Re-growing the forest

In the time it takes you to read this sentence, about 130 new tree seedlings will have been planted somewhere in a commercial forest in Canada. By the time you get to the bottom of the page that number will have jumped to 1,200. On average, almost 1,000 seedlings are launched on a new life every minute, regenerating what Canada has plenty of – forests. The latest annual harvest for timber and pulp and paper amounted to 0.3% of what’s out there.

Forest companies generate the forest they use because they want it to be there when they need it in future, but also because over 90% of Canada’s commercial forests are located on crown lands, owned by the provinces. By law, these companies must meet sustainability levels set by the provinces. At the moment, timber is being harvested at rates 30% below what’s considered to be the sustainable limit for Canada’s wood supply.

The Canadian forest industry is also a world leader in sustainable forestry management and what’s called “chain-of-custody” (responsible sourcing of raw materials). For more information on these subjects, see the Factsheets Canada leads the world and Responsible sourcing of raw materials.

Source: The State of Canada’s Forests, Annual Report 2014, Natural Resources Canada. The planting of tree seedlings per minute is derived from over 500 million seedlings planted per year. Harvest representing less than 0.2% (page 11). The timber harvest 30% below sustainable limit (page 11 of 2013 Annual Report).