



June 5, 2007

**FOREST MINISTERS RELEASE DISCUSSION PAPER ON CANADA'S
FOREST STRATEGY**

WINNIPEG – The Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (CCFM) today released a discussion paper on proposing a vision for sustainable forest management in Canada. This is the first step in the development of Canada's next Forest Strategy.

At their annual meeting in Yellowknife on October 13, 2006 forest ministers from across Canada agreed to lead the development of the next forest strategy which will replace the current National Forest Strategy which ends in May 2008. The new strategy will build on existing national initiatives and address socio-economic issues in addition to CCFM's traditional focus on the forest environment.

"I invite all interested parties to participate in the development of Canada's forest strategy," said CCFM chair and Manitoba Conservation Minister Stan Struthers. "Anyone who is interested in national forest issues in Canada is encouraged to provide input and advice on the discussion paper that we have released today by reviewing it and sending their comments to CCFM."

The discussion paper describes the overall process to develop the next forest strategy including a proposed vision, principles, goals and objectives as well as potential issues to be addressed by the strategy.

Mr. Bob Bailey, Northwest Territories Deputy Minister and Chair of the CCFM forest strategy task force said, "This discussion paper is an opportunity for all Canadians to influence the development of Canada's forest strategy of which a draft will be ready for public input and advice in late winter 2008. The CCFM is expected to approve Canada's next forest strategy at their annual meeting in fall of 2008."

The public can provide input and advice to the discussion paper on the CCFM website at <http://www.ccfm.org/>, before July 20, 2007.

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