

## Media Release

### Newly Appointed Forestry Minister Tours Mills in Thunder Bay

**July 22, 2016.** The Ontario Forest Industries Association (OFIA) welcomed the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), Minister McGarry, to Thunder Bay this week. Tours of Resolute's mills and Confederation College showcased investments in research and innovation taking place within Ontario's forest sector.

Minister McGarry stated, "Forestry will be a top priority for me. I appreciate how important the sector is for Ontario's economy and communities throughout the province, especially in Northern Ontario."

Over the past couple of years, the membership of OFIA has announced investments of over \$400 million in Ontario to rebuild facilities, increase capacity, employment and production and build brand new facilities. Thousands of new green workforce jobs are being created each year with the growth of Ontario's renewable forest sector. According to Natural Resources Canada, Ontario's forest products sector supported 55,600 direct jobs in 2012, up 2,100 jobs from 53,500 direct jobs in 2011.

"We were pleased to have Minister McGarry join us on a forestry tour of northern Ontario so early in her appointment to Premier Kathleen Wynne's cabinet," said Jamie Lim, President and CEO of OFIA. She continued, "the Minister clearly has a lot of passion for the sector and recognizes the challenges and opportunities of Ontario's naturally renewable resource."

By harvesting less than one percent of Ontario's 85 billion trees annually, Ontario's forest products sector directly and indirectly supports over 170,000 hardworking Ontario families in over 260 communities, generates \$3.89 billion in domestic exports and regenerates Ontario's forests.

Lim concluded, "we are looking forward to working co-operatively with Minister McGarry and MNRF on a number of ongoing and important files – including our sector's role in mitigating the effects of climate change and helping Ontario transition to a low-carbon economy."

#### **For further information, media representatives may contact:**

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*Ontario's renewable forest products sector supports over 170,000 direct and indirect jobs in over 260 Ontario communities. OFIA believes that by working with government to address key competitive issues, secure long term access to affordable and accessible fibre and promote the province's 21<sup>st</sup> century forest products sector, Ontario will be the number one jurisdiction in Canada for today's green and growing renewable sector.*