

INFORMATION  
**FORESTRY**



Environment  
Canada

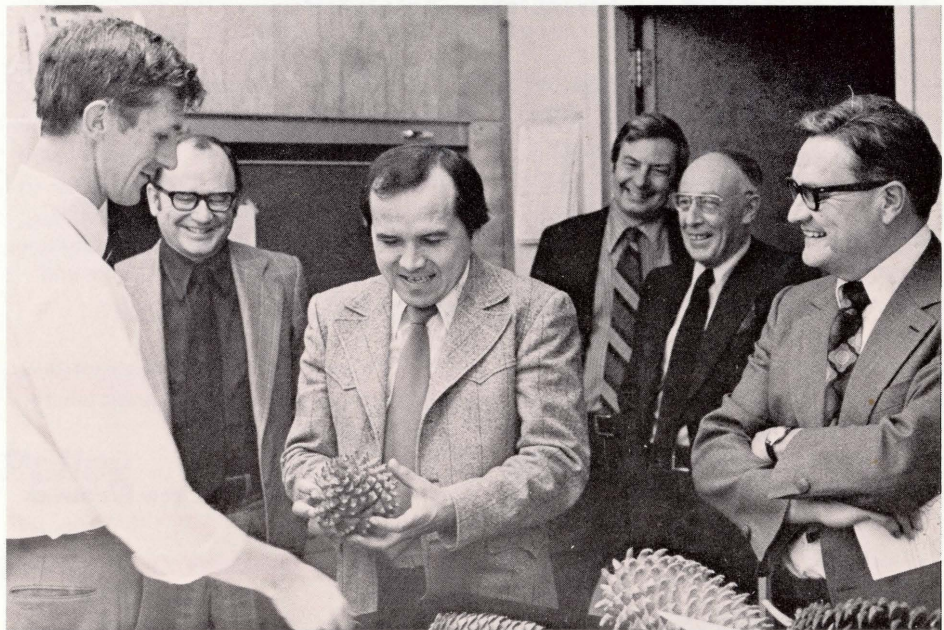
Environnement  
Canada

Forestry  
Service

Service  
des Forêts

*Environment Minister Len Marchand calls for coordinated strategies in forest protection and management, and tells foresters that they had better organize to lobby Ottawa and the provinces if they want to see governments pay more attention to the forest sector.*

*In his first major speech as Environment Minister the Hon. Len Marchand addressed the Vancouver section of the Canadian Institute of Forestry. Here is a resume of his remarks.*



An exotic pine cone is the centre of attention for (L to R) George Edwards, Terry Honer, Hon. Len Marchand, Robert (Bob) Bouchier, L.A. (Bud) Smithers and Michael Drinkwater during the minister's visit to the Pacific Forest Research Centre.

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**“The Federal government obviously cannot be indifferent to the well-being of such a vital resource, and I believe that we can gain much by working together, each in our appropriate sphere.”**

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Minister's remarks cont. . . . .



Nutrient providing fungi is explained by scientist Jim Dangerfield to (L to R) Mike Drinkwater, Jacques Gerin and Hon. Len Marchand.

**“The good old days when God grew the trees and we cut them down practically on our door-steps have gone. And they won’t be coming back. The era of the limitless forest resource is over.”**

## ***On Canada’s Timber Supply***

“Here in British Columbia, we have half of Canada’s standing timber, but even here the existing capacity of the coast forest industry could handle more than the present allowable cut, if logging residuals are taken into account. Most of the reserve timber on the north coast is currently out of reach. A serious log shortage could develop when unregulated Crown and old temporary grants have been logged off. We have the same kind of situation in the Cariboo, the Kootenays, and northwest British Columbia.

The prairies have a surplus of wood, but much of it is remote. In Ontario, in the past 15 years, other demands on the land have reduced the amount of forest available for wood production from 105 million acres to 65 million acres of Crown and private land.

Quebec has a theoretical surplus, but much of it is in remote areas where production costs are high.

Nova Scotia and New Brunswick

have actual deficits in their softwood supply.

That’s not a very cheery picture. And it is made worse by declining log size and quality, but the less attractive species mix in much of the remaining forest, and by serious insect and disease problems. In the West, we have bark beetles, spruce budworm, and root rot. In the East, repeated spruce budworm attacks have severely damaged the coniferous forest.”

## ***Our Spraying Policy***

“The policy basically recognizes that a threat to the forest resource is a threat to our whole economy. But we also have to recognize that pesticides can pose a threat to other resources in the environment, and that there are fears that some pesticides may be harmful to human health.

The federal policy on aerial spraying calls for:

- the recognition that responsibility rests with provincial agencies and other forest managers for minimizing damage to the forests from insects and disease;
- aerial spraying to be used as a last resort only when other methods of pest control have failed;
- spraying operations to be kept to the necessary minimum; and

- continuing research into alternative control strategies, including biological control.

My department will be active in research into forest management and pest control, and will participate in the review and approval of all forest pest control operations. I want the federal level of government to be actively involved wherever possible to protect and enhance our forest resources.”



## Better Forestry Practices

"I think we have to face the fact that the days of carefree exploitation of the forest resource are over. We are entering the era of intensive forestry, whether we realize it or not, whether we like it or not. But we don't seem to have woken up to that reality yet.

Estimates of the total forest land lacking adequate regeneration range from 10 to 70 million acres. The very fact that estimates are so varied is an indictment of the quality of our stewardship. Even so, we know that a good quarter of the land logged in Canada every year does not restock itself promptly or properly in trees. And in many areas, we know that relying on natural regeneration results in stands that are inferior to those they replace, in yield, in species composition, and in size and grade of timber.

Meanwhile, the total spending for reforestation and tending our forests -- by government and industry combined -- amounts to less than \$60 million a year, for the 2-million-acre

*"I will do everything in my power to promote the well being of the forest resource but I can't do it alone--I need your help."*



annual cut. That's less than \$30 an acre. Compare that to Sweden, where they spend \$200 to \$300 per acre.

In Canada, we replant or give treatment to less than a quarter of our annual cut. In Sweden, 80 per cent of their area gets one or often several treatments.

I am concerned that there is an attitude of contentment that finds it sufficient just to match natural productivity on forest land. But there is only so much good earth in this country, and the future will see other demands being made for its use. We are going to have to grow more wood on less land in less time, or someone else will be using the land.

That's a pretty gloomy assess-

ment, but I am not trying to be a pessimist. I have stressed the bad news to provide the basis for the good. And the good news is that we are learning from our mistakes. There is a growing sense of determination in both levels of government and in industry that new priorities in forestry must be established. Unfortunately, this new conviction comes at a time when economic conditions are severely limiting our freedom to manoeuvre in both public and private sectors.

But economic limitations are not insuperable obstacles. They may prevent us from doing everything we would like to do -- but they shouldn't stop us from doing everything we can. And what we can do is get our act together. We can devise and establish a national forest policy."

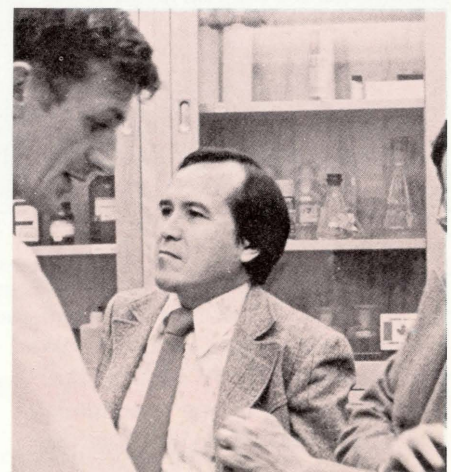
## A National Forestry Policy

"We need some agreement on national objectives in forestry and some mechanisms for achieving them. Not only do we not have these things now, we do not even have eleven consistent provincial and federal forest policies that take into account all the diverse interests involved.

And when I say a national forest policy, I do not mean simply a federal policy. Of course there must be a federal policy, but I am talking about something greater than that. We must have a set of guiding principles and objectives that both levels of govern-

ment and industry can formulate together and subscribe to.

Of course, the federal government recognizes the preeminence of jurisdiction of the province in the management of Canada's forests, and I don't want to make federal-provincial relations any more difficult by suggesting any federal encroachment on that jurisdiction. But the federal government obviously cannot be indifferent to the well-being of such a vital resource, and I believe that we can gain much by working together, each in our appropriate sphere."



**"The forest resource is going to be a high priority under my ministry."**



## The Canadian Forestry Service ?

“The Service’s reduction in staff and resources since 1968 has caused some concern in forestry circles that its capability is being eroded. I want to assure you now that I have no intention of downplaying the role of the Canadian Forestry Service. If economic restraints make further cuts in my department necessary, I intend to make sure that the Canadian Forestry Service does not suffer. I want to see its role enhanced, in recognition of the high priority I place on the Canadian forest resource.

I can promise you that under my ministry, the Canadian Forestry Service is in no danger of disappearing. I think they are a great group of people who are making a real contribution



The Minister told the staff that they would continue to play a major role.

to an area I consider one of my highest priorities. There is no way that I would see their contribution diminished. I hope that it will be just the opposite.”

## Foresters and Politics

“The forest industry and the forestry profession must create a constituency, as other economic sector groups have successfully done. Frankly I think most foresters are far too naive about the political process and how it affects them.

But to get down to brass tacks, the federal Department of Fisheries and the Environment spends some \$135 million on fisheries management and research and only \$34 million on the forest resource. In terms of jobs and balance of payments statistics, which do you think is the most important resource? The forests, of course. So why the difference? To say that fisheries are entirely a federal responsibility and forests are not doesn’t give the whole answer.

Now compare the well-earned success of the fisheries constituency to the forestry sector. There are more than 300,000 Canadians earning their living

in the forest industry, but how many of them think of themselves as part of a forestry constituency?

Why are there more graduate students in a single, large university chemistry department than in all our forestry schools combined?



Why, in British Columbia, where forest industries contribute 50 per cent of the value of production, do we have a forestry school half the size of the school of agriculture, when farming produces only 15 per cent?

Why does the UBC School of Business Administration -- one of Canada’s best -- virtually ignore the problems of marketing forest products,

the products which pay for this province’s bread and butter?

The answer to all these questions and more is simply that the forestry sector has yet to establish itself as a political constituency in Canada.

You have to get involved with the political process and make it work for you. Make sure representatives of labour and environmental groups are invited to your meetings. Make sure you include your local MPs and MLAs in your plans. Let the media know what you’re doing, and make sure you get your points across.

A unified forestry constituency in Canada would, frankly, carry a lot of political clout. I strongly suggest that you go about the proper democratic process of establishing that constituency. Get your hands on that clout, and then use it for the betterment of the forest resource and our economy for the people of Canada, who need to be made aware of how much the forest means to their prosperity.”