

# **CFWO INFORMATION BULLETIN**

**October 1, 2010 - for immediate release**

## **CSA Woodlot Certification program in action**

### **CAN/CSA Z804 – an SFM standard for woodlots and other small forests**

The Canadian Federation of Woodlot Owners (CFWO) reports significant progress in the development and implementation of the CSA Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Certification program for Canadian woodlots.

*First certification in Nova Scotia; Application for PEFC recognition, Future projects.*

**CAN/CSA Z804 - Sustainable Forest Management Standard for Woodlots and other Small Area Forests** - was developed by the CSA Technical Committee on SFM, working under the Chairmanship of Dr. Peter Duinker of Dalhousie University in Halifax, NS. The main requirements are based on the Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management approved for Canada by the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (CCFM).

The CAN/CSA Z804 Woodlot standard is very similar in structure and content to CAN/CSA Z809 SFM Standard however the requirements have been adapted where necessary to meet the practical realities of managing small forests owned by families, communities and other organizations.

The standard is designed for application to forest properties smaller than 4000 ha in area. The standard may be applied to individual woodlots or group certification to achieve economies of scale.

The Woodlot standard has been approved as a National Standard of Canada by the Standards Council of Canada (SCC) in December 2009 and will be administered and audited under the umbrella of the SCC SFM Program.

This standard complements the CAN/CSA Z809 SFM standard by providing an audit and certification program for woodlots across Canada that together produce approximately 15% of the Canadian wood supply. Wood harvested on woodlots that have been certified to the requirements of CAN/CSA Z804 can be added to wood from other forests certified under the CSA and SCC SFM Programs when making claims related to the sustainability and legality of wood used to produce lumber, wood-based panels and pulp and paper. CAN/CSA Z809 has been endorsed by the PEFC.

### **Application for recognition by PEFC**

**The Geneva-based Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC)** is an international grouping of national forest certification programs. National SFM standards in 27 countries have been approved by the PEFC. These 27 PEFC members have a combined total of 226 million ha of certified forest. The PEFC program is by far the largest forest certification program in the world.

The CAN/CSA Z804 standard has been submitted to the PEFC for a thorough assessment by third party consultants. If confirmed to meet the rigorous requirements of the PEFC, the CSA Woodlot standard will be approved by the Board of the PEFC for mutual recognition by the 27 PEFC member certification programs in the spring of 2011.

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) program is also one of the 27 standards approved by PEFC. The SFI program is widely used in both Canada and the USA. When endorsed by PEFC, wood harvested from woodlots certified to the requirements of the CSA Woodlot standard can be counted as meeting the requirements of the SFI program when SFI participants make claims of sustainability and legality.

## **NOVA SCOTIA LEADS THE WAY**

In 2009 the government of Nova Scotia provided funding for a pilot project to test woodlot certification. Organized by the Federation of Nova Scotia Woodland Owners (FNSWO), 53 woodlots varying in size from 20 to 1000 ha with a combined area of 4250 ha have been certified as meeting the requirements of the CSA woodlot standard. The 53 woodlots are located throughout Nova Scotia and represent all forest conditions found in the Acadian Forest Region. Management plans were prepared in conformity with the requirements of the woodlot standard, landowner training programs have been provided and changes to operating procedures have been made where necessary. Woodlot owners are impressed by the program. Applications from additional woodlot owners will bring the program to almost 11,000 ha by the spring of 2011.

The audit was carried out in July 2010 by a third-party audit team accredited to the SCC SFM program. News of the successful audit and certification to the requirements of the CSA Woodlot Standard was announced on Oct 29<sup>th</sup> by the Federation of Nova Scotia Woodlands Owners. **(See Press Release attached on page 3)**

## **NEW BRUNSWICK TO FOLLOW WITH A PROJECT IN THE MIRAMICHI**

A wood pellet project is in the final stages of planning in the Miramichi region of New Brunswick. The main wood supply will come from private woodlots in the region. The initial phase of the project will involve a program organized by the Northumberland Woodlot Owners Association (NWOA) to certify 1000 woodlots covering about 40,000 ha within the first year of operation. Subsequent expansion phases over the next 5 to 7 years may cover up to 5000 or 10000 woodlots in three Marketing Boards covering as much as 250,000 ha. **(See press release attached).**

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### **Nova Scotia Woodlot Owners Reach Milestone in Forest Management**

Recently, 53 private woodlots covering 4,250 hectares of Nova Scotia's forests were audited in a bid to become certified as meeting requirements for responsible, sustainable forest management practices. The auditing process began in July 2010. After a long wait, these landowners can officially claim their woodlots to be certified to the CSA Z804 Woodlot standard.

The woodlots belong to members of the Federation of Nova Scotia Woodland Owners (FNSWO), which is leading the certification effort on behalf of the group. They are the first woodlots certified to the Canadian Standards Association's (CSA) new Z804 standard for woodlots and small-area forests. FNSWO's certification efforts were funded by the Province's Community Development Trust Fund.

"We're extremely proud of this accomplishment," stated FNSWO Project Coordinator Mike Hutchinson. "We are now in a position to help landowners responsibly manage their woodlots and give credit to those who are already doing a good job".

"This is a milestone achievement for sustainable forest management in Canada", said Peter Duinker, professor of resource and environmental studies at Dalhousie University and Chair of the CSA's Sustainable Forest Management Technical Committee. "I'm so proud that the first woodland certified to Z804 is right here in my home province".

The CSA, setting internationally recognized standards since 1919, introduced its standards for good forestry in 1996. However, the original CSA sustainable forest management standard (CSA Z809) is only applied on large, industrial forests.

The new woodlot standard takes into account the practical realities of managing small private forests and allows for group certifications led by woodlot associations. The Canadian Federation of Woodlot Owners (CFWO) initiated the development of the woodlot standard and contributed significantly to it. "Its seven years since woodlot owner associations in Canada set out to develop a Certification Standard that was designed specifically for family forest owners. We had come to the conclusion that trying to squeeze ourselves into one of the existing Standards, all of which were designed for large-scale industrial forests, was not a great fit. It's very satisfying to see our efforts now being put to use".

NewPage Port Hawkesbury mill has agreed to pay an additional \$2.00 per tonne for wood from forests certified to the CSA Z804 standard.

An additional 47 woodlot owners will join the FNSWO's certification pool this year. Combined with the first group, over 11,000ha of Nova Scotia woodlots will be certified to the CSA Woodlot standard by next July.

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