transition through Saskatchewan's allocation of Community Development Trust funding.
- Encourage the provision of wood-based bio-mass energy by further investigating Saskatchewan's forest bio-mass potential and developing a provincial forest bio-mass energy strategy.
- Continue research in the area of agro-forestry, particularly in relation to climate change, forest bio-energy, carbon sequestration and carbon market opportunities.