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## **AWA Resigns from CSA Sustainable Forest Management Technical Committee**

By Cliff Wallis, AWA President

After a year of serving on the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) Technical Committee for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), AWA President Cliff Wallis submitted his resignation in early December. The CSA SFM technical committee is currently revamping the CSA standard for SFM through which companies can apply to get their forest practices and products certified.

The AWA was optimistic that we could effect changes that would show the commitment of CSA to a true performance standard and address the key forest issues of concern to the global environmental community. The subject of protected areas was a bellweather for the AWA. While there was some movement on this issue—protected areas are now included in the standard—the proposed standard does not meet any Canadian ENGO's minimum performance requirements for forest protection.

The AWA still believes that there should be multiple paths to SFM and certification and we will continue to promote that view. CSA's approach to SFM with significant local public involvement could work provided it had some minimum targets and reasonable guidance on key issues such as protected areas. We remain hopeful that the CSA SFM standard will continue to evolve and have offered our help in moving this from a framework to a true performance standard in subsequent revisions.

The AWA has been an active participant in market-based initiatives to improve forest management and we continue to be a member on the Forest Stewardship Council where we are in the early stages of developing a boreal forest standard for certification purposes.

