

FQM denounces softwood lumber duties

Victoria Vanier

The FQM (Federation des municipalités) denounces the decision by the United States Commerce Department to impose a softwood lumber tariff of on average 14.25 % and anti-dumping measures of 6.58 % for a total of 20.83 % surtax. In the same breath, it is demanding that the Canadian and Quebec governments maintain the loans and loan guarantee programs and ensure that businesses receive the sums quickly.

"It is distressing to see that we find ourselves in a similar situation as in 2002. There are 225 municipalities whose vitality depends on the forestry industry. We support Ottawa's decision to use the courts against the American government, but this decision must not end the negotiations around a bilateral agreement on softwood lumber," said the FQM president, Richard Lehoux.

As for the government of Quebec, the FQM asks

that it continues its steps to make the unique Quebec forestry system recognized so it may be excluded from all import duties. This decision by the Department of Commerce does not calm the concerns regarding the imposition in 2018 of tariffs on Quebec art paper factories. The risk of a multitude of proceedings towards the Canadian wood industry is real and could have grave consequences on forestry communities.

"The FQM will continue to represent the interests of municipalities to different levels of government and continue to support the steps to protect our industry and ensure the economic development of our communities. We are used to rolling up our sleeves when things get tough and that is what we will continue to do until this crisis is resolved," concluded Mr. Lehoux.

The "Regroupement des communautés forestières" of the FQM will hold its first Forum on November 28th, 2017, at the Centre des congrès de Québec.

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National Caregiver's Week takes place between November 5th and the 11th and has as its theme: "To work and care for a loved one". The theme was chosen to raise awareness in the population to the challenges and accomplished exploits of the working caregivers who harmonize their work, personal life and the support they give as a caregiver.

More than 950,000 people are both workers and natural caregivers according to the Institute of Statistics Quebec. It is essential to raise the awareness of employers to the reality experienced by the caregivers in their employ. With the best work-family conciliation programs, these workers should have the attention of elected officials so they will not experience exhaustion, loss of revenue or job loss. The "Table Regionale de concertation des aînés de l'Estrie" along with the Memphremagog support committee for natural caregivers is launching a first regional guide called "Handy Resources for Hurried Caregivers", a guide to all the resources for natural caregivers of seniors in the Estrie. A French version of the guide, called "Aidant pressé, ressources fûtées", will also be available.

During the launch, the TCAM (Table de concertation des Aînés Memphremagog) will also unveil the 2018 edition of the "Bottin-Agenda de ressources pour les aînés". More than just a resource guide, the Bottin also contains an agenda so nothing is forgotten. With 6,500 copies printed, it will be available for free at vaccination clinics, Caisse Populaires, pharmacies, CAB's and at all the resources for seniors. People picking up a Bottin-Agenda can also take place in a drawing for prizes by answering six simple questions in a survey.



photo courtesy

Seen here at the launch of the guide "Handy resources for Hurried Caregivers" are (l. to r.): Micheline Roberge, president of the Table régionale de concertation des aînés de l'Estrie; Ginette Desmarais, natural caregiver; Josée Cloutier, spokesperson of Appui Estrie; and Geneviève Côté, president of Appui Estrie.

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