

Media Release

The Future is Forestry – Let’s Grow It Together

Monday, December 12, 2016. The Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs is holding a hearing in Sudbury on Tuesday, December 13, 2016 regarding Pre-Budget Consultations.

The Ontario Forest Industries Association (OFIA) will be presenting to the Standing Committee and believes that by working with government and affected stakeholders to address six key competitive challenges, we can maximize the full potential of Ontario’s renewable resource, create good paying jobs and assist the province in transitioning to a low carbon economy that will support sustainable growth for future generations.

OFIA’s President & CEO, Jamie Lim, stated, “Our hope for 2017, as we celebrate Canada’s 150th birthday, is that the focus will be on the future – and the future is forestry. Growing Ontario’s forestry community and recognizing its vital role in climate change mitigation is crucial in maintaining the opportunities in forestry that create jobs and foster economic growth in northern and rural Ontario.”

For generations OFIA’s member companies have been growing local economies by harvesting and growing trees. The Forest sector has been putting Ontario’s wood to work responsibly.

Lim further commented that, “Forestry is the past, present and future of our great nation. Ontario’s forestry community is deeply rooted in every region across the province, connecting and supporting people and families. Ontario’s forestry community generates \$11 billion of economic activity. Last year, manufactured forest product sales increased by more than \$1 billion over the year before, and our exports of forest products have increased each year since 2012.”

The OFIA submission outlines how Ontario can grow an economy and practice sustainability at the same time, how the world wants wood and how forestry can be Ontario’s greatest renewable opportunity.

Lim concluded, “With long-term, reliable access to affordable wood and confident customers, our forest products sector will continue to be the future of our province, and nation, and prove to be a climate change champion that continues to support hardworking families and communities. The future is forestry – let’s grow it together.”

For OFIA’s Pre-budget submission please call 416-368-6188 or visit our website: www.ofia.com