

# BEYOND THE CANOPY

## CONVERSATIONS ON FOREST SCIENCE IN CANADA

In 2016, the Canadian Forest Service (CFS) convened conversations with over 140 representatives from more than 80 organizations across Canada — including academia, provincial and federal government agencies, NGOs and research institutions — to seek advice and views on our role as a forest science research organization.

### THIS IS WHAT YOU TOLD US:

#### 1. Fundamentals First

Climate Change

Wildfire

Pests

Cumulative Effects

Forest Inventory

You asked us to strengthen our core to ensure a firm science foundation, demonstrate excellence, and maintain public trust in sustainable forest management in Canada

**2. Lead Nationally** — You said the CFS is the only organization in Canada with a truly national perspective on forest issues, undertaking long-term, large scale research and data collection. You told us our niche is focusing on challenges that are complex and cross-disciplinary, requiring multi-layered responses.

**3. Priority Science at Our Fingertips** — You recommended that we strengthen our internal science capacity to support evidence-based decision-making.

**4. Collaborate** — You told us science requires external collaboration. Key to our success will be initiating common priority setting and promoting a shared agenda on matters of national concern.

**5. Share** — You asked us to connect our current and historical data on Canadian forests and CFS research results to the broader science ecosystem in support of new partnerships and expanded insight.

**6. Networked Brainpower** — You encouraged us to explore alternative governance and human resource models to support the next generation of talent and to enhance interagency collaboration.

**7. Widespread Relevance** — You want CFS science to be broadly accessible, in particular to forestry practitioners, to increase impact.

**8. Regional Presence** — You value our regional presence and consider it essential to maintain our relevance and represent the diverse character of our forests and forestry sector. National forest agency engagement and outreach should occur where the forests and forest managers are.

*These factors are now guiding and informing the CFS as we shape the next phase of our development. We look forward to continuing these conversations as a vital part of our evolution and commitment to be a high-performing national forest science research organization.*

#### Stay Connected!

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