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Forest Conference-Long Beach Model Forest Agreement

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September 15, 1994

McLELLAN ANNOUNCES SIGNING OF LONG BEACH MODEL FOREST AGREEMENT

PORT ALBERNI, B.C. — Anne McLellan, federal Minister of Natural Resources, and Andrew Petter, Provincial Minister of Forests, announced the signing of an agreement to establish the Long Beach Model Forest on the west coast of Vancouver Island in British Columbia. Fourteen partners representing a diverse spectrum of forest perspectives participated in the signing ceremony, which marked the completion of the Canadian network of ten model forests representing major forest ecosystems in Canada.

"A Model Forest Partnership demonstrates how all societal values and interests in forests can be accommodated, not compromised, in the delivery of its programs, projects and activities," Minister McLellan said. "A cooperative decision-making process provides a firm foundation for a lasting agreement."

Each Model Forest is designed to be a working model of sustainable forest management for innovative solutions as well as scientifically sound management strategies. This will enable the sustainable development of the forest while meeting the diverse demands made on the use of the forest lands.

"This agreement reflects our commitment to ensure Clayoquot Sound is managed in accordance with world-class forestry standards", said Minister Petter, "I'm confident the Long Beach Model Forest will become a model of sustainable development, integrating environmental, economic and cultural values."

The Model Forest encompasses approximately 400,000 hectares of forested land extending from Hesquiat Peninsula in the northwest to Barkley Sound in the southeast. It includes the communities of Tla-o-qui-aht, Hesquiaht, Ahousaht, Toquaht, Ucluelet First Nations, the District of Tofino and the Village of Ucluelet.

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Alberni — Clayoquot Regional District representative Bob Harper, on behalf of the Long Beach Model Forest Society, noted that the agreement represents not only a large geographic area but also an extraordinary diversity of interests — concerned individuals, professional organizations, non-governmental environment organizations, First Nations, industry, private landowners, universities, colleges, schools, all levels of government and international organizations.

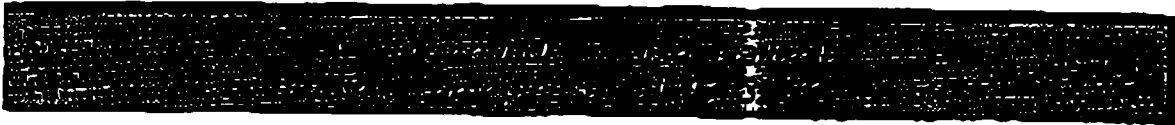
The Model Forest Network represents six of Canada's eight major forest regions. In total, the Network encompasses more than six million hectares of forest land, an area more than twice the size of Belgium and greater than all the forest land in Germany.

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BACKGROUNDER

CANADA'S MODEL FOREST NETWORK

The network is the core of the federal government's Partners in Sustainable Development of Forests initiative, part of the government's Green Plan.

The sites forming the Model Forest Network are:

	MODEL FOREST	PROVINCE	FOREST REGION
1.	Western Newfoundland Model Forest	Newfoundland	Boreal
2.	Fundy Model Forest	New Brunswick	Acadian
3.	An Inhabited Forest	Québec	Great Lakes-St. Lawrence
4.	Eastern Ontario Model Forest	Ontario	Great Lakes-St. Lawrence
5.	Lake Abitibi Model Forest	Ontario	Boreal
6.	Manitoba Model Forest	Manitoba	Boreal
7.	Prince Albert Model Forest	Saskatchewan	Boreal
8.	Foothills Forest	Alberta	Subalpine
9.	McGregor Model Forest	British Columbia	Montane
10.	Long Beach Model Forest	British Columbia	Coast

The Model Forest sites were selected through a competitive process. An advisory committee, supported by a technical review sub-committee, reviewed and made recommendations on their selection.

PARTNERS IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF FORESTS

The issue of whether or not Canada's forests are being managed, utilized and protected in a fully sustainable manner has been and continues to be raised by many advocacy groups, professional biologists, ecologists, foresters, public administrators and the Canadian public.

In line with Canada's goal to shift the management of our forests from sustained yield to sustainable development, the federal government developed a sustainable forestry initiative as part of its Green Plan. In forestry, sustainable development refers to our ability to manage our forest resource without prejudice to its future productivity, ecological diversity and capacity for regeneration. The Partners in Sustainable Development of Forests program focuses on specific strategies and technologies for better management of the forest resource to meet this goal.

The Model Forest Network is made up of 10 large-scale productive sites, representing six of Canada's eight major forest regions. These major forest regions are classified as follows: boreal, subalpine, montane, coast, Columbia, deciduous, Great Lakes-St. Lawrence and Acadian.

The Model Forest Network also represents the many forest values such as wildlife, habitat conservation, recreation, culture as well as its traditional value as a source of timber and fibre. The network will provide Canadians across the country with living, hands-on demonstrations of how environmentally sustainable, integrated forest management practices can be put to work.

The Partners in Sustainable Development of Forests program represents a federal response to the commitment of the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (CCFM) to achieve sustainable development of Canada's forests. Forest Ministers from across Canada endorsed the importance of sustainable forest development during the CCFM Forum held in Halifax in 1990.

In March 1992, at the National Forest Congress in Ottawa, they made a commitment to make it a reality. This resolve was further confirmed by the signing of the first Canada Forest Accord. Canada is the only major forest nation to achieve such a broad commitment to the practice of sustainable development in forestry. Green Plan programs such as Partners in Sustainable Development of Forests are a showcase for other countries of what government, industry, environmentalists and individuals can do through partnership to achieve a common goal.