

## MP ED FAST HONOURED AS COMMUNITY CHAMPION BY CANADA'S FOREST PRODUCTS SECTOR

**For immediate release**  
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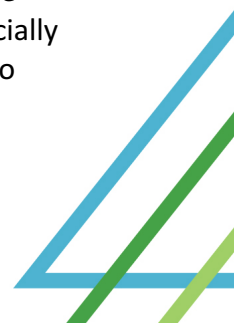
**Vancouver, BC** – Earlier today, Forest Products Association of Canada (FPAC) hosted its annual *Awards of Excellence* luncheon in Vancouver where Hon. Ed Fast, Member of Parliament for Abbotsford, BC was recognized as a 2019 *Forest Community Champion*.



FPAC hosts this annual event to recognize excellence in the sector and to honour the achievements of our workers and community partners. The *Forest Community Champion* award is presented to a leader who demonstrates support for the forestry sector and its contributions to Canada's environmental and

economic priorities. "During his many years of public service as MP and Trade Minister, Ed Fast has shown an unwavering commitment to supporting working families in forest-dependent communities across the country," said FPAC President and CEO, Derek Nighbor. "It is because of the thoughtfulness and leadership of elected officials like MP Fast that our industry has been able to innovate, grow, and establish itself as a force on the world stage."

Mr. Fast was recognized for his ongoing work as a Member of Parliament and service to his community and country. Over a four-and-a-half year period, Fast served as Canada's Minister of International Trade during which he demonstrated a commitment to the Global Markets Action Plan which helped industries, such as the forest products sector. "Serving as Canada's trade minister for four and a half years was the greatest honour of my career," says Fast. "I especially enjoyed working with the forestry sector and the opportunities its stakeholders and I had to promote the industry with our most important trade partners. Thank you FPAC, for the





recognition this award represents, but it would not have been possible without the assistance of incredible teams on both sides of the table.”

Ed Fast was first elected to the House of Commons in 2006 as the MP for Abbotsford and subsequently re-elected in 2008, 2011 and 2015. In 2011, he was appointed Queen’s Counsel for British Columbia and, in 2012, was awarded the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee medal for service to his community and country. Currently, he is also serving as the Official Opposition Shadow Minister for the Environment and Climate Change.

To see the full list of FPAC Award recipients, please visit <http://www.fpac.ca/canadas-forest-sector-celebrates-its-best-and-brightest-in-vancouver>.

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FPAC provides a voice for Canada’s wood, pulp, and paper producers nationally and internationally in government, trade, and environmental affairs. The \$69-billion-a-year forest products industry represents 2% of Canada’s GDP and is one of Canada’s largest employers operating in more than 600 communities and providing 230,000 direct jobs across the country.

**For more information contact:**

Kerry Patterson-Baker  
Vice President, Communications  
e: [kpatterson-baker@fpac.ca](mailto:kpatterson-baker@fpac.ca)  
t: 613-563-1441 ext. 314

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