

Three regional businesses on their way to offering FSC certified forest products

Brome-Missisquoi, October 15, 2009 - With the aim of obtaining FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) certification, La Règle de Bedford Itée was audited on October 14, while Produits forestiers Saint-Armand and Scierie West-Brome Inc. will be audited in the near future. This certification will allow for the identification of wood products whose manufacturers respect practices that guarantee sustainable forest management.

Considered as one of the main forest certification standards, both among ecologists and in the forestry sector, FSC certification guarantees that the products bearing its logo come from socially, ecologically and economically responsible forest management.

Within the framework of activities that are part of the Plan de diversification économique de Brome-Missisquoi (Brome-Missisquoi's economic diversification plan) and with the aim of supporting the forestry sector's efforts to preserve their market share, the Service aux entreprises et organismes of the Brome-Missisquoi CLD, in cooperation with Emploi-Québec and the ministère du Développement économique, de l'Innovation et de l'Exportation (MDEIE), offered, last spring, its technical and financial support to all wood businesses wishing to obtain this certification.

Six businesses took part in the certification program introduced by the CLD Brome-Missisquoi. This program includes a grant covering nearly 80 % of the costs of preparation and implementing the process for establishing the traceability chain with the help of the services of a specialized consultant, as well as initial certification costs. The audits leading to the certification of three other businesses will be coming soon.

"This certification will allow us to meet the requirements of one of our major customers and will give us a competitive advantage that we can offer to our other existing customers," said the co-president of La Règle de Bedford, Mr. Éric Leclair. He added: "With this new certification, we are expecting an increase in our sales and the possibility of developing new products."

- 30 -

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