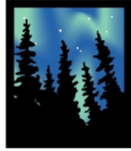


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Boreal Forest Conservation ¹Issues

Joint statement about Canada's boreal region

As leading organizations concerned about the health of Canada's boreal forest, FPAC and CBI both recognize that there is a necessity and an opportunity to address the conservation of forest ecosystems in the region. Addressing the multiple forces acting on the boreal, including economic pressures, ecological stressors (including climate change), and evolving community expectations means ensuring continual improvement in forest management.

The opportunity to shape a truly sustainable vision and reality for the boreal forest is a time limited one. Decisions about land use and resource allocation made in the next 5 years will, in large part, determine the path of development and conservation. Recognizing that the future is being decided now, CBI and FPAC recognize the responsibility to take action and promote innovation in forest conservation in collaboration with governments and stakeholders.

Accordingly, FPAC and CBI share the belief that,

1. Planning for conservation of ecological and cultural values should occur prior to new forest tenures in the unallocated parts of Canada's boreal, in a manner that respects the constitutional rights of Aboriginal peoples.
2. There is a need for continual improvement of conservation approaches in areas currently allocated for management.
3. Clear measurement and reporting on progress towards sustainable development should be encouraged through third-party certification with area-specific standards, objectives and guidelines that reflect boreal values.
4. The use of scientific and traditional knowledge is necessary to achieve sound planning outcomes and the conservation of natural and cultural values;

¹ Conservation in the context of this document is defined to include both the establishment of protected areas and the adoption of leading sustainable forest management practices.