



P.O. Box 867, New Liskeard, Ontario POJ 1 PO

Ph. (705) 680-0033

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Joe Maure
Forest Sector Strategy - Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
70 Foster Drive, Suite 610
Sault Ste Marie, ON
P6A 6V5
Canada

Submitted Online Via the [Environmental Registry of Ontario](#)

Re: Support for Ontario's Forest Sector Strategy, ERO# 019-0880

Mr. Maure,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on *Ontario's Forest Sector Strategy*, Environmental Registry of Ontario number 019-0880. We would like to express our support for the *Ontario's Forest Sector Strategy* and reaffirm our commitment, as stewards of Ontario's public forests, to the highest standards of sustainable forest management.

Timiskaming Forest Alliance Inc (TFAI) has been responsible for the sustainable management of approximately 1 million hectares of Crown forest in Northeastern Ontario for over 25 years. This submission represents TFAI's 25 years of experience and knowledge managing and conserving this renewable resource across a large landscape. TFAI shareholder companies have 100's of people working in the forest; harvesting and renewing the forest each year and 1,000's of people benefiting from this renewable resource with employment in 5 local mills. An *Ontario's Forest Sector Strategy* is vital in ensuring this industry continues to support the communities our workers live in.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's (MNRF) vision of establishing Ontario's forest sector as a world leader in producing and selling forest products from renewable, sustainable and responsibly managed forests is ambitious. The draft includes five key principles and four pillars of action related to putting more wood to work, improving cost competitiveness, fostering innovation, and promoting stewardship and sustainability. The MNRF should take pride in the document they have created.

Through the development and implementation of a Forest Sector Strategy, Ontario has committed to positioning itself as a leading forestry jurisdiction within Canada. A healthy and sustainable forest industry will strengthen our local northern and rural communities. Increasing available wood supply, making strategic investments in the forest access roads funding program, and ensuring free and open access to American markets is critically important, and these items continue to be priorities for TFAI.

A pre-requisite for a successful Forest Sector Strategy is a permanent solution to the duplication between the Crown Forest Sustainability Act (CFSA) and the Endangered Species Act (ESA). I am pleased to see that MNRF is actively addressing this item, and TFAI is very supportive of ERO# 019-1020, *Proposed Changes to the Crown Forest Sustainability Act*.

Ontario and the MNRF embarked on similar strategies, red tape reduction initiatives, and process streamlining in the past. Some excellent documents and recommendations were developed from these initiatives; however, not enough focus was placed on the implementation or roll-out of these strategies. As a result, systematic and cultural change within the Ministry was never achieved. On page 32 of the draft strategy, MNRF identifies the development of an implementation plan. This is an essential path forward, ensuring our best chance of success, and something TFAI supports.

The forest sector is an important part of Ontario's history and critical to the future of our area forest companies and communities. I would like to thank the Ontario Government and the MNRF for their leadership on this file and look forward to reviewing the finalized strategy.

Sincerely,

TIMISKAMING FOREST ALLIANCE INC.



Yves Vivier, R.P.F.
General Manager of TFAI

CC Minister John Yakabuski, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
Minister Jeff Yurek, Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks
Jamie Lim, President & CEO, Ontario Forest Industries Association
TFAI Board of Directors