

MEDIA RELEASE

When Will Ontario Harvest Its Last Tree?

OFIA Builds with Ontario Wood in Celebration of Canada's 150th Birthday

TORONTO, June 27, 2017. Ontario Forest Industries Association (OFIA) member companies and forestry professionals know that the answer to that question is **never**.

By responsibly harvesting **less than 0.5%** of our Crown trees annually, Ontario's forest sector is able to generate real prosperity and support over 172,000 people in every region of the province. Ontario's forestry community and their world-class, sustainable forest management practices, provide the only building material that is both renewable and recyclable, supporting communities and families, such as Habitat for Humanity partner families.

In honour of Canada's 150th birthday and to celebrate Ontario's sustainable forest products sector, OFIA partnered with Habitat for Humanity GTA as an Official Wood Sponsor at the Pinery Trail site in Toronto (140 Pinery Trail). OFIA's forestry community, including Weston Forest, the Honourable Kathryn McGarry, Minister of Natural Resources, members of provincial and municipal government, Indigenous leaders and the Carpenters' Union Local 27, rolled up their sleeves to help build 15 homes with Ontario Wood. "Building with wood is just as important to the members of our Union as it is to the forest sector," explained Mike Yorke, President of Carpenters' Union Local 27.

Jamie Lim, President & CEO of OFIA, explains, "The whole objective of the event was to celebrate, not only Canada and Ontario's 150th birthday, but also to celebrate forestry because forestry is older than Canada. This is a sector that's renewable, like farming - we plant, we cut and we repeat and it is an honour to have OFIA's member companies here (Pinery Trail)."

"We, at Habitat for Humanity, are just so thrilled that the OFIA chose to partner with us as their way of celebrating this phenomenal history of leadership in our country," adds Habitat for Humanity GTA's CEO, Ene Underwood, "The forest industry is the perfect partner for us. We can't raise a wall, we can't put a roof over the head of a low-income, working family without the wood industry."

To recognize the Ontario forest sector's contribution to helping build Canada for over 150 years, and showcase its sustainable wood products, OFIA is proud to present a short video from the Pinery Trail build days. (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i3oAeL8m_kA&feature=youtu.be)



ONTARIO FOREST INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION
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Growing a stronger, greener Ontario

About Ontario Forest Industries Association (OFIA)

Ontario's renewable forest products sector supports over 172,000 direct and indirect jobs in over 260 Ontario communities. Since 1943, the Ontario Forest Industries Association has represented forestry companies ranging from multinational corporations to family operated businesses producing advanced manufacturing technologies and products. OFIA believes that by working with government to address key competitive issues, secure long-term access to affordable and accessible fibre and promote the province's 21st century forest products sector, Ontario will be the number one jurisdiction in Canada for today's green and growing renewable sector.

To learn more about OFIA, follow us on Twitter @OFIA_info, or visit www.ofia.com.

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For more information please contact:

Lauren McBride
Director of Communications
Ontario Forest Industries Association
T: 416-368-2842
C: 647-646-9600
lmcbride@ofia.com