

November 19, 2007

## Christmas tree arrives at Legislature grounds

### *Huge white spruce provided by Alberta Plywood Ltd., in Slave Lake*

*Edmonton...* The tradition of yuletide cooperation between the Alberta government and the province's forest industry continues November 19 with the arrival of a 25-metre spruce tree at the Legislature grounds. The Christmas tree will be used as the centerpiece of the annual holiday light display.

Each year, the Alberta government partners with the member companies of the Alberta Forest Products Association to provide a Christmas tree for the Legislature grounds. This year, the honour of finding and delivering the tree goes to West Fraser's Alberta Plywood operation in Slave Lake.

"The forest industry makes an important contribution to Alberta's prosperity by providing jobs, investment, and building materials to feed Alberta's robust housing construction market," said Luke Ouellette, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation. "The industry's efforts to provide a Christmas tree each year remind us of that."

The 80-year-old natural white spruce stands 25 metres tall and weighs about 800 kilograms. The tree is coming from an area 30 km east of Slave Lake in the Marten Hills Forest Management Area. Twenty West Fraser employees and contractors were involved in finding, cutting, preparing, loading and transporting the tree to the Legislature grounds.

"West Fraser and Alberta Plywood are honoured to provide the Christmas tree for the Legislature and the people of this great province," said Gordon Sanders, Woodlands Manager with Alberta Plywood. "We're proud to carry on this long tradition."

Legislature grounds staff will decorate the tree and the entire grounds for the holiday celebrations. After the holidays, the tree will be chipped and used for garden mulch.

"Every year, thousands of Albertans visit the Legislature grounds to help us celebrate the holiday season," said Speaker Ken Kowalski. "The tree provided to us by members of the Alberta Forest Products Association is the highlight of a spectacular outdoor lighting display that gets underway December 6."

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### **Media enquiries may be directed to:**

Darcy Scott, Communications  
Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation  
780-422-1173  
Dial 310-0000 for toll-free access outside  
Edmonton

Parker Hogan, Director of Public Affairs  
Alberta Forest Products Association  
780-452-2841 x240 or 780-914-2869 cell.

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