

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **B.C.'s pulp and paper sector contributes \$4 billion in economic benefits to the province each year -- Study**

- *Provides 10,000 direct jobs and 20,000 indirect jobs for British Columbians*
- *The industry contributes \$600 million in revenues to all levels of government each year*
- *Pulp and paper contributes \$1.5 billion to the solid wood sector*
- *Since 1990, the pulp and paper sector has reduced its GHG emissions by 62 per cent*

VANCOUVER – The B.C. Pulp and Paper Task Force released today the first in a series of economic competitiveness reports that demonstrate the importance of the pulp and paper sector to the provincial economy. The task force, which includes representatives from all 20 pulp and paper mills in B.C., commissioned PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP to conduct an economic impact study to clarify the importance of the sector to B.C.

"While B.C.'s pulp and paper sector is at a crossroads with respect to its future prospects, the study shows that the industry is vitally important to our provincial economy," said David Gandossi, Chair of the B.C. Pulp and Paper Task Force. "As our industry prepares to tackle its challenges, we felt an important first step was to get an independent assessment of pulp and paper's impact on our provincial economy."

According to the economic impact study, pulp and paper provides \$4 billion in economic benefits to B.C. The report shows that B.C.'s pulp and paper sector is a major economic engine for communities throughout the province, and contributes more than \$600 million in revenues each year to all three levels of government.

In terms of employment, the B.C. pulp and paper industry employs more than 10,000 highly skilled trades and professionals and indirectly provides employment for 20,000 additional people. With an annual industry payroll of \$1 billion, pulp and paper is the second highest paying industry in the province.

The pulp and paper sector also has a symbiotic relationship with the solid wood sector in B.C. Pulp and paper contributes more than \$1.5 billion annually to the solid wood sector as the single largest customer of residual chips (by-products) from the sawmilling industry. This value-added process supports jobs, ensures efficient and full utilization of forest resources, and creates a more diversified economic base for the people of the province.

"The pulp and paper sector is critically important to the economic viability of our solid wood sector," said Gandossi. "The PwC report puts a figure on the enormous economic contribution made in this province by B.C.'s pulp and paper industry. And, it's a good reminder that the sector continues to be an important source of revenues for government."

The PwC report also found that B.C.'s pulp and paper industry have been leaders in environmental sustainability. Since 1990, pulp and paper facilities in B.C. have reduced their greenhouse gas emissions by 62 per cent, while increasing production volumes. The reduction in emissions by the pulp and paper industry in B.C. since 1990 is equivalent to removing 600,000 vehicles from our roads.

The *Report on the Economic Impact of the B.C. Pulp and Paper Industry* is available online at: [www.PulpandPaperBC.ca](http://www.PulpandPaperBC.ca).

The task force will be releasing a follow-up report in January 2008 that outlines the challenges and opportunities facing the pulp and paper industry in B.C. and the steps needed to put the industry on the path to renewal.

### **About the BC Pulp and Paper Task Force**

The Pulp and Paper Task Force is an industry co-operative made up of representatives of all 20 pulp and paper mills located across B.C. As a group, the task force works to present an understanding of the value of this sector to the province of British Columbia. As one of B.C.'s largest industrial employers and single largest consumer of electricity, our sector is the backbone of many communities and contributes extensively to the provincial economy.

Task Force member companies include: Abitibi Consolidated, Canfor Corporation, Canfor Pulp Limited Partnership, Catalyst Paper, Cariboo Pulp, Domtar, Howe Sound Pulp and Paper, Mercer International, Neucel Specialty Cellulose, Pope and Talbot, Tembec, and West Fraser.

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