



ONTARIO FOREST INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION

# MEDIA RELEASE

Ontario Forest Industries Association

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**Growing a stronger, greener Ontario**



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **OFIA and CLA – A New Beginning Built on a Strong Foundation**

Lammert Jagt, Chair of the Canadian Lumbermen's Association (CLA) and Jean-Francois Merette, Chair of the Ontario Forest Industries Association (OFIA) are pleased to announce the merger of two of forestry's best known and historical associations.

With over 165 years of collective experience and expertise, the OFIA and CLA are joining forces to provide members with one stop shopping for their essential services. The new Association will provide a strong voice for Ontario's forest sector on regulatory issues and will ensure advances in restoring competitiveness are maintained and enhanced, while also providing members with internationally recognized world class grading and inspection services.

"As Minister of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry, I am looking forward to working with the new Association, as we all work together to create a stronger and more competitive forestry sector here in Ontario" says Michael Gravelle, Minister of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry.

"In today's economic environment, there is a need to increase efficiencies while maintaining world class quality" states JF Merette, Chair of the OFIA, adding "This merger will provide members with two great services under one roof".

"The new organization will provide our members with the services they need to be competitive and to expand their markets both domestically and internationally" adds Jamie Lim, who now becomes President and CEO of the new Association.

In addition to a growth in membership, the new Association will see an expansion in the scope of membership representation which includes the wholesale and export sector. This will not only provide members with a unique opportunity to raise, discuss, and address priority issues, it will also expand the public and political presence of the forest sector through a larger, collaborative voice.

“Through synergies and a new, stronger united front, the new Association will better position Ontario companies to respond to new opportunities as the economy recovers and markets rebound” states Lammert Jagt, Chair of the CLA. “The new Association will champion the issues that in turn will allow our members to succeed.”

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