



December 22, 2017

Climate Change and Air Quality Branch
Environmental Stewardship Division
Department of Sustainable Development
Government of Manitoba
200 Saulteaux Crescent, P.O. Box 37
Winnipeg, MB R3J 3W3

Re: Made-in-Manitoba Climate and Green Plan: Hearing from Manitobans

Dear Climate Change and Air Quality Branch,

The Canadian Institute of Forestry/Institut forestier du Canada (CIF-IFC) would first like to applaud the Government of Manitoba's Department of Sustainable Development for releasing the *Made-in-Manitoba Climate and Green Plan: Hearing from Manitobans* (hereinafter referred to as the Plan) in an effort to develop a long-term climate change strategy and framework. In the face of climate change, visions such as this Plan are crucial for resiliency moving forward.

The CIF-IFC is pleased to respond and provide feedback on the Plan. As the oldest, and only, national forestry institute established in 1908, the Institute is the voice of forest practitioners, providing a strong local, regional, and national presence with 19 sections located across Canada. Through the Manitoba Section, individual events, workshops, and tours bring together forest practitioners and professionals. One of the core mandates of the Institute is to advocate on behalf of sustainable forest management, and to raise awareness regarding forestry issues both nationally and internationally.

Although the release of the Plan is a step in the right direction for a greener and cleaner future, the CIF-IFC believes that the role of Manitoba's sustainably managed forests and their advantages for both the environment and the economy is heavily understated. By storing carbon, providing green building materials and innovative bioproducts, and producing biomass for green energy, sustainable forests further play critical roles in the Climate and Jobs Pillars of the Plan that must be highlighted. In addition, the Plan does not recognize the significance of sustainable forest management (SFM).

Voice of Forest Practitioners / La voix des professionnels de la forêt

Canadian Institute of Forestry/Institut forestier du Canada

c/o The Canadian Ecology Centre, P.O. Box 99 – 6905 Hwy. 17 West, Mattawa, ON P0H 1V0
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It is well documented in the Plan that forests are key components in natural areas, wetlands, and watersheds, providing a range of ecosystem services including water filtration, riparian areas, wildlife habitat, but more importantly they are vital carbon sinks in the face of a changing climate. The CIF-IFC recognizes the Plan's actions to continue enhancing and expanding forests, and provincial parks/protected areas, but the linkages between SFM and utilizing forest products as effective climate change mitigation tools and strategies cannot be overstated.

As a world leader in sustainable forestry, management decisions in Canada are based on sound science, conscientious planning processes and public consultation. Furthermore, a number of laws, regulations and policies support SFM standards and practices across the country. Sustainably managed forests are critical to balancing both short- and long-term needs. Approximately 37% of Canada's forests are independent, third-party certified, representing the largest area of independently certified forests worldwide. SFM ensures that forests can be enjoyed for both present and future generations. The CIF-IFC believes that sustainably managed forests in Manitoba play a crucial role in providing forest resources to support both the changing climate, provincial and national economies, and forestry dependent communities.

Manitoba contains 26.3 million hectares of forest, accounting for approximately half of the province's land base. The province's main forest zones, the boreal, broadleaf/mixed wood and small broadleaf stands provide important resources that support Manitoba's forest industry, and produce a variety of wood products such as softwood and hardwood lumber, pulp and paper, oriented strand board, plywood, particleboard, and fibreboard, etc. Furthermore, the forest industry plays a key role in Manitoba's economic development as the fifth largest manufacturing sector supporting thousands of jobs. The inclusion of SFM in the Plan would further encourage capacity building, employment and resiliency in the forest industry, and inclusion of Indigenous people.

In addition to the many economic, environmental, social, cultural and recreational benefits that forests provide, well-managed, healthy forests at a landscape level can play a huge role in acting as a climate change mitigation tool. Forests that have been sustainably harvested can be regenerated and sequester carbon more rapidly than an unmanaged forest through planned natural regeneration or planting.

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Wood products from sustainably managed forests can also act as an important carbon sink by locking and storing carbon in long term wood based structures. Building with wood is more energy and cost efficient, and structurally comparable to building with other construction materials including concrete and steel. In fact, the carbon footprint of wood is one-quarter that of steel, producing less greenhouse gas emissions.

The Department of Sustainable Development is also in a unique position to promote the use of forest biomass as a renewable energy source under the Climate Pillar. In general, using biomass from sustainably managed forests provides a cleaner energy source, compared to the use of fossil fuels and includes significant greenhouse gas mitigation benefits.

In summary, the CIF-IFC strongly encourages that the Department of Sustainable Development considers the role of Manitoba's forests in the current *Made-in-Manitoba Climate and Green Plan*. Supportive government policies are a key component to enabling these opportunities. Other jurisdictions in Canada are currently recognizing the critical role that well-managed forests play in their climate change action plans.

Sincerely,

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