



Traceability Program Encourages Chain-of-Custody-Certification in Quebec

August 18, 2010 – Sustainable Forestry Initiative Inc. (SFI) and PEFC Canada are applauding a program in the Province of Quebec that will encourage more companies to use third-party certified wood products.

Through the \$4.6-million Forest Products Traceability Program, a pilot project administered by the Quebec Wood Export Bureau and funded by the Canadian and Quebec governments, Quebec companies are being offered customized training and coaching services so they can establish a traceability chain for their products – including help to prepare for chain-of-custody certification or pursue multiple certifications.

Close to 200 wood manufacturing and remanufacturing companies have already expressed interest in pursuing or expanding chain-of-custody certification – including sawmills, and producers of lumber, furniture, flooring, windows and doors.

“The Forest Products Traceability Program reinforces the growing support and recognition for third-party forest certification, and helps to meet the growing demand for wood products from legal, responsible sources,” says John Dunford, Chairman of PEFC Canada, whose members implement the CSA Sustainable Forest Management Standard.

“This will both raise awareness across the supply chain of the benefits of third-party forest certification, and encourage more companies to seek multiple chain-of-custody certifications – increasing supply options for customers,” says SFI President and CEO Kathy Abusow.

Just 10 per cent of the world’s forests are certified, and about a third of these certified lands are in Canada. Canada has close to 150 million hectares of certified forests, and more than three quarters are certified to the SFI and CSA standards. The two programs also account for about two-thirds of Quebec’s certified lands.

The three independent certification schemes used in Canada – CSA, SFI and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) – all promote sustainable forest management by requiring that harvested areas are reforested; laws are obeyed; biological diversity is conserved; wildlife habitat, soils and water resources are maintained; and timber harvesting is sustainable. The SFI and CSA standards are both endorsed by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), the world’s largest forest certification endorsement organization.

Chain-of-custody certification tracks wood products from a certified forest as well as any uncertified sources, to ensure their integrity. The FSC and SFI programs have on-product labels, and CSA uses the PEFC label.

For information:

Sustainable Forestry Initiative www.sfiprogram.org

PEFC Canada www.pefccanada.org

Quebec Wood Export Bureau Chain-of-Custody Certification Program for Wood Products

<http://quebecwoodexport.com/eng/chain-of-custody/program.htm>