



## NEXTFOR FOREST INNOVATION WORKSHOP

February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
Sheraton Hotel and Conference Centre  
Toronto, ON

### Understanding and Optimizing Ontario's Wood Supply Through Innovation and Technology

#### OVERVIEW

On February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020 NEXTFOR (a program of the Centre for Research and Innovation in the Bio-Economy) held its second Forest Innovation Workshop in Toronto. The purpose of the workshop was to paint a picture of what Ontario's forest sector would look like under a 30 million m<sup>3</sup> harvest scenario and describe what is required to get there. Participants were specifically asked to consider the province's wood supply (e.g. location/origin, quality, cost, accessibility), the products that will/should be manufactured, the markets that will/should be served, and the information and technology that is needed to support this vision.

NEXTFOR would like to thank the 40+ participants who attended this event. The event's participants represented Ontario's forestry industry, research institutions, communities, indigenous communities and technology and solutions providers. Their collective insight and candor contributed significantly to the success and outcomes of the event.

#### PRESENTATIONS

A series of presentations were provided throughout the day providing participants with insight and context related to wood supply, wood utilization challenges, forest resource inventories, economic fibre supply models, emerging markets and market trends, and forest policy. NEXTFOR would like to thank guest speakers for their participation and acting as a catalyst to lead ideas throughout the day.

**Laird Van Damme, CRIBE** - A Summary of Ontario's Crown Forest Wood Supply

**Lacy Rose, County of Renfrew** - Wood Utilization Challenges in Renfrew County

**Derek Landry, MNRF** - Update on MNRF FRI/LiDAR Project

**Arnold Rudy, KBM Resources Group** - Economic Fibre Supply Model

**Daniel Nordigarden, McKinsey & Co.** - North American and Global Trends in the Forest and Bio-Economy Sectors

**Steve Mueller, Energy Vision** - Project Development: An Investor's Perspective

**Ian Dunn, OFIA** - Political Innovation: Ontario's Changing Forest Policy Landscape

All presentations with permissions for general release may be accessed at [www.nextfor.ca](http://www.nextfor.ca).

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

The objective of sustainably harvesting 30 million m<sup>3</sup> is a complex issue. Currently, in most parts of the province there is a relatively limited understanding of the available/accessible wood supply, a concern that is compounded by other factors (e.g. tenure, management policy).

Achieving the 30 million m<sup>3</sup> objective requires a much better understanding of available wood supply volumes across Crown, municipal and private land (the entire feedstock) – by location (where are the greatest opportunities), quality (what products can be developed) and cost (to help optimize logistics).

A clearer picture of total wood supply versus what is currently being used (or will be in the near term) and what is available to new interests is also required (what volumes are available to attract investment). Without all the above information, it was recognized that new investments would be limited.

Readily available access to this information (in its raw format), better analytical tools (how to extract the most value out of the data) and more advanced decision support systems (models) were also identified as requirements.

Globally the demand for wood and fibre-based products, particularly with packaging is continuing to grow. The technology around machine learning and artificial intelligence is rapidly growing and will transform all industry, including the forest products sector.

## PRIORITIES

The following priorities were identified:

1. In immediate term focus on known pockets of surplus Crown wood and work to quantify (volumes) and qualify (quality, cost) this supply;
2. Quantify and qualify private land wood supply;
3. In recognition that LiDAR based inventories/information is being developed by the province, explore opportunities to maximize the information that can be derived (look beyond volumes and figure out how to obtain reliable information on quality etc.). Allow the sector (manufacturers, potential investors) to determine what metrics/outputs/specifics are needed;
4. Based on estimates of the surplus wood supply, develop/enhance decision support tools that can be used by investors, licence holders, landowners and government to paint a picture of investment and utilization opportunities;
5. Identify and help the sector understand existing and emerging markets that Ontario's available wood supply can realistically access (based on cost/geographic location, demand etc.), can serve based on the best available wood supply information (can we manufacture the products) – i.e. create a pull system.

## NEXT STEPS

Based on the discussion and feedback received during the workshop, the following next steps are proposed:

1. Support the development of analytical tools and methodologies to extract greater value from existing raw data (eFRI, NFI) and pending LiDAR data.;

2. Based on the interest expressed in the beta version of Enhanced Fibre Supply Model, share/deploy a beta version for stakeholder feedback, ground truthing and support the evolution/ongoing development of the model;
3. Using available data, start to assess existing and new wood-based products based on projected demand and our current understanding of Ontario's available wood supply.