

For Immediate Release  
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**ONTARIO GOVERNMENT WORKING TO SECURE  
STRONG FUTURE FOR PROVINCIAL FOREST INDUSTRY**  
*Forest Sector Competitiveness Council Begins Its Work*

TORONTO — The Minister's Council on Forest Sector Competitiveness has begun helping to secure the future of the forest industry, Natural Resources Minister David Ramsay announced today.

"These are challenging times for the forest industry and for the many northern communities that depend on it," said Ramsay. "After yesterday's meeting, I am confident the council is off to a good start."

The 17 council members will provide advice to Ramsay on strengthening Ontario's forest industry. With representatives from the municipal sector, the forest industry, First Nations, labour and the environmental community, the council is scheduled to prepare a report and recommendations for the minister this spring.

"I appreciate the willingness of council members to work together on this very important file," said Ramsay. "I look forward to receiving a plan of action for the government that includes a role for the sectors represented on the council as well as other stakeholders."

For further information about the council and for updates on its activities, click on the Forest Sector Competitiveness icon on the ministry's website: [www.mnr.gov.on.ca](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca).

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