

OFIA NEWS:
UPDATES & EVENTS

WORKPLACE SAFETY NORTH:
BEHIND THE WHEEL

FOREST HISTORY ONTARIO:
2024 UPDATE

FIELD NOTES

THE VOICE OF ONTARIO'S FOREST INDUSTRY
FALL/WINTER 2024



#OFIA81

ONTARIO'S PREMIER FOREST INDUSTRY CONVENTION
GATHERS IN TORONTO TO CELEBRATE 81 YEARS

Founded in 1943, the Ontario Forest Industries Association (OFIA) is a provincial trade association and the home of CLA Grading and Inspection. The OFIA currently represents over 50 companies that operate world-class assets and sustainably manage over 22 million hectares of public and private forests in Ontario.

OFIA's vision is for a jurisdiction where sustainable forest management is embraced, and the forest sector is recognized as a key driver of social, economic and environmental value.

FIELD NOTES

FALL/WINTER 2024

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OFIA

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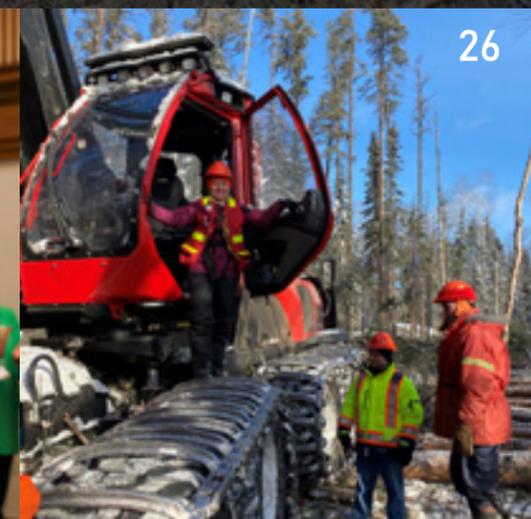
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OFIA NEWS

OFIA WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS TO THE ASSOCIATION

This past year, we are thrilled to have welcomed Dryden Fibre Canada, GreenFirst Forest Products, Thunder Bay Pulp and Paper, Kerry Group, and CHAR Technologies to the Association. As representatives on OFIA's Board of Directors, we welcomed Chris Grant, R.P.F., Forest Resource Manager for Dryden Fibre Canada, Michel Lessard, President of GreenFirst Forest Products, Mike Furniss, R.P.F., Fibre Manager of Thunder Bay Pulp and Paper, and Lesley Wright, Buyer/Procurement for Kerry Group.



Our exciting new partnership with the OFIA demonstrates a shared vision for innovation and growth within Ontario's forest sector. Together, we aim to drive positive change, support local communities, and contribute to a thriving circular bioeconomy. We look forward to making a meaningful impact together.



Lesley Wright
Kerry Group Canada

SARAH TODGHAM MARKS ONE YEAR WITH OFIA

Over the past year, Sarah Todgham, OFIA's Policy Manager, has shown dedication and expertise in her contributions to our team. Sarah has quickly taken on leadership roles in addressing important issues for the forest industry such as carbon pricing, non-tariff trade barriers (e.g., EUDR), coordinating a comprehensive review of Ontario's proposed landscape, stand, and site guidance documents, resource revenue sharing and Indigenous relations, as well as collaborating with Ontario on parks and protected areas.

Congratulations on this milestone, Sarah!

CLA GRADING & INSPECTION

We are excited to announce that SITA Information Networking Computing Canada Inc., specializing in Wood Packaging Manufacturing, has joined the CLA in 2024.

The CLA proudly represents 27 member facilities across Ontario. These facilities are all registered in the Canadian Heat Treated Wood Products Certification Program. The services performed by the CLA members range from Wholesalers, Kiln Drying, Wood Packaging Manufacturing, and Grade Stamping.

In the past six months, we have conducted over 150 inspections of our member facilities. Our commitment to quality assurance ensures that our members maintain the highest standards in the industry.

As we continue to invest in professional development, in the first half of this year, we successfully conducted a Structural Lumber Grading course. Looking ahead, we have two White Pine Red Pine courses scheduled for the second half of the year.



^ Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek's Mill Manager, Art Gladu showcases the Indigenous-owned Papisay Sawmill with OFIA's Sarah Todgham, FPAC's Jenna Phillips & SFI's Catherine Langille.

OFIA PUTS BOOTS ON THE GROUND

OFIA has had the pleasure of touring several member operations across Ontario over the last year. Beginning in Ottawa Valley with the First Resource Management Group (FRMG) to visit Lavern Heideman & Sons in Eganville and Ben Hokum & Son in Golden Lake.

Later, OFIA toured the Interfor Sawmill in Timmins, Rosko Forestry Operations in Kirkland Lake, and the Georgia-Pacific OSB mill in Englehart, in addition to touring active forest operations on the Timiskaming SFL, led by FRMG. OFIA also enjoyed visiting an Outland Youth Employment Program (OYEP) camp in Esker Lakes, meeting with camp leaders and Indigenous youth to learn more about the training and certifications they completed over the summer.

Building on a successful Thunder Bay event in 2023, Ontario Wood-WORKS! and the Canadian Wood Council contacted the OFIA to organize a tour of mills and operations in northwestern Ontario with engineers, carpenters, architects, and developers. The tour included visiting Norbord/West Fraser in Barwick, Manitou Forest Products in Emo, Interfor Ear Falls and forest operations, Weyerhaeuser in Kenora, Bug Lake Healing Center and lunch with Grand Chief Francis Kavanaugh.

This past July, OFIA was invited by the Forest Products Association of Canada (FPAC) to participate in their Indigenous Relations Committee tour of Indigenous partnerships in the Thunder Bay area. The first stop on the tour was the Bingwi Neeyashi Anishinaabek First Nation community to learn more about their current and upcoming projects to utilize wood residuals to heat the local sawmill and community. This was followed by a tour of the future site of an up-and-coming renewable natural gas and biocarbon project, in partnership with Lake Nipigon Forest Management and CHAR Technologies. The tour also included visiting the Resolute Forest Products sawmill, Thunder Bay Pulp and Paper mill, and Lac de Mille Lac First Nation community.

A special thank you to all our dedicated members who play a crucial role in organizing and hosting these tours. Your additional efforts are greatly appreciated as they contribute significantly to the success of these valuable industry experiences and perspectives.



^ Steve Thuerig guides a tour of a clear cut operation on a Timiskaming Forest management unit.



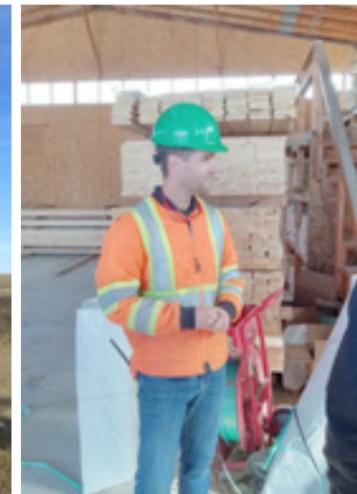
^ Insightful conversations going on at the Timmins Interfor offices with Chief Forester, Jenny Tallman, and team.



^ Views from inside a 3D laser scanning station at Lavern Heideman & Sons in Eganville.



^ OFIA and WoodWorks! / CWC make a stop at West Fraser's OSB mill operations in Barwick.



^ Tanner Kaemingh, General Manager, of Manitou Forest Products, leads a tour showcasing Manitou's specialty wood products.



^ Weyerhaeuser's Matt Wilkie shares his Kenora hospitality with an evening ice fishing trip out on Lake of the Woods. Unfortunately, no fish were caught as Wilkie caught them all the night before.

Newly built "Gamikaan Bimaadiziwin" Healing Centre at Bug Lake. v



OFIA's Sarah Todgham and Sabrina Gatt visit an Outland Youth Employment Program (OYEP) camp in Esker Lakes. v



OFIA NEWS

BUILDING CONNECTIONS

OFIA has been actively promoting industry collaboration and growth by engaging with stakeholders across Ontario. Over the past year, OFIA has proudly sponsored community partners through annual sponsorships at the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) Conference, Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Northern Hospitality Suite (through the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM)), Ontario Professional Foresters Association (OPFA) Conference, Montreal Wood Convention, and Timber Fever Design-Build Competition.

Through networking, knowledge sharing, and speaking engagements, including Ian Dunn's presentations at the NOMA Conference on April 25th, and the BVMW and German Sawmill and Wood Industry Delegation at the Montreal Wood Convention on April 11th, OFIA has strengthened valuable connections, regional partnerships and fostered collaboration, with groups such as The Alliance, to support the long-term prosperity of Ontario's forest industry.

OFIA is also a proud supporter of the Outland Youth Employment Program (OYEP) for the second year in a row. OYEP is a national network of innovative education, training and work opportunities for Indigenous youth. We look forward to continuing to grow this partnership.

WEYERHAEUSER AWARDS MATT WILKIE, R.P.F. WITH THE "TRULY GREAT AWARD"

Congratulations to the 2023 recipients of Weyerhaeuser's Truly Great Awards! This award recognizes employees from across the company who are helping to achieve its vision and strengthen its culture through their extraordinary contributions.

One of these recipients was Matt Wilkie, Weyerhaeuser's Purchase Wood & Systems Leader in Kenora, and a dedicated member of OFIA's Woodlands Executive Committee. Weyerhaeuser shared the following regarding Matt's recognition:

Matt is one of the most passionate and technically complete foresters in Canada. With his vast operational, planning, environmental, GIS and IT experience there is no problem too complex for Matt. His inquisitive nature compels him to challenge himself and others to find innovative ways to improve our operations. There is no one within our organization that Matt isn't willing to help, coach and mentor. Not only is he an important part of our current and past successes, but he's instrumental in shaping our future by mentoring our younger foresters. He consistently goes above and beyond.

Matt is on the woodlands executive of the Ontario Forest Industries Association and is often called upon as an expert in his field by the association and provincial government. He has been influential in shaping public policy within Ontario to improve forest management and mitigate the impact of the Endangered Species Act. However, Matt's reach extends well beyond provincial borders. Matt has enthusiastically shared his technical expertise to our Weyerhaeuser organizations across Canada. Matt has a strong reputation for developing people around him. He is an excellent teacher and mentor, with a drive to learn through example. Long after Matt retires our

organization will continue to benefit from Matt's impact.

Matt's commitment to sustainability is driven by his passion as an avid outdoorsman. When not working, you will find Matt fishing, hunting, or exploring the countryside. His passion for these activities has led to the establishment of many strong relationships with Indigenous communities within the region. He has spent extensive personal time building these relationships as well as helping with Whippoorwill surveys and caribou studies.

Matt is a proud advocate of the Kenora region and is known for his hospitality. When visitors arrive from other locations, Matt is the first to offer to open his home, offer to take people fishing and ensure everyone is entertained during their stay and leaves with a positive impression of the community.

For the past 20 years, Matt has been a truly great forester, friend, mentor, leader, and Weyerhaeuser representative. We're all better off for having Matt as part of Canadian Timberlands and collectively we would like to nominate him for the Truly Great Award.



OFIA NEWS

||
Anyone who would suggest that protecting habitat for black ash will help, simply don't understand the dynamics of forests. As we know, it's not a habitat issue. This is an invasive species issue. This is a forest health issue.

||
Ilan Dunn
OFIA

A PATH FORWARD FOR BLACK ASH

Black Ash (*fraxinus nigra*) is classified as Endangered largely due to its susceptibility to an invasive species, known as the Emerald Ash Borer. Given the unique threat impacting this species at risk, the province put a pause on the enforcement of protections to allow more time to develop a path forward that considers the economic and social factors.

OFIA's Ilan Dunn commented in a [CBC News article](#) on the anticipated socioeconomic impacts resulting from the proposed protection measures, particularly the 30-metre buffer around any healthy black ash tree.

In January 2024, the province made the decision to apply protections to specific regions in the province and to put in place a conditional exemption for forest operations on Crown Land. A decision on a new conditional exemption for forest operations not undertaken on Crown Land is currently under consideration.

The OFIA continues to advocate for the role that forest management can play in maintaining or enhancing forest health, including the management of forest pests and unwanted fire activity.

Furthering these advocacy efforts, Ilan Dunn was asked to join as a guest on the *Outdoor Journal Radio's Under the Canopy* Podcast - [Episode 08: Forest Management](#) - with Jerry Oullette, a former Ontario Minister of Natural Resources, where he shared how forest management contributes to biodiversity.

During this episode, Ilan and Jerry discuss how the province manages its forests, how we plan for forest fires, how loggers help protect our biodiversity, and a potential threat to our nation's Crown Land.

OFIA NEWS

ONTARIO'S NEW ASSOCIATE MINISTRY OF FORESTRY AND FOREST PRODUCTS

On August 16, 2024, MPP Kevin Holland was announced as the Associate Minister of Forestry and Forest Products. Minister Holland has been a huge advocate of the forest sector in his previous roles and as MPP of Thunder Bay-Atikokan.

OFIA congratulates Associate Minister Kevin Holland and we look forward to collaborating together to reduce barriers, create jobs and promote economic growth while ensuring the future sustainability of our forest resources for generations to come.

OFIA ADVOCACY

1. OFIA fully supports the government's recent investment in *Forest Biomass Program*

On March 1, OFIA's Ian Dunn was in Timmins, standing with the Honourable Graydon Smith (MNR), to announce the Government of Ontario's commitment to inject \$60 million into the *Forest Biomass Program*. The program aims to develop the economic potential and environmental benefits of underutilized wood and mill by-products. Over the next three years, the program will make targeted investments in forest sector initiatives, fostering innovation and modernization. This is a positive alignment with the implementation of *Ontario's Forest Sector Strategy*.

2. OFIA-lead advocacy results in increase to *Forest Access Roads Funding Program*

The Ontario government is investing an additional \$6 million in the *Provincial Forest Access Roads Funding Program* to help construct and maintain forestry roads used for regional travel between communities, the transport of goods and emergency preparedness and response along with providing access routes for the tourism sector and industry. The investment will increase funding for the program to over \$59 million in 2024-25.

This was a significant initiative for the OFIA, including the development of critical road mapping. Thank you to all of our members who were actively involved and contributed to this positive outcome.

3. OFIA leads the charge to reinstate single-use paper bags at LCBO stores

On October 19, 2023, OFIA sent a letter to Dr. Soleas, President and CEO of the LCBO, asking him to reverse their decision to phase-out single-use paper bags from their retail stores, highlighting the importance and benefits of paper in supporting the circular economy and diverting wood residuals from landfills. Following this letter, OFIA's Ian Dunn, met with the Ministry of Finance to highlight the sustainability of paper and forest products. On April 8, 2024, following an open letter from the Premier, the LCBO confirmed that they will be reintroducing paper bags into their stores.

4. OFIA takes action on support needed for Ontario's forest sector

On March 19, 2024, OFIA staff and members of the Executive Committee met with Minister Graydon Smith (MNR) to present recommendations from OFIA's membership addressing the forest residuals crisis resulting from recently idled mills in Ontario. OFIA further sent a letter to Minister Smith and the Associate Minister of Forestry on June 19th requesting immediate action to support Ontario's forest sector. OFIA continues to advocate for a solution, including an Ontario Forest Energy Directive.

OFIA NEWS

RECENT OFIA DOCUMENTS AND SUBMISSIONS

- Emissions Performance Standards (EPS) Program Proceeds 2023-30
- Boreal Caribou Monitoring Program Development Virtual Session
- Canadian Wildland Fire Prevention and Mitigation Strategy
- Draft Government Response Statement to the Recovery Strategy for White-rimmed Shingle Lichen in Ontario
- Revisions to the Forest Manuals Regulated under the Crown Forest Sustainability Act
- Letter to Hon. Khanjin (MECP) Re: Introduction to the Ontario Forest Industries Association
- Letter to Dr. George Soleas (LCBO) Re: Ontario Forest Industry Left Holding the Bag with LCBO
- Letter to Hon. Smith (MNR) Re: OFIA Supports Extension to Provincial Fuel Tax Rate Cuts
- Streamlining Environmental Permissions for Stormwater Management under the Environmental Activity and Sector Registry
- Exploring Changes to Streamline the Permit-By-Rule Framework
- Protecting Black Ash and its habitat under the Endangered Species Act, 2007
- Renewing the Ontario Invasive Species Strategic Plan
- 2023-24 Provincial Budget Submission
- Order Amending Schedule 1 to the Species at Risk Act (Part I, Volume 157, Number 45)
- Consultation on Proposed Building Code Amendments to Expand Provisions of Encapsulated Mass Timber Construction
- Submission to IESO: Long-Term 2 Request for Proposals (LT2 RFP)
- Media Release: Ontario Forest Industries Association Applauds Government's \$60 Million Investment in Forest Biomass Program
- Media Release: Jamie McRae Elected Chair of the Ontario Forest Industries Association
- Letter to Chris Walton (CRIBE) Re: Growing Ontario - Sustainable Wood Based Materials for the Future Project
- Letter to Hon. Smith (MNR) & Hon. Quinn (Forestry) Re: Immediate Action Needed to Support Ontario's Forest Sector
- Media Release: The OFIA Sees Growth in Clean Energy and the BioEconomy Announces Kerry Group PLC and CHAR Technologies as Newest Members
- Letter to Hon. Holland (Forestry & Forest Products) Re: Congratulations on behalf of the Ontario Forest Industries Association
- Modernizing Wildland Fire Management in Ontario
- Expanding Protected Areas in Ontario - Sites Proposed to be Regulated under the Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2006

#OFIA81 HIGHLIGHTS

MEMORABLE MOMENTS AND
EVENTS, 2024 ONTARIO
FOREST SECTOR CHAMPION
AWARD & INSIGHTFUL
SPEAKERS AND PANELS AT
ONTARIO'S PREMIER FOREST
INDUSTRY GATHERING.

On April 30th & May 1st, 2024, attendees from across Ontario came to the One King West Hotel in Toronto for stimulating programming, networking, social events, special guest Premier Ford, and more at OFIA's 81st Annual Convention celebration.

In the spectacular Grand Banking Hall at the One King West Hotel, as well as a Forestry Social in the Austin Gallery, #OFIA81 featured an exceptional lineup of speakers, government, forestry and community leaders from across the province.

This year's 2024 Annual Convention welcomed over 200 guests including forestry companies, government officials, municipal leaders, Indigenous leaders, students, educators and natural resource related professionals.

"Excellent agenda - had variety and relevancy. Well done!"
- Feedback gathered through guest survey.

Highlights:

- Insightful program featuring topics that focused on housing affordability, monetary policy, global trends and implications, Indigenous leadership, biomass and digital transformation.
- Keynote presenters included special guest, Premier Doug Ford, along with Hon. Graydon Smith, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, Hon Todd Smith, Minister of Energy, Hon. Jari Vilén, Finnish Ambassador to Canada, Tim Hudak, CEO of the Ontario Real Estate Association (OREA), Konrad Zmitrowicz, Senior Policy Advisor at the Bank of Canada, and Raymond Chrétien, former Canadian Ambassador to the United States and Partner at Fasken.
- Former Assistant Deputy Minister, Kathleen McFadden, was honoured with the 2024 Forest Sector Champion Award at the Forestry Social.



The following page is a collection of photos that showcase the programming, people, and sponsors that made #OFIA81 a success.

Ian Dunn (OFIA) and Jamie McRae (OFIA Chair) present Premier Doug Ford with an OFIA branded antique axe from Algonquin Park. Minister Graydon Smith (MNR), Minister Todd Smith (Energy), and Parliamentary Assistant Dawn Gallagher-Murphy (MNR) join them on stage at OFIA's Forestry Social. >



An insightful panel showcasing Indigenous leadership in biomass projects in Wikwemikong and Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek First Nations communities. >



< OFIA's Ian Dunn, Minister Graydon Smith, Parliamentary Assistant Andrew Dowie, and OFIA Chair, Jamie McRae.



< Former Assistant Deputy Minister, Kathleen McFadden, receives OFIA's 2024 Ontario Forest Sector Champion Award.

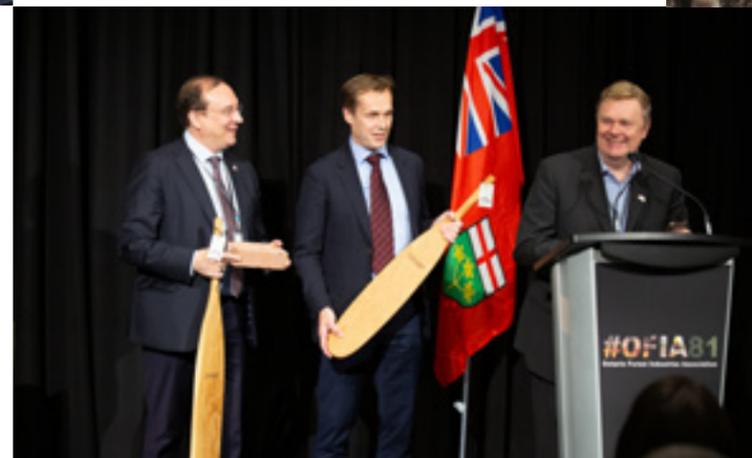
FPIinnovations' Adime Bonsi discussing the rise of automation and digital transformation in today's forest operations. >



Former Ambassador of Canada, Raymond Chrétien, shares his vast experiences in trade and diplomacy with the audience as the keynote speaker. >



< OFIA Woodlands Committee member, Desneiges Larose of Hearst Forest and Committee Vice-Chair, Tammy Mazzetti of Georgia-Pacific, enjoying connecting at the Evening Reception.

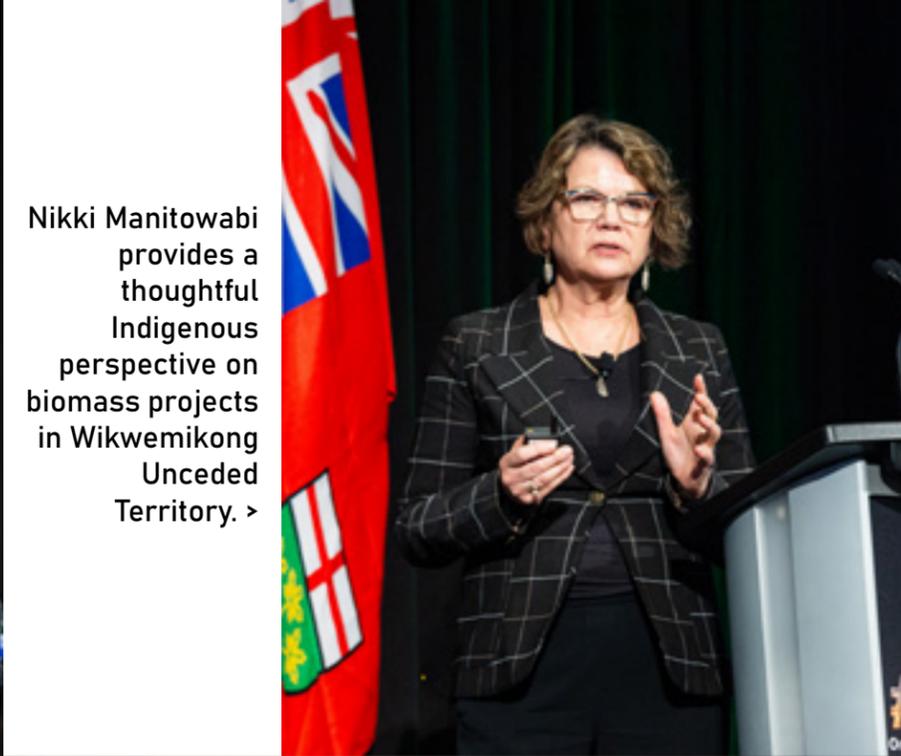


< Pasi Pinta of the Honorary Consulate of Finland, present Ambassador Jari Vilén and Trade Commissioner Jaakko Autere with a brick from The Hoito in Thunder Bay.



< Former Ambassador Raymond Chrétien, Ambassador Jari Vilén, OFIA's Lauren McBride, Trade Commissioner Jaakko Autere, and Parliamentary Assistant Dawn Gallagher-Murphy sharing insights at the Forestry Social. >

Tim Hudak, CEO of OREA engaging the audience as he discusses the housing affordability crisis. >



Nikki Manitowabi provides a thoughtful Indigenous perspective on biomass projects in Wikwemikong Unceded Territory. >



Konrad Zmitrowicz provides a monetary policy report on behalf of the Bank of Canada. >



Scott Needs, Tom Welton and Konor Poulin of Workplace Safety North, our 2024 Maple Sponsor, team up to greet guests at their booth outside the Grand Banking Hall. >



< OFIA welcomes Global Affairs Canada officers, Jennifer Turner and Kristin Harper, to the celebrations ahead of an all-star lineup in the convention program, including discussions on trade policy. >



< NOMA President, Wendy Landry, moderates a panel with SFI's Catherine Langille & Paul Robitaille, and Dexterra Group's Sarah Ambroziak, as they discuss encouraging opportunities for Indigenous youth. >



Thank you to everyone who participated in #OFIA81, including speakers, sponsors, members, and guests. We look forward to welcoming you back April 29th-30th, 2025 for #OFIA82.

PARTICIPATE IN #OFIA82

A range of opportunities for presenters, guests and sponsors to share knowledge, showcase your dedication to the industry, and network with key industry leaders and decision makers in 2025.

Apply for speaking opportunities today by visiting ofia.com/annual-convention/

“

Since 2018, Ontario's forest industry has invested over \$3.6 billion into advanced facilities and innovative technologies. Despite the uncertain economic environment, we are seeing a renewed interest in Ontario's industry and the Ontario Forest Industries Association as the leading voice within the government.

”

-Ian Dunn, President & CEO
Ontario Forest Industries Association

Sponsorship opportunities are now available.

Find more information about how to sponsor #OFIA82 at ofia.com/annual-convention/

THANK YOU TO OUR 2024 CONVENTION

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FIR SPONSORS



2024-25 Provincial Budget Submission

Since 2018, the forest industry has invested over 3.6 billion dollars in Ontario. Autonomous vehicles, drones, robotics, advanced chemicals, machine learning, optimization, and artificial intelligence are commonplace across our industry's operations. The pace of change and innovation will only increase as our industry meets a rising global demand for green energy and sustainable, low-carbon forest products.

Ontario, however, is not immune from global economic and market pressures. High inflation, rising interest rates, workforce shortages, protectionist trade policy, and declining or stagnant market segments represent significant and challenging headwinds. These are complex issues that require a whole-of-government approach. Attracting new investment, developing new products, and growing the sector are important, yet maintaining its existing footprint is essential.

To assist Ontario in navigating these complex issues, the Ontario Forest Industries Association has developed its 2024-25 Pre-Budget Submission to serve as a roadmap to success in *Forest Sector Strategy* implementation. OFIA provided the following recommendations to unlock the vast economic and environmental potential of Ontario's forest resources and contribute to a better Ontario.



SUMMARY OF OFIA'S 2024-25 RECOMMENDATIONS

Implement *Sustainable Growth: Ontario's Forest Sector Strategy*, focusing on key competitiveness measures:

1. Prioritize biomass and pulpwood market development to improve forest sector competitiveness and resiliency;
2. Improve forest road infrastructure, leveraging private investments;
3. Improve market access and maintain the effectiveness of Ontario's adaptive and sustainable forest management framework;
4. Address the cumulative costs of carbon pricing;
5. Position Ontario as a globally competitive jurisdiction through red tape and cost reduction;
6. Develop the workforce of the future and enhance forest community livability.

The forest sector is integral to Ontario's history and critical to its economic, social and environmental prosperity. OFIA strongly believes we can create a better Ontario through working forests, leveraging visionary policies such as *Sustainable Growth: Ontario's Forest Sector Strategy*. We look forward to continuing productive dialogue and supporting sustainable economic recovery initiatives with the Ontario government.

To learn more about OFIA's 2024-25 Provincial Budget Submission, visit ofia.com/pre-budget-submissions/



ONTARIO FOREST ENERGY DIRECTIVE

UNLEASHING THE POWER OF ONTARIO'S PUBLIC FOREST RESOURCE

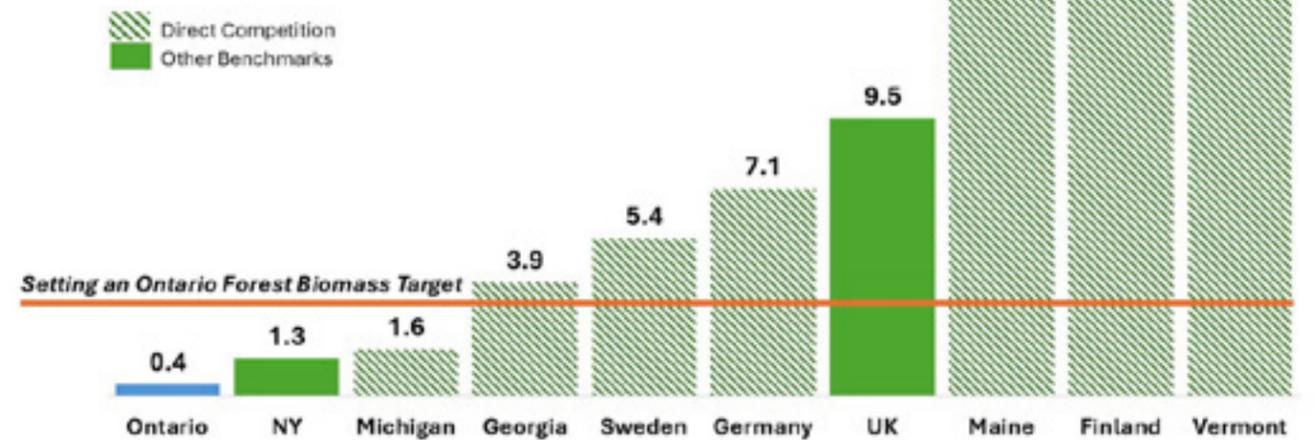
This year, the OFIA developed a *Forest Energy Directive* proposal aimed at improving the competitiveness of Ontario's solid wood sector and attracting investment and innovation in pulp, paper, and circular bioeconomy.

80% of Ontario's annual energy consumption is from emitting fuels such as petroleum products, coal, and natural gas. According to the Canada Energy Regulator, there are 107.4 petajoules of energy supply from Ontario forests and forestry residuals, presenting an enormous opportunity for the Province to develop bioheat, district energy, biocarbon, and liquid fuels projects. The OFIA has also recommended setting a forest biomass electrical generation target that aligns with our main competitors.

On May 28th, the OFIA held a series of successful meetings at Queen's Park with the Minister of Energy, the Premier's Office and the Minister's Office at Natural Resources, advocating for the Directive and ensuring swift action on the regional chip and pulpwood market crisis.

Biofuel & Biomass

% of a Jurisdiction's Electricity Mix



Sources: For U.S. States, the U.S. Energy Information Administration, Electricity Data Browser: <https://www.eia.gov/electricity/data/browser/>. For countries, International Energy Agency: <https://www.iea.org/countries>. For Ontario, currently unpublished data from OES for year-end 2023.

Forest Energy Roadmap



The OFIA requests that Ontario implement a *Forest Energy Directive* through legislation with the following key Ministries:

- Energy
- MNR
- MEDCT
- Northern Development
- MMAH
- Environment

BEHIND THE WHEEL:

LOGGING INDUSTRY EXPERTS ANALYZE DRIVING HAZARDS



Top 10 root causes of driving hazards in Ontario logging operations

[Poster: Top 10 Causes of Driving Hazards in Logging Operations](#)

Driving is a crucial part of many jobs, especially in the logging industry. Whether it's commuting to the worksite or navigating through forest roads, the risks associated with driving for work are significant.

Recently, workers, supervisors, and employers in the Ontario logging industry gathered for a root cause analysis workshop facilitated by Workplace Safety North (WSN), focusing on the top 10 causes of driving hazards.

"During the workshop, industry experts revisited top risks identified in a previous session – vehicles with mechanical issues, inconsistent on-the-job driver training, and a lack of fit-for-duty program. We did a deep dive into their root causes," says Adrienne Allam, WSN Health and Safety Specialist and co-facilitator of the workshop alongside colleague Konor Poulin, WSN Health and Safety Specialist.

"The group crafted a risk statement as their guide: Driving to and from work on highway and forest roads can result in injury to workers or the public based on unsafe acts or conditions experienced during travel," notes Allam.

Top 10 Causes of Driving Hazards in Logging Operations

Driving for work is top health and safety risk

1. Vehicles with mechanical issues and older equipment with poor maintenance

Major concerns include the use of vehicles with mechanical problems and older equipment lacking proper maintenance. Issues such as improper tires, deficient radios, absence of electronic loading devices, vehicle and cab design, and poor housekeeping in trucks contribute to driving risks.

2. Poor safety culture limits support of safe driving programs

A weak safety culture within logging operations limits the effectiveness of a safe driving program. A lack of legal and employer enforcement, along with seasonal drivers and production pressures, make it challenging to build a proper internal responsibility system.

3. Inconsistent on-the-job driver training

Inconsistent competency-based on-the-job driver training poses a significant risk. A standardized training program is required to ensure all drivers are well-prepared for the challenges they may encounter on these unique roads.

4. Lack of fit-for-duty program

A lack of a fit-for-duty program raises concerns about driver fatigue and substance use while operating vehicles. To overcome complacency, it's important to have a policy addressing health and fitness for the job, including understanding operator responsibility, mentorship, and guidance.

5. Limited standards and communication between firms and the Ministry in charge of maintaining highways

To reduce risks for drivers, logging firms, and the Ministry responsible for highway maintenance, need regular communication about road repair, and snow and brush removal.

6. Inadequate forest road construction and maintenance

Poor road conditions, including poorly managed load check locations, a lack of dust control, signage, brush and snow removal, as well as poor road planning all contribute to the risks faced by drivers on forest roads.

7. Inadequate safe operating procedures for drivers

Having insufficient safe operating procedures for drivers can lead to confusion and potential accidents. Clear guidelines ensure that everyone understands and follows the best practices for safe driving in logging operations. Lack of incident reporting and technological monitoring contribute to the risks.

8. Inexperienced drivers unfamiliar with forest roads

Inexperienced drivers lack awareness about the risks that forest roads pose. Proper training and guidance are essential to help these drivers navigate challenging terrains safely.

9. Pre-shift assessment checklist inconsistently completed

A pre-shift assessment checklist for vehicle and road conditions is an important safety measure. Lack of hazard identification, improper tire maintenance, and lack of process create risks for drivers.

10. Poorly functioning safe driving program

A poorly functioning safe driving program is the result of a weak safety culture. Driver payment by load versus hourly inadvertently encourages rushing and poor driving habits, which undermines the internal responsibility system.

To dive deeper into preventing distracted driving in the workplace, view "[Logging Sector Root Cause Analysis Workshop Results and Next Steps](#)" which offers detailed insights and critical controls.

These root causes were identified through a comprehensive root cause analysis workshop facilitated by Workplace Safety North. Addressing these concerns is essential to ensure the safety of everyone involved in the Ontario logging industry. By implementing effective measures and promoting a robust safety culture, we can reduce the risks associated with driving hazards and create a safer working environment for all.

Related

[Logging Sector Root Cause Analysis Workshop Results 2024](#)

[Poster: Top 10 Health and Safety Risks in Logging Operations 2023](#)

[Logging Sector Risk Assessment Workshop Results 2023](#)

[View all forest products risk management research](#)



FOREST HISTORY ONTARIO

2024 UPDATE



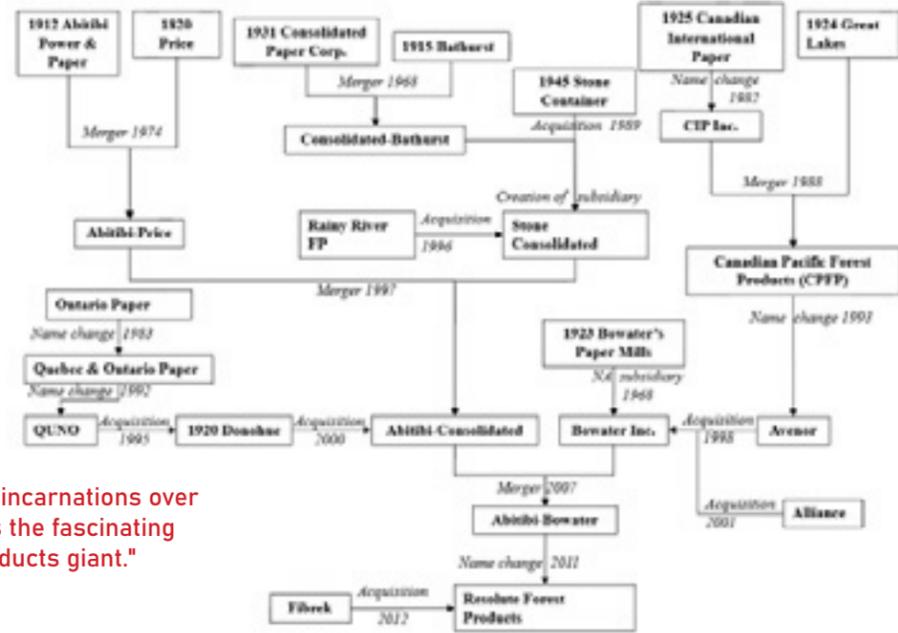
Forest History Ontario (FHO) got 2024 off to a great start by hosting an 'on-line' presentation in early February by Martin Fairbank about his historical research and book *Resolute Roots* ([Martin Fairbank | Consulting | Resolute Roots](#)) that chronicles the storied past of the current Resolute Forest Products from its establishment as a lumber exporter, William Price Company, in 1820.

“ As someone who has worked outside of southern Ontario for most of my career I am constantly amazed at the detailed records and histories (if you know where to look) of many of the small parcels of remnant and 'new' forests scattered across the south. ”

The diagram on the following page provides a snapshot of all the incarnations over 200 years that maps the fascinating story of a forest products giant. To be fully up to date, the story should conclude with the acquisition by Paper Excellence in 2023.



Later in the month, FHO was very present at the Forests Ontario Conference in Vaughan, by hosting a panel of experts who provided perspectives on the theme of changing Ontario forest landscapes. Lacey Rose (Renfrew County Forester) told us about the effect of human settlement and development on landscapes in the County. Dave Martel (University of Toronto) described the history and impacts of Ontario's fire management policy over the last 100 years. Ken Farr (NRCan-CFS Ottawa) provided a fascinating timeline of forest and tree changes over the millennia driven by invasive pests. Well over 200 keen participants took in the session including OFIA President and CEO, Ian Dunn. The three presentations are available on our website Home (fhso.ca).



"Snapshot of all the incarnations over 200 years that maps the fascinating story of a forest products giant."

The 15th issue of our journal *Forestry* was published in the spring and includes a very well researched history of the L&F/OMNR Cochrane District and describes many of the early logging and development activities that established the essential infrastructure of north-eastern Ontario. While long part of local history, readers might recognize names such as: Hawk Lake Lumber Company; A.E. Wickes Company; Devlin and Shire Co; and T.B. Skidmore Forest Products. These and many other early lumber companies and their stories are included in this fascinating and very readable article written by FHO member Mike Rosen and available for viewing on our website.



In June, the 5th forest history tour (since 2019, with a COVID hiatus) was launched for the Guelph area. As someone who has worked outside of southern Ontario for most of my career I am constantly amazed at the detailed records and histories (if you know where to look) of many of the small parcels of remnant and 'new' forests scattered across the south.



...hiding on the grounds of University of Guelph campus is a very small mixed hardwood forest named Dairy Bush that contains an even smaller portion that is original and dates back 335 years...



For example, hiding on the grounds of University of Guelph campus is a very small mixed hardwood forest named Dairy Bush that contains an even smaller portion that is original and dates back 335 years, while the adjacent section is closer to 100 years old and established on an old gravel pit. Only a very experienced eye could distinguish the differences between these two sections, the establishment of the newer forest is so successful.

The relationship between forest cover and water quality and quantity is very real for the City of Guelph in that they uniquely rely on groundwater (aquifers) for much of their city water and are committed to not just preserving their forests but managing them and making them available for use by residents who are staunch forest supporters. The busload of forest history buffs was a record turnout for our tours, which bodes well for future ones and much thanks goes to Board member Terry Schwan for all his efforts in leading these tours. A report is posted on our website. We are looking at the fall of 2025 as part of the Canadian Institute of Forestry Conference in Thunder Bay to launch our first northern Ontario tour.

Finally, the two photos included within the text are from the collection of Tom Ratz, that capture the luxury and formality (note the jackets, ties and city footwear) of bush tours in 1958 in the Thunder Bay area hosted by the OFIA.

- Jim Farrell
Chair & President, Forest History Ontario



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FIELD NOTES

THE VOICE OF ONTARIO'S FOREST INDUSTRY
FALL/WINTER 2024

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