



MILLAR WESTERN FOREST PRODUCTS LTD.

Tel: 780.486.8200 Fax: 780.486.8282

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Celebrate Alberta Forest Week at forest management open houses

Edmonton, Alberta—During Alberta Forest Week, May 3 to 9, Albertans are encouraged to “Celebrate our nature”, and what better way to do so than to play an active role in shaping future forests.

From May 6 to 14, Millar Western will be holding a series of open houses in the region, to discuss its annual operating plan for 2015-16, and to launch public consultations for its 2017-27 detailed forest management plan, or DFMP. Annual operating plans specify on-the-ground activities, such as harvesting, tree planting and road building, for the year ahead. DFMPs, developed every 10 years, ensure that environmental, economic and social factors are in balance and that forests are sustainable over periods spanning 200 years.

“The two plans differ in scope and focus,” explained Millar Western’s Chief Forester Bob Mason. “Annual plans are operational in nature, showing where we will be working in the coming year, whereas the DFMP sets out our long-term vision for the forest.” He said that a DFMP takes about two years to prepare and involves extensive landscape analysis and consultation with the Alberta government, other forest companies operating on the company’s Forest Management Agreement (FMA) area, First Nations and other community stakeholders.

At the May 6-14 open houses, community members can learn where the company will be active over the next 12 months and address any concerns they may have about impacts. In addition, the public will have the chance to help ensure local priorities are reflected in the Alberta government’s list of forest values – features such as wildlife habitat, water quality, job creation, hiking trails and ceremonial sites – that must be maintained over time and included in the long-term DFMP. Millar Western will hold a second round of open houses next summer, so the public can find out how those values were incorporated into the company’s proposed plan. After any amendments resulting from the additional stakeholder input, the DFMP will be submitted to the Alberta government in late 2016 for approval.

“Our forest management plans are made better by public engagement,” said Bob. “Broad stakeholder input allows us to develop plans that truly reflect and accommodate diverse interests and ensure healthy forests for the future, for all.” Open houses will be held at the Whitecourt Forest Interpretive Centre on May 6; the Fox Creek Community Hall on May 7; the meeting room of the Swan Hills Keyano Centre on May 13; and the Ft. Assiniboine Museum and Friendship Centre on May 14. All events are from 3:00 to 7:00 pm, and everyone is welcome.

Millar Western is an Alberta-based forest products company that makes lumber and pulp from timber sourced from sustainably managed and certified forests, for customers around the world.

For more information, contact: Louise Riopel, 780-486-8270; lriopel@millarwestern.com