

## **Canadian Statement Against Forced Labour and Child Labour in Supply Chains**

pursuant to an Act to enact the Fighting Against Forced Labour and Child Labour in Supply Chains Act and to amend the Customs Tariff,  
referred to as Canada's "Modern Slavery Act" (the "Act")  
for the fiscal reporting period October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023.



La Crete Sawmills Ltd.  
15121 Twp Rd 1055  
PO Box 1090  
La Crete AB T0H 2H0  
780-928-2292

[office@lacretesawmills.com](mailto:office@lacretesawmills.com)  
<https://www.lacretesawmills.com/>

## **Our Business**

This Report is provided in accordance with Bill S-211: Fighting Against Forced Labour and Child Labour in Supply Chains, a Federally Legislated Act in Canada, that came into effect January 1, 2024. This Bill is to implement Canada's international commitment to combat forced labour and child labour through the establishment of reporting obligations (MNP.ca).

La Crete Sawmills Inc. (LCSM) is a locally owned and operated manufacturing facility established in 1989. LCSM began with humble beginnings and has grown into a medium size sawmill with a recognizable brand within the lumber industry.

Currently, we operate as a team of approximately 140 dedicated employees that strive to produce a quality product to meet our own high standards. We specialize in the lumber production of spruce and aspen as well as the production of quality wood pellets.

Our mill's annual capacity is 110 million board feet; the lumber mill operates a two-line sawmill with two dry kilns, a planer, and a remanufacturing facility. The wood pellet mill began operation in January of 2003 in a brand new 17,600 square foot building and is capable of producing up to 150,000 tonne of pellets annually.

## **Sustainability**

### **Forest Management**

La Crete Sawmills, as part of the Upper Hay Regional Forests Woodland Group, is committed to professional and sustainable forest management practices that are based on the natural cycle of growth and disturbance of the forests.

Through extensive research, detailed input from surrounding communities including the first nations, and spatial modelling, the woodlands management team develops specialized resource plans to establish an innovative and sensitive approach to forest management.

Careful planning assures a balance of social responsibility, water sources, wildlife habitat, and environmental risks such as wildfires and insect infestation.

### **Trade Associations**

As a leader in the forestry industry, and a partner in a Forest Management Agreement, we are proud members of various associations that promote environmental stewardship, champion sustainability, and uphold quality standards.

Upper Hay Regional Forests

<https://highlevelwoodlands.com/>

La Crete Sawmills is a participant in a group made up of several independently owned and operated companies committed to being a cooperative team to preserve forest health. Working together and with the public, the Woodlands Group ensures a balance of social, economic, and ecological values to support sustainability for future generations.

Alberta Forest Products Association

<https://albertaforestproducts.ca/>

The Alberta Forest Products Association (AFPA) is a non-profit organization that focuses on supporting the success and telling the stories of Alberta's sustainable forest industry. It is also responsible for increasing public understanding of our forest resource and how the forest industry maintains it.

Wood Pellet Association of Canada

<https://pellet.org/>

The Wood Pellet Association of Canada (WPAC) and its members are committed to supplying the world with responsible and renewable clean energy. Canada has become one of the largest pellet producers in the world, supplying customers domestically and globally with quality pellets that support a low-carbon economy.

## **Certifications**

### **Chain of Custody**

PEFC Certified Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification

<https://www.pefccanada.org/>

Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) is a global alliance of national forest certification systems. As an international non-profit, non-governmental organization, we are dedicated to promoting sustainable forest management through independent third-party certification.

Sustainable Biomass Program (SBP) with Renewable Energy Directive (RED II)

<https://sbp-cert.org/>

Sustainable Biomass Program (SBP) is a certification scheme designed for woody biomass used in industrial, large-scale energy production to provide assurance that woody biomass sourced both legally and sustainably.

## **Our Policies and Due Diligence Processes**

At La Crete Sawmills Ltd., we are committed to respecting and promoting human rights and safe working conditions.

LCSM will not tolerate the exploitation of children or the trafficking, physical punishment, abuse, or involuntary servitude of any workers. Our Human Rights Policy explicitly prohibits the use of forced labour and workers who are under the minimal legal age will not be hired without meeting the requirements of the Alberta Employment Standards.

All employees review our Human Rights Policy during their Initial Hiring Orientation which includes that we stand against forced labour and do not practice under-age hiring according to the Alberta Employment Standards. Employees sign an agreement understanding LCSM's Employee Handbook including our Human Rights Policy.

Our Contractor Guide includes our Human Rights Policy and other pertinent policies. Contractors need to sign a Contractor Orientation Record. Their signature indicates agreement to the statement:

I agree that I have been oriented as to the Health & Safety policies and Procedures of La Crete Sawmills Ltd. I will ensure that my employees are aware of these policies and we will abide by them for the safety of everybody at the worksite.

## **Forced Labour and Child Labour Risks**

Our manufacturing operation is located in Alberta, Canada. Our supply procurement is mainly within Canada and the United States. Reviewing the fiscal reporting period, there is a very low risk of forced labour and child labour in our supply chain according to the top 20 at-risk products highlighted on Global Slavery Index 2023 map, page 4 <https://cdn.walkfree.org/content/uploads/2023/05/17114737/Global-Slavery-Index-2023.pdf> or see Appendix A.

Currently, we do not have concerns of forced labour or child labour from the sites we source from.

## **Remediation, Training and Effectiveness**

### **Remediation**

We have not identified any instances of forced labour or child labour in our activities or supply chain and do not currently have a formal policy on how we would remediate any loss related to such activities.

### **Training**

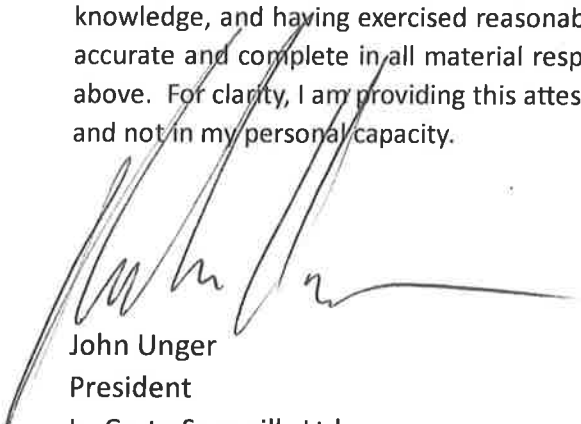
No current training regarding forced labour or child labour occurred at LCSM during the reporting period.

### **Effectiveness**

LCSM did not have anything in place to evaluate the effectiveness for the reporting period.

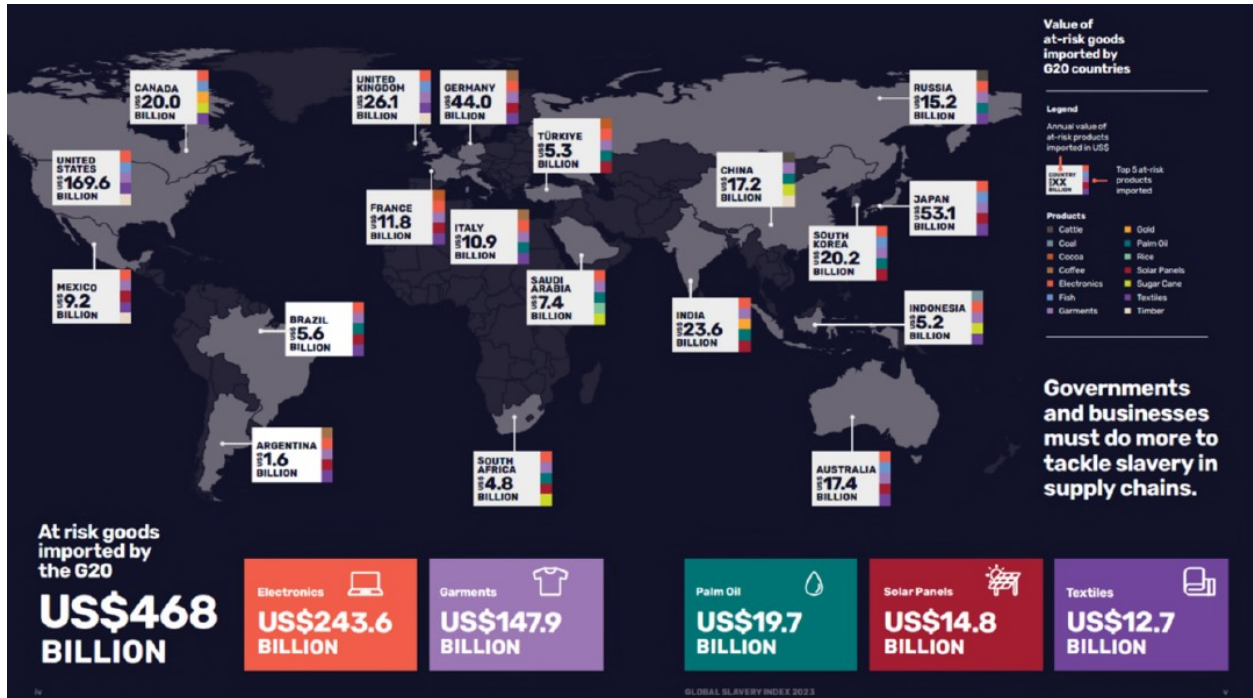
### **Attestation**

In accordance with the requirements of the Act, and in particular section 11 thereof, I attest that I have reviewed the information contained in the report for the entity or entities listed above. Based on my knowledge, and having exercised reasonable diligence, I attest that the information in the report is true, accurate and complete in all material respects for the purposes of the Act, for the reporting year listed above. For clarity, I am providing this attestation in my capacity as the President of La Crete Sawmills Ltd. and not in my personal capacity.



John Unger  
President  
La Crete Sawmills Ltd.  
May 23, 2024

# Appendix A



Global Slavery Index 2023

<https://cdn.walkfree.org/content/uploads/2023/05/17114737/Global-Slavery-Index-2023.pdf>