



Supply Base Report:

La Granaudière

Main (Initial) Audit

www.sbp-cert.org



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Completed in accordance with the Supply Base Report Template Version 1.3

For further information on the SBP Framework and to view the full set of documentation see www.sbp-cert.org

Document history

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1 Overview

Producer name: La Granaudière (9301-9826 Québec Inc.) NEQ : 1170040761

Producer location: Head office: 631 rue Brassard, St-Michel-des-saints,
Québec, Canada J0K 3B0

Manufacturing plant : 1801 ch. Manawan, St-Michel-des-saints,
Québec, Canada J0K 3B0

Geographic position: Lat. 46°73'17.45"N Long.; 73°96'70.02"W

Primary contact: Martin Laliberté - CFO
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Phone: 450-870-0141 poste: 7300

Company website: www.lagranaudiere.ca

Date report finalised: 26/oct./2020

Close of last CB audit: Main audit (Initial) in progress

Name of CB: NEPCon

Translations from English: No

SBP Standard(s) used: Standard 2 version 1.0,
Standard 4 version 1.0,
Standard 5 version 1.0,

Weblink to Standard(s) used: <https://sbp-cert.org/documents/standards-documents/standards>

SBP Endorsed Regional Risk Assessment: 'not applicable'

Weblink to SBE on Company website: www.lagranaudiere.ca

Indicate how the current evaluation fits within the cycle of Supply Base Evaluations

Main (Initial) Evaluation	First Surveillance	Second Surveillance	Third Surveillance	Fourth Surveillance
X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2 Description of the Supply Base

2.1 General description

La Granaudière is a pellet mill located in St-Michel-des-Saints, 100 km North of Joliette in the Lanaudière region, Province of Québec, Canada (see figure 1). Feedstock is from nearby public and private forests. As shown in the table below, the mill is in the vicinity of other facilities.

Forest Industry in the Province of Québec compared to scoped regions					
Mill category	Québec - mills	Québec - jobs	Lanaudière*	Laurentides*	Outaouais*
Pulp and paper	23	21343			3
Sawmilling products	192	10167	8	15	14
Veneer and plywood	10	5216		2	
Particle boards and OSB	11	no data		1	1
Turned and shaped wood	4	no data		2	1
Cogeneration and pellets	37	no data	1	1	4
Others	5	23175			1
Total	282	59901	9	21	24
*amount of mills only	Ref: Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs, Ressources et industries forestières - Portrait statistique				

In the upcoming year, primary feedstock will either be FSC, SFI certified or controlled sources from public land. Forest management units (FMU) on public land part of La Granaudière supply base are all certified with the exception of FMU 61-51 which is not certified and FMU 64-52 with partial certification. All primary feedstock will be considered SBP Compliant Biomass and SBP Controlled Wood with appropriate documentation.

The primary feedstock of La Granaudière is sourced from public lands managed under The Sustainable Forest Development Act (SFDA) of Quebec and certified by two certification programs; the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI).

Scope of Forest Regions for La Granaudière		
Region	Management units	certification
Lanaudière	62-71 & private lands	FSC & controlled
Laurentides	61-51, 64-52, 64-71	FSC, SFI & non cert.
Outaouais	71-51, 71-52, 73-51, 73-52, 74-51, 72-51	SFI
Mauricie	41-51, 43-52, 43-51, 42-51	SFI & FSC

Less than 5% of La Granaudière's total supply will be secondary feedstock in form of bark for biomass fuel from a neighboring sawmill with a similar supply base with the distinction that it includes a small percentage of their sawlog supply originating from public forests in Mauricie (04151, 04351, 04251, 04352) and from private woodlots located in Regional Municipal Counties of D'Autray, Matawinie, L'Assomption and Maskinongé.

La Granaudière Supply Base Area

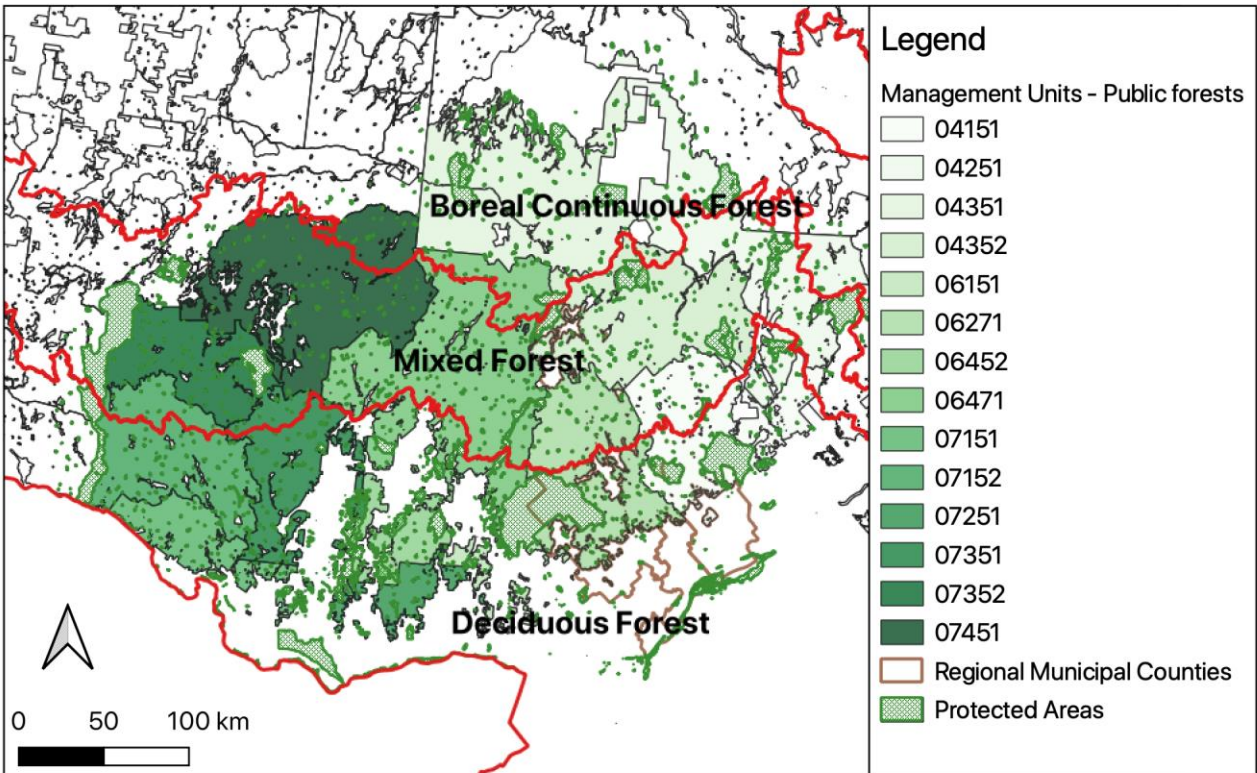


Figure 1 - La Granaudière Supply Base Area

Feedstock used in our pellets is a mixture of hardwood species of low quality stem wood. The representation of these species in our feedstock is as shown in the figure 2.

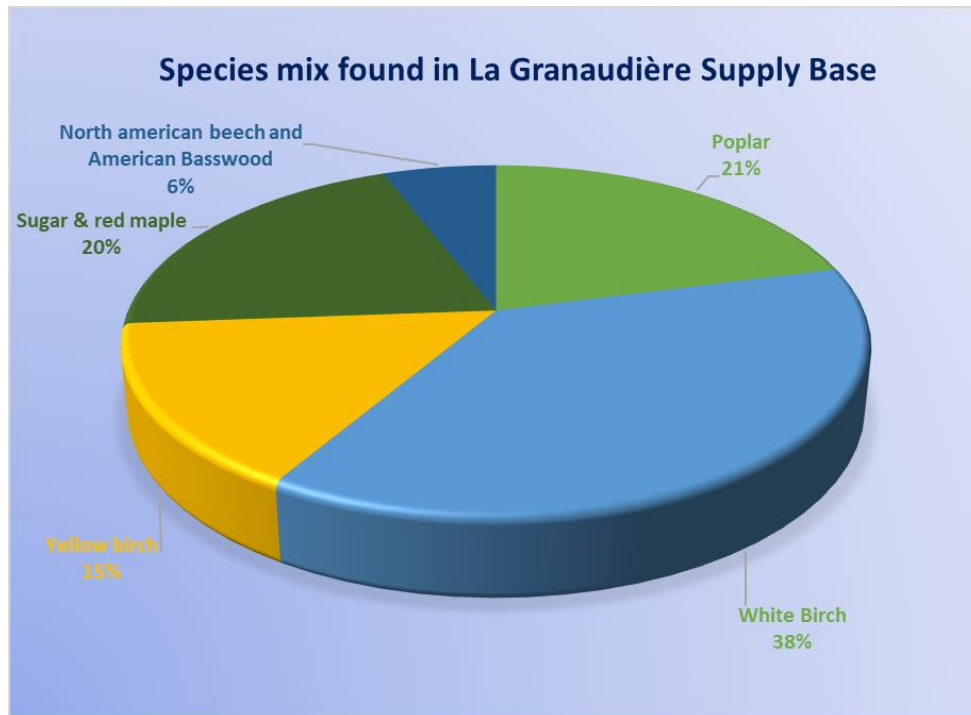


Figure 2 – La Granaudière Feedstock Tree Species

Laws, communications and their application are part of the Provincial government responsibilities. Forest management plans and regulation compliance are undertaken by the Ministry of Forests, Wildlife and Parks. The overall evaluation of forestry practices on both private and public land is undertaken by an independent officer, the Forestier en Chef.

Created in 2005, as a recommendation from the Commission of Studies on the Management of the Public Forest in Quebec (the Coulombe commission), its mission is to determine the annual allowable cut, bring clarifications to the leaders and inform the population on the well-being of the forest. The Forestier en chef roles and responsibilities are described by the SFDA.

The SFDA establishes a forest regime designed to:

- (1) implement sustainable forest development, in particular through ecosystem-based development;
- (2) ensure integrated and regionalized resource and land management based on clear, consistent objectives, measurable results and the accountability of managers and users of the forest;
- (3) determine how responsibilities under the forest regime are shared between the Province, regional bodies, Native communities and users of the forest;
- (4) follow up and monitor forest operations in the domain of the Province;
- (5) govern the sale of timber and other forest products on the open market at a price reflecting their market value, and the supply of timber to wood processing plants;

- (6) regulate the development of private forests; and
- (7) govern forest protection activities.

The regime implements sustainable forest development which must contribute, in particular to:

- (1) the preservation of biological diversity;
- (2) the maintenance and improvement of the condition and productivity of forest ecosystems;
- (3) the conservation of soil and water;
- (4) the maintenance of forest ecosystem contributions to major ecological cycles;
- (5) the maintenance of the many socio-economic benefits society derives from forests; and
- (6) the consideration, in making development choices, of the values and needs expressed by the populations concerned.

Forests are part of the province's heritage and continue to be a source of pride for all. It provides socio-economic and environmental benefits for local communities and the general population. They are managed in respect of their environmental services, resources and products they generate. They are managed under the Sustainable forest development Act (chapter A-18.1) which promotes ecosystem based forest management for the benefit of all users and society as a whole. Forest management takes into account the impact of climate change, the preservation of biodiversity, the protection of land and water ecosystems and the interests, values and needs of First Nation communities.

The Environment Quality Act, the Natural Heritage Conservation Act and the Act respecting threatened or vulnerable species aim, respectively, to protect the environment, to safeguard the character, diversity and integrity of Quebec's natural heritage, and to protect and manage species designated threatened or vulnerable or likely to be so designated as well as their habitats. The MELCC and the MFFP enforce these laws and regulations in the forest territory.

A total of 641,723 ha (12.2%) are legally protected and 388,519 ha of wetlands are excluded from the commercial harvest landbase part of the La Granaudière Supply Base. The vulnerable plants and animal species found in the supply base sensitive to forest operations are the American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*) and the Blanding's turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*). Best management practices and regulations are implemented to mitigate the risk of forest operations on these species. The American elm (*Ulmus Americana*), White ash (*Fraxinus americana*) are listed as endangered by the UICN but neither by federal and provincial governments nor by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). According to the IUCN, threats to White Ash and American elm are from invasive non-native/alien species/diseases and not related to forestry practices. These species are found in the southern part of the supply base in mixed stands and can be harvested although they are usually of non commercial dimensions.

2.2 Actions taken to promote certification amongst feedstock supplier

Forest certification in Quebec is the norm on public land and in the forest sector. Certification of forest management practices and chain of custody is widespread in the province and in the supply region of La Granaudière. This guarantees consumers forest products are certified and practices verified by a third-party.

La Granaudière requires suppliers to deliver feedstock with proper documentation demonstrating proof of origin and certification status when possible.

2.3 Final harvest sampling programme

The proportion of final fellings of stands over 40 years old for biomass purposes compared to other end uses are thoroughly monitored by government and La Granaudière.

La Granaudière's feedstock is roundwood of low value originating from forest stands on public land with a gradient of quality trees. Procedures at the mill provide for the evaluation of quantity and classification of log receptions. La Granaudière is required by law and by contract with the government of Québec to refuse deliveries of high quality logs such as sawlogs and veneer logs.

The following is a list of strict controls at the time of delivery at the mills gate:

- ✓ A unique Identifier by carrier linking the wood origin of deliveries with to the scaling report. The internal software Felix™ is used (ex; quantities, origin, species...).
- ✓ A sample of the feedstock is verified for moisture content on a regular basis.
- ✓ Each delivery is verified for species and quality control.
- ✓ Pictures of delivery samples are taken for visual references.
- ✓ All feedstock deliveries are inspected to control the absence of rocks, dirt, sand or any other possible contaminants.

Stands are harvested in priority for sawlogs, pulp logs and finally for biomass production. Log classification is governed by the *Regulation respecting the scaling of timber harvested in forests in the domain of the State* and the *Cullers Act* for every person who measures cut on lands in the domain of the State. At the scale of the public land FMUs within the supply base, between 21% and 30% of the total allocated volume is in low quality roundwood for pulp and paper and panel mills¹. 75% of the timber harvested is of high quality for sawmills, veneer, telephone poles, etc. The estimated annual quantity of feedstock of the La Granaudière represent 5% of the total volume allocated for the FMUs included in the supply base.

Flanders requirements

1. Exclusion of wetlands

¹ Allocated volumes for forest management units on public land in regions of Lanaudière, Laurentides, Outaouais, Mauricie - <https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/les-forets/amenagement-durable-forets/les-droits-consentis/la-garantie-dapprovisionnement-ga/droits-forestiers-application-garanties-dapprovisionnement-ga/>

- Regulations on public forest exclude riparian areas with an additional buffer from harvest areas. *Regulations Respecting the Sustainable Development of Forests/forest management plan/ Regulation respecting compensation for adverse effects on wetlands and bodies of water*
- The annual allowable harvest levels are determined by excluding certain areas classified as unproductive forests such as wetlands (definition of unproductive land: 30m³ or less, over a 120 year period; Mapped wetlands and specific ecological sites associated with wetlands are excluded from the calculation of the allowable cut) – Forestier en Chef.
- On private lands, *The Act Respecting Land Use Planning and Development* stipulates that the land-use plan of each regional county municipality (RCM) “must identify zones where land occupation is subject to special restrictions for reasons of public safety such as flood zones, erosion zones, landslide zones or zones subject to other disasters or for reasons of environmental protection regarding wetlands and bodies of water
- On private lands, *The Environmental Quality Act* includes the Policy for Lakeshores, Riverbanks, Littoral Zones and Floodplains, which establishes standards, for example, for a riparian strip of 10 m, or 15 m if the slope exceeds 30% and 3 m for farmland. If the land-use plan of an RCM does not comply with these standards, the MDDELCC can demand the necessary modifications.

2. Exclusion of converted dried wetlands

- There is no conversion of wetlands part of forest management on public land
- Forest drainage on private woodlots is uncommon but can occur. La Granaudière will specify in supply contracts it does not accept wood from converted wetlands and will conduct on-site visits to confirm.

3. Exclusion of converted natural forests in managed production forests

- Forests in Quebec are naturally managed forests. – *Sustainable Forestry Development Act*
- The origin of forest stands is documented and publically available – foretouverte.gouv.qc.ca
- All forests are managed with the objective to establish natural forest stands unless identified and managed as high intensive production forests. None of these intensive production forests are part of the supply base of La Granaudière.

4. Exclusion of 40 years trees, except if less than 50% is used for energy

- Timber volume allocation is publicly available by forest administrative regions.

- Only 25% of the total volume allocation is made available to the open market (bmmb.gouv.qc.ca). Since the volume are attributed to the highest bidder, biomass producers are not targeted end users of this process.

- Five year timber volume allocation

- There are currently marginal punctual allocation for biomass producers. Feedstock of La Granaudière represent approximately 8% of the volume allocated on public forests part of its supply base (Allocated volumes for forest management units on public land in regions of Lanaudière, Laurentides, Outaouais - <https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/les-forets/amenagement-durable-forets/les-droits-consentis/la-garantie-dapprovisionnement-ga/droits-forestiers-application-garanties-dapprovisionnement-ga/>).

5. Exclusion of stumps

- Trees are cut at the stump average 30 cm height above ground level.

- Stumps remain untouched.

6. Exclusion of sawlogs

- Sawlogs and other high quality logs have a higher value and are too expensive for biomass producers

- Timber allocation is based on log quality classification, product type and mill destination. (2020, MFFP. Manuel de mesurage des bois récoltés sur les terres du domaine de l'État, p. 313)

- Log quality and classification is confirmed by log scaler at the time of reception at the mill (see internal software "Felix")

- La Granaudière is required by law and by contract with the government of Québec to refuse deliveries of high quality logs such as sawlogs and veneer logs.

2.4 Flow diagram of feedstock inputs showing feedstock type

Non applicable

2.5 Quantification of the Supply Base

Supply Base

a. Total Supply Base area (ha): 9 507 358 ha

b. Tenure by type (ha): Public 9 141 392 ha
Private 365 966 ha

- c. Forest by type (ha): Continuous boreal forest (Boreal) 1 650 622 ha
 Mixed deciduous (Northern temperate zone) 5 437 286 ha
 Deciduous temperate (Northern temperate zone) 2 419 45 ha
- d. Forest by management type (ha): 9 507 358 ha of natural forest management.
- e. Certified forest by scheme (ha): SFI : 4 315 465 ha
 FSC : 858 611 ha
 SFI & FSC : 3 885 522 ha
 Uncertified : 447 760 ha

Feedstock

- f. Total volume of Feedstock : 350 000 – 400 000 metric tonnes depending on market and Biomass availability
- g. Volume of primary feedstock : 350 000 – 400 000 metric tonnes depending on market and Biomass availability
- h. List percentage of primary feedstock (g), by the following categories. - Subdivide by SBP-approved Forest Management Schemes:
 - Certified to an SBP-approved Forest Management Scheme : 90%-95%
 - SFI : 85%-90%
 - FSC : 10%-15%
 - Not certified to an SBP-approved Forest Management Scheme : 5%-10%
- i. List all species in primary feedstock, including scientific name:

Name (English)	Nom (French)	Scientific Name
Balsam Poplar	Peulier baumier	Populus balsamifera
Eastern Cottonwood	Peuplier deltoïde	Populus deltoïdes
Trembling Aspen	Peuplier faux-tremble	Polulus tremuloides
Poplar (Large tooth Aspen)	Peuplier à grande dent	Populus grandidentata
Paper or White Birch	Bouleau blanc ou bouleau à papier	Betula papyrifera
Yellow Birch	Merisier ou bouleau jaune	Betula alleghaniensis
Sugar Maple	Érable à sucre	Acer saccharum
Red Maple	Érable rouge	Acer rubrum
North American Beech	Hêtre à grande feuille	Fagus grandifolia
American Basswood	Tilleul d'Amérique	Tilia americana

- j. Volume of primary feedstock from primary forest : 0
- k. List percentage of primary feedstock from primary forest (j), by the following categories. Subdivide by SBP-approved Forest Management Schemes:
 - Primary feedstock from primary forest certified to an SBP-approved Forest Management Scheme : 0%

- Primary feedstock from primary forest not certified to an SBP-approved Forest Management Scheme : 0%

i. Volume of secondary feedstock: 15 000 – 18 000 metric tonnes

Name (English)	Nom (French)	Scientific Name
Balsam Fir	Sapin baumier	Abies balsamea
Spruce	Épinettes	Picea spp.
Jack Pine	Pin gris	Pinus banksiana
Larch	Mélèze laricin	Larix laricina

m. Volume of tertiary feedstock: 0

3 Requirement for a Supply Base Evaluation

SBE completed	SBE not completed
<input type="checkbox"/>	X

4 Supply Base Evaluation Process

4.1 Scope

Not applicable

4.2 Justification

Not applicable

4.3 Results of Risk Assessment

Not applicable

4.4 Results of Supplier Verification Programme

Not applicable

4.5 Conclusion

Not applicable

5 Supply Base Evaluation Process

Not applicable

6 Stakeholder Consultation

Not applicable.

6.1 Response to stakeholder comments

Not applicable

7 Overview of Initial Assessment of Risk

Not applicable

8 Supplier Verification Programme

8.1 Description of the Supplier Verification Programme

Not applicable

8.2 Site visits

Not applicable

8.3 Conclusions from the Supplier Verification Programme

Not applicable

9 Mitigation Measures

9.1 Mitigation measures

Not applicable

9.2 Monitoring and outcomes

Not applicable

10 Detailed Findings for Indicators

Not applicable

11 Review of Report

11.1 Peer review

The SBR was shared electronically and discussed in person with several forestry stakeholders.

11.2 Public or additional reviews

The SBR report was prepared under the supervision of Nicolas Blanchette, ing.f., M.Sc. (for), MBA from INCOS Strategies. Mr. Blanchette has expertise with SBP certification and biomass producers across Canada and in the United States.

12 Approval of Report

Approval of Supply Base Report by senior management			
Report Prepared by:	<i>Alexandre Samuel & Nicolas Blanchette</i>	<i>Certification coordinator La Granaudière Consultant, INCOS Strategies</i>	<i>October 26, 2020</i>
	Name	Title	Date
The undersigned persons confirm that I/we are members of the organisation's senior management and do hereby affirm that the contents of this evaluation report were duly acknowledged by senior management as being accurate prior to approval and finalisation of the report.			
Report approved by:	<i>Yves Crits</i>	<i>CEO</i>	<i>October 26, 2020</i>
	Name	Title	Date
Report approved by:	<i>Martin Laliberté</i>	<i>CFO</i>	<i>October 26, 2020</i>
	Name	Title	Date
Report approved by:	<i>Marc Dumont</i>	<i>Woodland and Fibre Supply Officer</i>	<i>October 26, 2020</i>
	Name	Title	Date

13 Updates

Note: Updates should be provided in the form of additional pages, either published separately or added to the original public summary report.

13.1 Significant changes in the Supply Base

Provide a description of any significant changes to the supply base.

13.2 Effectiveness of previous mitigation measures

For each mitigation measure identified during the evaluation, give a detailed account of whether the measures were shown to be effective or not.

13.3 New risk ratings and mitigation measures

Provide an update of risk ratings for all relevant Indicators.

13.4 Actual figures for feedstock over the previous 12 months

*Using the categories in Section 2.5 'Quantification of the Supply Base' (above), give an update on the actual figures for the previous 12 month period. Volume may be shown in a banding between XXX,000 to YYY,000 tonnes or m³ if a compelling justification is provided**

13.5 Projected figures for feedstock over the next 12 months

Supply Base

- a. Total Supply Base area (ha): 9 507 358 ha
- b. Tenure by type (ha): Public 9 141 392 ha
Private 365 966 ha
- c. Forest by type (ha): Continuous boreal forest (Boreal) 1 650 622 ha
Mixed deciduous (Northern temperate zone) 5 437 286 ha
Deciduous temperate (Northern temperate zone) 2 419 450 ha
- d. Forest by management type (ha): 9 507 358 ha of natural forest management.
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Feedstock

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- l. Volume of secondary feedstock: 15 000 – 18 000 metric tonnes

Name (English)	Nom (French)	Scientific Name
Balsam Fir	Sapin baumier	Abiea balsamea
Spruce	Épinettes	Picea spp.
Jack Pine	Pin gris	Pinus banksiana
Larch	Mélèze laricin	Larix laricina

- m. Volume of tertiary feedstock: 0