

# *News Release*

FOR RELEASE  
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## **FOREST INNOVATION PROGRAM TO INCREASE EFFICIENCY AND PRODUCTIVITY IN MANITOBA**

**Winnipeg, MB** – The Canada-Manitoba Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) is contributing \$477,300 to a new program created by FPIInnovations - Feric Division that is designed to increase the productivity and efficiency of Manitoba's forest industry.

The announcement was made today by the Honourable Vic Toews, President of the Treasury Board, on behalf of the Honourable Rona Ambrose, President of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister of Western Economic Diversification, and the Honourable Stan Struthers, Manitoba Minister of Conservation.

"Canada's New Government is working in partnership with other orders of government and industry to get things done for the people of Manitoba," said Toews. "Our government's investment of close to \$240,000 to establish a Forest Innovation Program in Manitoba will create an environment where Manitoba businesses are provided with the right conditions to thrive and succeed in this important industry."

"The Government of Manitoba is pleased to be partnering with the federal government in supporting this important project," said Struthers. "The forestry industry is a vital part of this province's economy and the information collected by Feric is going to assist in making the industry that much stronger."

FPIInnovations - Feric Division will support the operations and harvesting component of Manitoba's forest industry by implementing the Forest Innovation Program. The two-and-a-half year project is designed to increase innovation, competitiveness and productivity. As part of the project, a new Forest Innovation Liaison Officer position will also be established in Manitoba. It will provide a range of services including access to the newest techniques and information on minimizing the impact of forestry operations on the environment.

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“The supply cost of raw material represents approximately 50% of the cost of finished wood and paper products, therefore efficient forestry, forest operations and transportation are essential to a healthy forest products sector,” said Daniel Guimier, Vice-President, FPInnovations - Feric Division. “This contribution will benefit the entire Manitoba forest products industry by improving the efficiency of the wood fibre supply chain, through technology transfer and innovation.”

Feric is a division of FPInnovations, a not-for-profit world leader in creating science-based solutions that support the global competitiveness of the Canadian forest sector and respond to the priority needs of its industrial and government members. FERIC develops and helps implement innovative and safe forest operational solutions that provide members with long-term competitive advantage, add value to their fiber supply and support sustainable forest practices. FERIC specializes in areas of research related to the harvesting of wood, transportation and forest road construction, silviculture and wildland fire operations.

Under the Canada-Manitoba Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), the governments of Canada and Manitoba are working together and in partnership with community stakeholders to build the economy and strengthen communities. These priorities promote economic growth and diversification in the province. For more information on this and other projects funded under EPA, please visit: <http://www.epa.gov.mb.ca>.

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