

Ministry of Natural
Resources

Parliamentary Assistant

Room 6522, Whitney Block
99 Wellesley Street West
Toronto ON M7A 1W3
Tel: 416-314-6467
Fax: 416-314-6470

Ministère des Richesses
naturelles

Adjoint Parlementaire

Édifice Whitney, bureau 6522
99, rue Wellesley Ouest
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 1W3
Tél.: 416-314-6467
Téléc.: 416-314-6470



MNR5385MC-2013-334

JUN 20 2013

His Worship Roy Avis
Mayor
Town of Fort Frances
320 Portage Avenue
Fort Frances ON P9A 3P9

Dear Mayor Avis:

It was a pleasure to meet with your delegation at the 2013 Rural Ontario Municipal Association/Ontario Good Roads Association Combined Conference. Minister Orazietti and I understand the importance of the issues raised by your delegation to your community.

I have conveyed your concerns to Minister Orazietti regarding the wood supply for Ainsworth's Barwick mill. As discussed, Ontario's rate reduction for poplar and white birch stumpage during the past five years has saved Ainsworth almost \$5 million in stumpage charges since April 2008. Reduced white birch and poplar stumpage rates have been a significant contributor to improved industry costs and maintained employment levels for facilities such as Ainsworth. Recently, selling prices for OSB products have rebounded and pricing forecasts for the near future are quite positive. The Ontario government is pleased to see a product pricing environment that is returning profitability to the OSB sector.

The Available Wood Report can be accessed on the ministry's website. This report is intended to help facilitate business arrangements between forest managers who have wood available and mills that need wood. If you have any questions concerning this report, please contact Mike Davis, Forest Industry Liaison Officer, at mike.g.davis@ontario.ca or (807) 475-1532.

I congratulate you and your community for the actions that you are taking to ensure that Fort Frances remains an economically viable community as it awaits for an upturn in the economy that, it is hoped, will see the Resolute Forest Products mill start again.

Again, it was a pleasure to meet with you. Minister Oraziatti and I look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,



Joe Dickson
Parliamentary Assistant
To the Minister of Natural Resources

c: Greg Chapman, District Manager, Fort Frances District
Dave Hayhurst, Director Operations Branch, Forest Industry Division
Mike Davis, Forest Industry Liaison Officer, Northwest Region