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Media Release

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Community Leaders and Organizations Get It! Ontario's Forest Sector is Renewable

The Ontario Forest Industries Association (OFIA) is pleased to announce that on March 2, 2011, at its 68th Annual Meeting, OFIA recognized the outstanding contributions of community organizations and leaders at an *Ontario Forest Sector Champion Awards* celebration.

The United Nations General Assembly declared 2011 as the International Year of Forests to raise awareness of sustainable forest management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests. In light of the International Year of Forests, the OFIA recognized those community leaders and organizations who have demonstrated their dedication towards promoting the sustainable use of Ontario's forests.

The six individuals and five organizations recognized included:

- Marianne Berube (Executive Director, Ontario WOODWorks!)
- Dave Canfield (Mayor of Kenora)
- Tom Laughren (Mayor of Timmins)
- Jeff Muzzi (Manager of Forestry Services, County of Renfrew)
- Roger Sigouin (Mayor of Hearst)
- Harold Wilson (President, Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce)
- County of Renfrew
- Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities
- Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association
- Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce
- Timmins Chamber of Commerce

“For the past seven years our Association has been working closely with these community leaders and organizations at a grass roots level to ensure that the importance of the forest sector is understood by both government and the public of Ontario” stated Jamie Lim, President and CEO of the OFIA. Citing the incredible opportunities available to Ontario's forest sector, including a potential \$100 million per year mid-rise construction market, Lim added “capitalizing on our opportunities requires that we have access to an affordable, long-term wood supply - more specifically it requires the government to protect the 26 million

cubic metres of fibre that Ontario currently produces in a sustainable manner. These community leaders and organizations get it, and that is why we are pleased to be able to recognize their efforts.”

The awards celebration took place at the OFIA Annual Meeting at the Sutton Place Hotel on March 2, 2011.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

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Backgrounder

The following provides a sample of positions/statements that warranted recognition of the eleven community organizations and leaders as Forest Sector Champions.

“We understand the need to conserve and manage for environmental values and the forest sector, under the CFSA, already accomplishes this.”

Tom Laughren, Mayor of Timmins

“If the government does not fulfill its 2007 commitment [Minister Ramsay letter to the Ontario Forestry Coalition in May 2007], it will be a major blow to Northern and Rural development, Northern and Rural economies, our livelihoods and our hope for the future.”

Roger Sigouin, Mayor of Hearst

“We’ve lost 30 per cent of available forest land base on Crown land so we can protect every species - except working families!”

Jeff Muzzi, Manager of Forestry Services, County of Renfrew

“If poor legislation is passed, it can be unpassed. That’s the angle we have to take. You can’t just throw up your hands and give up. It’s not an option.”

Jeff Muzzi, Manager of Forestry Services, County of Renfrew

“For many years, we’ve told provincial government of all stripes that a made-in-Toronto policy does not work for northwestern Ontario. Governments have agreed that one size doesn’t fit all, but yet as policies come forward, they continue to be made in Toronto. Our economy is in turmoil; our population has declined for the past two censuses. Is the government now ready to listen to policies for the north that are made in the north?”

Dave Canfield, Mayor of Kenora

“Certainly, the structural advantages of building with wood are clear and most people know that wood is a renewable and sustainable building material, and that using wood from sustainably managed forests, like those in Ontario and the rest of Canada, is an environmentally responsible choice.”

Marianne Berube, Executive Director, Ontario WoodWORKS!

“And further that any further regulations under the Endangered Species Act be developed in full consultation with the public and stakeholders and supported by socio-economic impact studies, and in accordance with openness and accessibility required under the Planning Act.”

County of Renfrew

“We call on the government of Ontario to recognize that northerners have been responsible guardians of wildlife for well over a hundred years.”

“Furthermore, we call on the Province of Ontario to complete a full socio-economic impact of this regulation on the North and that the analysis be included in the Registry posting for public input.”

Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM)

“NOMA is concerned with the potential impact of Caribou Habitat Regulation on our municipalities and is doubly concerned that such regulations could be implemented without consultations regarding the social and economic impacts being undertaken in advance. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association call on the Government of Ontario to complete comprehensive and transparent consultations regarding the social and economic consequences of any draft proposed Caribou Habitat Regulations.”

Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA)

“The proposed [tenure] framework is a one-size fits all approach which fails to recognize regions in which successful strategies and solutions have been developed and implemented. A full-system overhaul may be done at the expense of those systems which are working well.”

Timmins Chamber of Commerce

“Throughout the north the mantra should be to maximize value. Our chamber led the charge last year to the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, which unanimously supported our resolution that a minimum of 26 million cubic metres of wood annually be legislated as available for use by existing mills and new entrants.”

Harold Wilson and Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce