



Media Release

Ontario's Forest Sector Welcomes New Forest Biomass Program

May 29, 2023

The Ontario Forest Industries Association (OFIA) was in Atikokan last week, standing with the Hon. Graydon Smith, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, who announced the creation of a new \$19.6 million Forest Biomass Program. The new program will support implementation of Ontario's *Forest Sector Strategy* and *Forest Biomass Action Plan*.

"Increased use of biomass will assist Ontario's transition to a net-zero economy, reduce pressure on landfills, support the ongoing sustainable management of Ontario's public forests, improve industry competitiveness, and strengthen the circular bioeconomy," said OFIA's President and CEO, Ian Dunn.

Forest biomass electrical generating facilities are integral to Ontario's forest sector and sustainable management framework. These facilities provide clean, green electricity and energy while benefiting forest operations, regional industrial clusters, and the environment.

"As a small family-owned sawmill in Rural Ontario, we are very pleased to see the Government of Ontario's commitment to increased biomass utilization. In our area of Ontario, developing markets for all tree species and products will benefit the entire integrated forest sector. A future of increased biomass utilization in heating, power generation, and product manufacturing will be great news for small communities in Rural Ontario," said Jamie McRae, Vice Chair of the OFIA.

"The world's leading forestry and carbon reduction jurisdictions have embraced forest biomass and innovative biomaterials to secure a net-zero future," noted Mr. Dunn. "This is good news for Ontario and the communities our members operate in. We applaud this announcement and look forward to continued implementation of Ontario's *Forest Sector Strategy* and *Forest Biomass Action Plan* in partnership with the Ontario government," he added.

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For 80 years, the OFIA has represented forestry companies ranging from multinational corporations to family-owned businesses across Ontario. OFIA's member companies produce various renewable forest products, including dimensional lumber, pulp and paper, packaging, clean energy, and engineered wood products. OFIA members invest heavily in advanced research, development, and innovative technologies, supporting a transition towards net-zero. Today, Ontario's forest industry generates over \$20 billion in revenue and supports 142,000 direct and indirect jobs in communities across the province.

For more information, please contact:

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