



Wood Council

Bob Matters
Chair

Friday, July 03, 2015

Greenpeace Canada

Att: Joanna Kerr
Executive Director
33 Cecil Street
Toronto, Ontario
M5T 1N1

The United Steelworkers (USW) Wood Council represents 20,000 women and men employed in the forest industry in Canada, of which approximately 4,000 work in and around Northern Ontario & Quebec.

For well over two years, Resolute Forest Products has been the target of an escalating misinformation campaign, mostly driven by your organization. Your organization continues to interfere with commercial relations of the company, undermine its customer base, and jeopardize the viability of the very communities Greenpeace claims to be concerned about.

By attacking Resolute, you attack the Northern Ontario communities as well, by showing no consideration for our United Steelworker members and their families who depend on the forest industry jobs that companies like Resolute Forest Products supply. These jobs are the economic pillar of those communities that rely on forestry for their economic development.

The forest industry is emerging from 8 years of the worst market conditions the industry has encountered in decades. Yet in the past year, Resolute has invested \$25 million in a sawmill in Ignace and over \$65 million in a new sawmill and planer mill facility in Atikokan, bringing back hope and prosperity to our USW members and the communities that are single industry towns.

The start-up of the two facilities not only creates work at the sawmill and planer sites, but brings back the forest workers and truck drivers. The whole surrounding region benefits from the start-up of these two plants.

You need to understand that some of these communities are isolated and the start-up of the mills is the life line to the survival and prosperity of their communities.

Your false allegations about the way Resolute manages the forest in Northern Ontario affects not only Resolute's reputation but the reputation of our members as professionals evolving in this industry for, in many cases, more than 40 years.

Your allegations about forestry practices do not reflect at all the reality of our on-the-ground forestry practices and sustainability leadership here in Canada. All forestry companies in Canada, including Quebec and Ontario, must operate under strict provincial rules and regulations. They require complete regeneration after harvest and the required practices maintain the long-term health of the forest. This is the law and we are proud of it, and proud to hold our Employers to these requirements.

United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers
International Union

Studies by Yale University and others identify Canada as having among the most stringent regulatory regimes in the entire world. Certification is a great example of our leadership. Only 10% of the world's forests are certified and about 43% of that 10% is right here in Canada.

Less than 0.5% of the boreal forest is harvested annually; five times that amount or more each year is affected by natural disturbances such as fire, insects and disease. You should know there is essentially no deforestation in Canada.

The small amount of the boreal forest that is harvested responsibly supports over 600,000 Canadians, including 17,000 First Nations members employed by the forest products industry.

Forestry and associated industries make up at least 50% of the economic base in 200 Canadian communities. The forest sector careers are among the highest paying jobs in communities, with earnings almost 20% above the National average.

Contrary to your claims, Greenpeace does not represent the views of Northern communities, the majority of First Nations, and CERTAINLY NOT THE WORKERS LIVING IN NORTHERN COMMUNITIES.

We are asking that you put a stop to your negative campaign against Resolute, which has a direct negative impact on our members, their families and our communities..

Regards



Bob Matters
Chair,
USW Wood Council

Copy
Guy Bourgouin
Ken Neumann