



Press Release

For Immediate Release

CANADA, BC CONTRIBUTE \$8M FOR RECOVERY, RECONSTRUCTION IN CHINA

Shanghai, China, June 16, 2008 – British Columbia Premier Gordon Campbell and the Honourable Gary Lunn, Canada's Minister of Natural Resources, announced a CDN \$8-million (app RMB 55 million) project to provide wood- frame buildings to help survivors of the recent earthquake in China. Discussions are currently underway between BC's wholly owned enterprise in China – Forestry Innovation Investment China - and local authorities to determine the exact quake-hit area for implementation of this relief project.

"Millions of people in China have seen their homes and much of their critical infrastructure devastated by the earthquake and the subsequent aftershocks," said Premier Campbell. "This collaborative project will provide support to address...the needs of the people devastated by the earthquake, while demonstrating the quality of B.C. wood products."

Mr. Yang, Consul General of the People's Republic of China in Vancouver expressed his sincere gratitude towards Canada's generous support during a press conference in B.C announcing the relief plan.

The project is a collaborative effort between the Government of Canada and the Government of British Columbia. B.C. will provide CDN \$5 million and the Government of Canada will contribute CDN \$3 million. It involves constructing permanent wood-frame structures, including schools, orphanages, senior homes and community centres. Made from 100% Canadian structural lumber and using modern wood frame construction technology, all the structures will be designed and assembled locally in China.

Research has shown that wood-frame buildings are a highly suitable construction choice for earthquake- prone regions because of their adaptability and seismic stability. Subsequently, B.C.'s representative organizations in China will work with Chinese government officials and local design and construction experts to implement the project, providing on-the-ground expertise and technical construction training, in order to ensure that the housing units meet local needs.

Ever since the earthquake hit, the Canadian Federal Government, the B.C. Provincial Government, and Chinese Overseas Communities, as well as a myriad of other organizations and groups in Canada, have all contributed towards relief efforts, among which is the CDN \$2 million donation made by the British Columbia Government to the Canadian Red Cross.

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