

Media Release

OFIA Congratulates Premier Wynne on her New Cabinet

OFIA Looking Forward to Working with New MNRF Minister Kathryn McGarry

June 14, 2016. The Ontario Forest Industries Association (OFIA) congratulates all new and continuing Ministers on their recent appointments to Premier Wynne's cabinet. Ontario's forest products sector welcomes Premier Wynne's new team that will implement the government's plan to create jobs and growth within Ontario.

"For northern and rural Ontario, by responsibly harvesting our province's renewable natural resource, trees, we can act on an opportunity to create more green jobs, grow local economies and mitigate the challenges associated with climate change," commented OFIA's President and CEO, Jamie Lim.

By harvesting less than one percent of Ontario's 85 billion trees annually, Ontario's forest products sector directly and indirectly supports over 170,000 hardworking Ontario families in over 260 communities, generates \$3.89 billion in domestic exports and regenerates Ontario's forests.

Lim said, "Some of our members have been operating in Ontario for up to six generations – 150 plus years. Our members take great pride in our sector's history and we aspire to work with Premier Wynne and her new cabinet to build an even brighter future for Ontario's natural advantage - forestry."

"We are looking forward to achieving our sector's full potential with the newly appointed Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), Kathryn McGarry. This is an exciting time to be involved in the forest products sector. A report by the Forest Products Association of Canada states that by 2020, Canada's forest sector will generate an additional \$20 Billion in economic activity and create 60,000 new green workforce jobs. Working collaboratively with Minister McGarry, we want to ensure that Ontario gets its share of this national growth."

She continued, "We are very pleased to see Minister Murray remain at the helm of MOECC. The Minister has been an advocate for the sustainable use of Ontario's forests and our sector's role in mitigating the effects of climate change. Sustainable forest management helps Ontario's forests remain healthy and productive, preserving and growing Ontario's carbon sink. Ontario's forest products sector will continue to work proactively with Minister Murray and our province as it transitions to a low carbon economy."

On the newly appointed Minister of Energy, Glenn Thibeault, she stated, "Access to affordable energy is a major concern for companies operating in northern and rural Ontario. Minister Thibeault's commitment to building a safe, clean and affordable energy system for the province is welcome news and we congratulate Minister Thibeault on his new appointment."



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Lim concluded, “OFIA would also like to thank Minister Bill Mauro for his work over the past two years within the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. OFIA is confident that in his new role as Minister of Municipal Affairs he will continue to work with stakeholders to create jobs and grow the economy of Northern Ontario.”

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Ontario’s renewable forest products sector supports over 150,000 direct and indirect jobs in over 260 Ontario communities. The Ontario Forest Industries Association (OFIA) is comprised of 32 member companies. 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.