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BC FOREST COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS RECOGNIZED

KAMLOOPS. British Columbia –A public committee that has worked with local forest companies on sustainable forest management in the southern interior of B.C. since 2001, has received the third annual CSA SFM User Group Chairman’s award for their leadership and personal commitment.

“The Nicola Thompson Fraser Public Advisory Group is one of roughly 50 dedicated multi-stakeholder public groups in forest communities across Canada that provide advice on locally adapted performance indicators of good forest management. They do this out of a personal interest in safeguarding important forest values, and it is part of getting the forestry practices used in the area certified under the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) forest certification standard”. said John Dunford, Chair of the group representing the CSA-certified forest companies in Canada. “What really stood out about the Nicola Thompson Fraser Public Advisory Group was their commitment and resilience in working with numerous forest companies over the past 10 years, through the merging of both forest companies and advisory groups”.

The Advisory Group has helped ensure local forests are managed for a variety of public values, and was one of the first to meet the newly revised and strengthened requirements of the CSA forest management Standard.

Congratulations to the Nicola Thompson Fraser Public Advisory Group for this recognition of their commitment and hard work” said Mike Falkiner, Executive Director, British Columbia Timber Sales upon learning of the award. “These volunteers worked with forest licensee representatives to merge three advisory groups and forest management plans into one. The resulting Sustainable Forest Management Plan covers a large ecologically diverse landscape in the southern interior of British Columbia. Well done!”

CSA is Canada’s national forest certification standard and the world’s largest national standard with over 62 million hectares of woodlands certified. It has a suite of mandatory core indicators for consistently measuring sustainable forest management across the country. It also requires local adaptations through ongoing public dialogue with public advisory groups. This reflects the diversity of Canada’s forests, and the fact that over 94% of them are publicly owned.

The CSA SFM User Group is a voluntary group that represents CSA forest certifications in Canada. All members of this group are committed to the practice of sustainable forestry and to the international recognition and acceptance of the CSA SFM Standard.