



PRIME MINISTER · PREMIER MINISTRE

May 11, 2011

Message from the Prime Minister

It is my distinct pleasure to extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending the 2011 United Nations Association of Canada Gala Dinner marking the UN's International Year of Forests. I am pleased to recognize tonight's honouree, Mr. Avrim Lazar, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Forest Products Association of Canada, for his leadership in forestry conservation.

Canada has a proud tradition of harnessing our abundant natural resources for economic prosperity, while leading the world in conservation and sustainable management practices. The International Year of Forests is an opportunity to join the global community in highlighting the importance of this precious resource to our economy, environment and quality of life.

Mr. Lazar has demonstrated a remarkable commitment to bridging forest management and conservation efforts. His vision, dedication and spirit of collaboration were instrumental to the achievement of the historic Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement. These qualities are precisely what is required to ensure a sustainable, robust and greener future for Canada's forestry sector.

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I commend Mr. Lazar and the United Nations Association of Canada for their laudable efforts to promote the enduring vitality of both the forestry industry and Canada's beautiful forests. Please accept my best wishes for a most enjoyable event.

Sincerely,

*The Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada*