

Press Release

For immediate release

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Québec forest industry contributes to Haitian reconstruction

Québec City, Québec, February 4, 2010 — Québec forest companies are helping rebuild a Haitian community. In order to make an effective contribution, they have joined forces with FPInnovations and the Québec Wood Export Bureau (QWEB). This alliance will provide the technical and professional support and all of the materials needed to build at least 2,000 homes prefabricated, here in Québec, free-of-charge. The houses will be assembled on the spot in Haiti without charge, in collaboration with the local population.

Québec forest industry representative Guy Chevette has invited his counterparts in the other provinces to follow the Québec forest companies' lead, to the best of their ability.

"We are asking the two levels of government, federal and provincial, to manage this kind of initiative and take care of the shipping and in-plant assembly costs," said Guy Chevette, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Québec Forest Industry Council.

"We not only want to contribute to rebuilding homes in a Haitian community: we also want to give people hope for their future and development," added Sylvain Labbé, Chief Executive Officer of the Québec Wood Export Bureau (QWEB).

According to Hervé Deschênes, Vice-President of FPInnovations, "Generally speaking, the quality of the structures rebuilt after this type of disaster is no better than that of the buildings that collapsed. This is preventable, and it is therefore essential to break the cycle. The people of Haiti deserve better."

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