

MAZINAW – LANARK FOREST INC.

14225 Hwy. #41
P.O. Box 159
Cloyne, Ontario
K0H 1K0
Telephone: (613) 336-0816
Fax: (613) 336-0818

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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,

Mazinaw-Lanark Forest Inc. is a small, cooperative shareholder SFL in Southern Ontario with shareholders representing sawmills, a group of independent loggers and a pulp mill. Our shareholders are principally independent, family owned businesses whom have been in business for generations on Crown land. Our shareholders have broad representation in the communities within and surrounding the SFL boundaries. Over 785 people are employed by these operations and dependent on wood produced from the forest.

As the general manager of Mazinaw-Lanark Forest Inc., thank you for the opportunity to comment on *Ontario's Forest Sector Strategy*, Environmental Registry of Ontario number 019-0880. I am writing to you today to express overwhelming support for this proposal.

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 an ambitious one. 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 northern and rural communities across Ontario. 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 top of mind for our shareholder's businesses.

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 I am 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 as a result; 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 I support. We have first hand experience with how implementation is just as critical to the development of good policy. Without good interpretation and implementation of policy the goals and objectives of forest policy are not fully realized.

The sector strategy is a well put together high-level document and we support the items identified in this strategy. To strengthen the strategy I would also encourage the ministry address the following components that are not specified in the sector strategy but are important to Mazinaw-Lanark Forest Inc. and to the success of the strategy:

- Review the pricing of Hemlock/Cedar in the stumpage matrix. It is unfair to price Hemlock/Cedar the same as SPF as the market for these species and their various products is totally different.
- Ensure the wood measurement system makes use of new advances in technology to allow the sector to be efficient and nimble to make use of new markets as they become available.
- Half-load restricted roads place large restrictions on the industry in our area. A review should be done to see how the province can support counties and municipalities to upgrade their roads to all-season haul roads.
- Legislative Red tape for Unmaintained Municipal Road Allowances needs to be addressed to allow for planning efficiencies and reduce business uncertainty.

The forest sector is an important part of Ontario's history and critical to the future of businesses and communities in eastern Ontario. 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,



Matt Mertins, RPF
General Manager
Mazinaw-Lanark Forest Inc.

Phone: (613) 336-0816 x223

Email: mmertins@mlfi.org

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