

Nova Scotia Landowners and Forest Fibre Producer Association Group Certification Program Information Sheet

CERTIFICATION: THE LANDOWNERS PLAN

Woodlot owners in eastern Nova Scotia joined together 42 years ago to get better prices for their wood and in 1980, as the Nova Scotia Landowners and Forest Fibre Producers Association, entered into a collective bargaining agreement with StoraEnso, now NewPage Port Hawkesbury Limited.

As collective bargaining increased prices and raised the value of woodlots, the Association introduced in 1997 a forest sustainability program paid for from wood at the time it was sold. A first in Canada, it became a provincial regulation. Nova Scotia forests are now producing more wood than is being harvested

In 2005 the Association was registered as Group Manager by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) in the Small Low Intensity Managed Forests (SLIMF) category, first of its kind in the world. FSC is internationally recognized as the highest standard for responsible forestry.

The Association now is extending its certification program to woodlot owners within 250km of the NewPage mill in Port Hawkesbury. Owners of average-size woodlots will be provided FSC and CSA Z804 management plans and audits at no cost. Financial assistance was provided by the Nova Scotia Community Development Trust.

To help make the program self-sustaining, NewPage is contributing into a trust fund \$2.00/ton for certified wood. Preference will be given initially to applicants who are producing or will be producing wood within three to five years. All woodlot owners interested in certification, however, should apply so that their names are on Association records for consideration in the future.

WHAT IS CERTIFICATION?

Certification is a voluntary, non-governmental process to independently verify good forest management according to a defined standard. It allows forest products to be sold to consumers with an approved label. It is being demanded increasingly by national and international markets for Nova Scotia wood products, particularly newsprint, lumber and other paper products.

WHAT IS FOREST STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL CERTIFICATION?

FSC is internationally recognized as the highest standard for responsible forestry in the world. It supports environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable forests. The Association chose it because it was the only standard available for small, low-intensity managed woodlots when it began its certification pilot project four years ago. NewPage Port Hawkesbury, which supplies world markets, in 2008 became the first company in Canada to achieve FSC certification to the Maritime standard for its Crown leases and freehold lands in the eastern half of Nova Scotia.

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WHY DID THE ASSOCIATION BECOME FSC-CERTIFIED GROUP MANAGER?

Certification is a service to woodlot owners. It adds value to their trees. It makes better forests. To achieve these goals, the Association first negotiated better prices to pay for forest management from the sale of wood to the mill. NewPage customers meanwhile were demanding internationally recognized certification that their products were coming from sustainably managed forests. Private woodlot owners provide half of the mill's wood supply. To protect their market at the mill, the largest and fastest of its kind in the world, they negotiated certification with NewPage as partner and became FSC Group Manager in 2005.

Woodlot owners certified under the Group do not hold individual certificates. Their forest land is covered under the Association's Group management certificate as long as FSC requirements are being met. A sample of certified woodlots are audited annually to ensure that the Association complies with the FSC Maritime regional standard. To learn more about FSC and to download the FSC Maritime Standard for small private woodlot owners, please visit www.fsccanada.org.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF CERTIFICATION?

Access to markets, NewPage priority for purchase of certified wood, and NewPage contribution of \$2.00/ton to a trust fund to make The Landowners Plan self-sustaining come with satisfaction of managing woodlots to the highest international standards. The Plan also provides owners with documentation to support qualification for federal intergenerational tax transfer benefits similar to farmers. Management plans and audits are provided at no cost for average-size woodlots, a Landowners Plan in scope and scale unprecedented anywhere in the world.

HOW DO I BECOME FSC OR CSA Z804 CERTIFIED?

Please contact:

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