

# The Future of Forestry in Cumberland County

## Strategic Plan Summary 2020—2022



A Community-led Planning Process

January—May 2020

# Our Forestry Future

## Executive Summary:

Cumberland County, Nova Scotia, often prized for its rich soils and long-fiber softwoods needs to quickly adapt to a new paradigm of sustainability and ecological forestry. After a 1.2 million tonnes per year disruption in wood markets, the community chose not to laydown, but instead came together and created a strategic plan focused on a journey of innovation, stewardship, and perseverance. This strategic plan is the future of our forest industry and we urge everyone to engage with other partners from within our community to grab hold of a goal and bring it to life.

Now

Strategy

## Our Shared Vision:

To transform our forest industry into a champion of climate that utilizes the incredible human and natural resources of our great province. Together as a unified forestry family, we will manage and nurture a forest ecosystem rich in biodiversity that will provide much needed shelter for both our economy and the future generations of Nova Scotians to come.

## Pathways Advancing Our Livelihoods & Communities:

**Pathway #1:** Investing in diverse markets and locally produced wood products.

- ⇒ To explore selling wood chips to more diverse markets.
- ⇒ To have profitable markets for low grade wood.
- ⇒ To explore renewable credits, carbon credits, credit for using renewable resources.
- ⇒ To invest in bio-char for cosmetics, charcoal, etc. Replace plastic micro beads with bio char.
- ⇒ To ask NSBI to do a Trade Market Intelligence report for promising markets.
- ⇒ To develop markets for panels for emergency housing or spacing for disaster relief.
- ⇒ To invest in more value-added for underutilized species such as poplar.
- ⇒ To request that logs be considered as a component in strengthening and reinforcing the dykes.

**Pathway #2:** Renewable energy from forestry products.

- ⇒ To invest in wood energy for business, institutional settings and to incentivize residential wood heating.
- ⇒ To explore business growth in the areas of wood pellets, fire logs and fuel pucks.
- ⇒ To explore bio-gas, bio-digester, and/or bio-char.

**Pathway #3:** Creating innovative products & processes.

- ⇒ To strengthen our supply chain locally, enhancing value adding and profitability, which allows the industry to reinvest in better management and take advantage of opportunities in the low carbon economy.
- ⇒ To evolve best practices in how wood is harvested and increase accountabilities.

# Our Forestry Future

## Pathways Investing In our Forestry Future:

**Pathway #4:** High Value healthy forests that support the championing of climate regulation by moving towards a low carbon and biodiverse economy.

- ⇒ To incent woodlot owners, through tax incentives, to manage their woodlots to increase the rate of carbon sequestration by having a healthy growing forest.
- ⇒ To have stable annual financial commitments for silviculture treatments.
- ⇒ To maintain the skilled workforce that is required for good forest management and harvesting operations into the future.
- ⇒ To have the province incent equipment upgrading where required in order to do a better job of ecological forestry.

**Pathway #5:** Solidifying a unified forest industry with public support, education and public relations.

- ⇒ To foster government transparency and collaboration on shared goals.
- ⇒ To find creative ways regain the public trust by sharing our story utilizing key social media channels and print applications.
- ⇒ To help the general public connect using low carbon forestry as a means to enhance our forests towards a more climate resilient, long lived and high value forest.
- ⇒ To strengthen regional woodlot owners voice within Nova Scotia.
- ⇒ To work to ensure a forest resource component in education and lesson plans.

**Pathway #6:** System, policy and culture change.

- ⇒ To strengthen the attitudes, values and beliefs of people in and supporting the industry.
- ⇒ To lobby government to ensure forestry is a main component moving towards a low carbon economy.
- ⇒ To maintain a skilled workforce in the current crisis by utilizing job sharing programs.
- ⇒ To have the province establish a Forest Credit Corporation similar to the Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board.
- ⇒ To require government tenders on new construction to allow wood construction.

## Immediate Action Items:

- ◇ Develop diverse markets for woodchips.
- ◇ Develop profitable markets for low grade wood.
- ◇ Produce bio-char from wood.
- ◇ Establish long-term, stable financial commitments for silviculture treatments.
- ◇ Work with the Cumberland Energy Authority to promote the use of our renewable forestry resources.
- ◇ To require government tenders on new construction to allow wood for construction.
- ◇ To have the province establish a Forestry Credit Corporation.

Success

# The Future of Forestry in Cumberland County

## A Community-led Approach:

Forestry defines us, it is a part of who we are, where we have come from and where we want to be in this world. When shaken, our roots hold us strong and we will withstand this storm. Our strategic plan comes from our community and brings direction to where we want to go. More than 130 stakeholders and 1000 hours in its making. We have created a journey to move us to a sustainable, diverse and innovative forest industry of the future.

We invite you to travel with us along our journey, make a contribution or simply follow our progress at: [www.cumberlandbusinessconnector.ca/forestry](http://www.cumberlandbusinessconnector.ca/forestry) where you will find our comprehensive strategic plan including a full outline of the goals established during our community consultations. We encourage you to get involved and share in helping to shape Cumberland County's success.



### **Cumberland Forestry Advisory Committee Members:**

Co-Chairs Kevin Merriam & Jeff Black, Al Gillis, Allan Bonnyman, Anne LeBrun Ruff, Barry Tupper, Carole Blenkhorn, Darrin Carter, David Copus, David Kogon, Ernie Gilbert, Greg Watson, Ian Ripley, Jonathan McClelland, Keith Thompson, Mac Davis, Matthew Mac-Gillivray, Norman Paupin, Peter Spicer, Ron Furlong, Sheila Christie, Steven McLelan, Velda Fromm, Wade Adshade.