



**Sustainable Forest
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LAC-SAINT-JEAN PUBLIC ADVISORY GROUP EARNS SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY AWARD

SAINT-FÉLICIEN, Québec – A public committee that has worked with AbitibiBowater on forest management in Quebec’s Lac-Saint-Jean area since 2003 received the second annual CSA SFM User Group Chairman’s award today for their leadership and commitment in advancing the sustainable forest management objectives of the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) forest certification standard.

“The Lac-Saint-Jean Public Advisory Group is one of roughly 50 dedicated multi-stakeholder public groups in forest communities across Canada that provide advice on locally adapted performance indicators for sustainable forest management – a requirement of the CSA standard,” said John Dunford, Chairman of the Forest User Group representing the CSA-certified forest companies in Canada. “We received four very strong nominations from across Canada for this year’s award; they should all be very proud of their achievements.”

The Lac-Saint-Jean Public Advisory Group has made great strides in advancing commitments required by the CSA standard to ensure local forests are managed for a variety of public values. Among other things, the group designed processes to retain old growth forests and to identify sites of special biological and cultural significance.

“We are pleased to recognize with this award the hard work, results and commitment of the Lac-Saint-Jean Public Advisory Group,” stated Yves Laflamme, AbitibiBowater Senior Vice President, Wood Products. “Public input is essential to ensuring a balanced approach to economic, environmental and social values in sustainable forest management. Congratulations to the Lac-Saint-Jean Public Advisory Group.”

CSA is Canada’s national forest certification standard and the world’s largest national standard with over 72 million hectares of woodlands certified. It has a suite of mandatory core indicators for measuring sustainable forest management across the country. It also requires ongoing public dialogue with local advisory groups, reflecting the Canadian context where over 94% of forests are publicly owned.

The CSA SFM User Group is a voluntary group that represents CSA forest certifications in Canada. All members of this group are committed to the practice of sustainable forestry and to the international recognition and acceptance of the CSA SFM Standard. For more information about the CSA standard and SFM User Group, visit <http://www.csasfmforests.ca>

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