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LOCAL FORESTS FOR A HEALTHY CLIMATE

June 2024

Canadian Forest Owners (CFO) represents 450,000 forest landowners, large and small, who are committed to long-term, sustainable forest management for a healthy climate and thriving communities.



CEO's Corner

In February, I was proud to take over the reins from Jean-Pierre Martel, beginning my leadership of Canadian Forest Owners. With Jean-Pierre, CFO developed a solid government relations foundation and key policy files. We are fortunate to have a significant nest egg in the form of the Peter deMarsh Memorial Bursary fund, and we have a remarkably strong Board of Directors and membership with true coast-to-coast values and expertise.

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CFO Days on the Hill - Spring Advocacy Session

Canadian Forest Owners (CFO) made its follow up visit to Ottawa on April 30 to May 1, 2024 to meet with senior government officials, both elected and appointed, with the goal of ensuring the long-term competitiveness of our sector and rural economic development.

The voice of 450,000 private forest owners, CFO was engaged in a full slate of meetings over two days, which covered federal regulatory and policy issues such as the European Regulation on Forest Degradation (EUDR), 2 Billion Trees program, and CFO's Personal Silviculture Savings and Investment Plan (PSSIP).

The event was an important opportunity to increase

awareness of the long-term ecological and economic benefits of private land forestry to Canadians from coast to coast.

"It is important for us to keep up the momentum we've created and continue to strengthen our relationship with government," explains CEO Andrew de Vries. "A key ask for this year's Days on the Hill was our proposed Policy Framework, which was well received in Ottawa."

Top Photo: CFO Director Vincent Miville, CEO Andrew de Vries, Parliamentary Secretary Marc Serré, CFO Chair Susannah Banks, and CFO Member Dean Assinewe, Ontario Woodlot Association.



Bottom Photo: CFO Directors Jason Killam and Vincent Miville, CEO Andrew de Vries, Member of Parliament Jake Stewart, Miramichi—Grand Lake, New Brunswick, CFO Chair Susannah Banks, and CFO Member Dean Assinewe, Ontario Woodlot Association.



CFO Policy Framework

Canadian Forest Owners collectively equal the 8th largest forest-producing country in the world. In forestry value, CFO is similar in size to Sweden and Finland. In recognition of this value, we introduced a new federal policy framework to help us work together to build support for the implementation of key issues with the goal of creating world leading private forest land management. This policy framework was well received by leaders in the federal civil service and parliamentarians from all parties, including Parliamentary Secretary Marc Serré and Member of Parliament Jake Stewart (above).

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Savings Plan for Woodlots

Although CFO's Personal Silvicultural Savings and Investment Plan (PSSIP) proposal was recommended in the most recent report of the Finance Standing Committee, it wasn't included in Budget 2024. However, the PPSIP is crucial to enabling small- and medium-sized forest owners to invest in creating long-term resilient forests, accelerate the 2 Billion Trees program, help fight climate change, and sequester carbon. A Personal Silviculture Savings and Investment Plan also recognizes the importance of investment and job creation in the forest sector and rural economic development. This investment will contribute to a healthy forest, a healthy climate and increase biodiversity conservation.

MPs and policymakers acknowledged the PSSIP wasn't in the 2024 budget, but they also acknowledged its importance and encouraged CFO to continue to push for it.

"Given the timing of the federal budget relative to our sessions, we hadn't set out to discuss the PSSIP so it was reassuring to see policymakers are aware of its significance," affirms CEO Andrew de Vries. "Support continues to be there for this initiative, putting CFO in a strong position to push for it in

CFO Annual General Meeting

Canadian Forest Owners invited all our members to our virtual AGM on **Tuesday, June 18, 2024 at 12:00-1:00 pm EDT**. A TEAMS meeting invitation was distributed to current CFO members. Members had the opportunity to hear from and ask questions of CFO leadership, provide input on governance and address other related matters.

For details, please contact Andrew de Vries at ceo_dg@forestowners.ca or 778-212-8825.



The International Family Forestry Alliance (IFFA) held its Annual General Meeting on May 24, 2024. IFFA strives to bring together national organizations of forest owners to address our concerns on an international scale. Vincent Miville, Executive Director of Quebec's Federation of Woodlot Owners, attended as a delegate of Canadian Forest Owners (CFO) and as a member of the board of directors.

[Learn More](#)

Scholarship and Bursary Deadline: June 30th

Canadian Forest Owners is proud to provide funding to support students interested in advancing their education at technical, college, undergraduate, and graduate levels. CFO's interests include forest policy, advocacy, and the rural economy especially as it relates to private forest lands.

[Christopher Lee Memorial Scholarship](#) – Undergraduate Level and Technical: \$2,000

[Peter de Marsh Memorial Bursary](#) – Graduate Level: \$15,000

Please pass this information along to suitable forestry students in your network. For detailed information, visit our scholarship page at www.forestowners.ca.

The deadline to apply is June 30, 2024.

Events

CFO has been invited to participate in a variety of meetings and conferences across Canada to discuss the important role of private forest lands in maintaining sustainable, resilient forests and a healthy climate.



COFI 2024 in Vancouver, April 10-12, showcased the contributions of BC's forest sector to the provincial economy and housing, emphasizing the importance of forest management in managing wildfires.

Canadian Forest Owners member Mosaic Forest Management presented its progressive forest management, the importance of diversity equity and inclusion to the forest sector and shared the story of carbon offsets through its Big Coast Forest Climate Initiative.

CFO's attendance gave us the opportunity to meet with BC members, colleagues and policymakers.

Photo: Andrew de Vries (CFO), Scott Jackson (FPAC), Zac Wagman (SFI)



At the 105th Annual General Meeting of the **Canadian Woodlands Forum** in Moncton, New Brunswick, Andrew de Vries, CEO of Canadian Forest Owners, participated in a panel discussion about "Safeguarding Success: Nurturing Our Forest Legacy" on March 26, 2024. Along with CFO Chair Susannah Banks, he met with woodlots owners, foresters and loggers from across the Maritimes to talk about the challenges and opportunities facing the sector.

Photo: Andrew de Vries, CEO, Canadian Forest Owners (L) and Susannah Banks Executive Director, New Brunswick Federation of Woodlot Owners (R).



Until We Meet Again

Canadian Forest Owners (CFO) celebrated Jean-Pierre Martel's distinguished forestry career at a retirement dinner in Ottawa during our recent Days on The Hill event. Jean-Pierre is a leader in Canadian forestry and we are proud that he so ably led CFO for the last 2½ years.

Photo: Jean-Pierre Martel and CEO Andrew de Vries, Canadian Forest Owners

PFLA Conference

On June 7, 2024 CEO Andrew de Vries gave a presentation to delegates of the Private Forest Lands Association conference in Victoria, BC where he shared national policy perspectives with forest owners from across British Columbia.

Canadian Council of Forest Ministers

CEO Andrew de Vries was invited to participate in the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers Forum on Forests in Cranbrook, BC on June 4, 2024. Along with other industry leaders, he engaged in discussions focused on partnerships, sustainability, international market access, and wildfire prevention and mitigation. "The CCFM was a good opportunity for us to continue to push our integrated policy framework and highlight the importance of forest owners contributions to rural Canada's economic and environmental success," comments CEO Andrew de Vries.



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