



WESTWIND FOREST STEWARDSHIP INC.

## Media Release

### **Central Ontario Forest Management Company Wins Prestigious North American Award for Responsible Forest Management**

Parry Sound, ON (December 16, 2024) – Parry Sound based Westwind Forest Stewardship (WFS) Inc. is a 2024 Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC) Leadership Award winner. The award celebrates Westwind’s role as advocates for and practitioners of sustainable forestry, assuring consumers that products bearing the FSC label originate from well-managed forests.

WFS General Manager, Barry Davidson, RPF celebrated the win stating, “For over 20 years, our unwavering commitment to successfully achieving FSC certification has both challenged and inspired us to enhance our forest management systems while deepening connections within the communities we serve. Together, benchmarks for excellence are surpassed, while demonstrating that conservation and community can thrive hand in hand!”

Westwind Forest Stewardship Inc. is a not-for-profit, community-based company that holds the Sustainable Forest License for the French-Severn Forest. It oversees a large area of forested land (432,000 ha) stretching from Algonquin Park to Georgian Bay, and from the Severn River north to the French River.





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Westwind obtained FSC certification in 2002, the first public forest in Ontario to do so, subsequently their progressive management strategies focused on responsible forest harvesting, reforestation, and fostering strong relationships with local communities, including Indigenous groups.

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For further information or to arrange an interview, please contact: (Barry Davidson, General Manager, Westwind Forest Stewardship Inc., 705-774-0266.

[barrydavidson@westwindforest.ca](mailto:barrydavidson@westwindforest.ca))

Westwind Forest Stewardship Inc. <http://www.westwindforest.ca>

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## Quotes

***FSC Canada's Deputy President Monika Patel,***

*"Westwind embodies FSC's principles for the sustainable management of forests. The Leadership Award celebrates their exceptional practices and underscores the important role local companies play in ensuring the health and resilience of forests in Canada."*

***Ontario Minister of Natural Resources and local MPP – Graydon Smith***

*"As Ontario's Minister of Natural Resources and the local MPP, I am proud to celebrate Westwind's achievement in receiving the FSC award. This recognition highlights the vital role that responsible forest management plays in our communities and ecosystems. Westwind's dedication to sustainable practices is a testament to environmental stewardship and community engagement. This award is a well-deserved recognition of their outstanding work."*

***Westwind Board Chair - Rob Keen, RPF (Huntsville resident)*** *"As Board Chair, I am thrilled Westwind has won the FSC award. It recognizes not only our dedication to environmental stewardship and forest management but also the hard work and collaboration of our entire team and community."*