

CANADA'S FOREST PRODUCTS SECTOR HONOURS MERCER INTERNATIONAL'S BRIAN MERWIN WITH 2019 INNOVATION AWARD

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Vancouver, BC – Earlier today, Forest Products Association of Canada (FPAC) hosted its annual *Awards of Excellence* luncheon in Vancouver, where Mercer International's Brian Merwin was presented with FPAC's 2019 *Innovation Award*.

FPAC hosts this annual event to recognize excellence in the sector and to honour the achievements of our workers and community partners. The *Innovation Award* is presented to a leader and visionary who demonstrates a commitment to environmental leadership and sustainable forest management practices.



“Innovations around processes and products are fueling a massive transformation in Canada’s forest sector,” said FPAC President and CEO Derek Nighbor. “It’s important to that we recognize and support these game-changing ideas and initiatives as they are truly shaping the future of our industry. What Brian and his team have done in Castlegar reflects the true spirit of innovation that is

alive and well in our sector,” he added.

Merwin and the team at Mercer International received the award for some of the leading edge work they have done to improve productivity. In the competitive world of pulp, significant costs are incurred transporting wood chips to the mill and then shipping the pulp to customers. Merwin and his team realized that with modifications to transport vehicles, they could move 35% more product. Working with vehicle manufacturers, they were successful in developing a unique B-Train trailer that would haul wood chips to the mill and pulp to the Port of Vancouver -one vehicle, two uses. .





Merwin holds a Master’s Degree in Business Administration and a Bachelor of Commerce Degree and has served as Vice President, Strategic Initiatives at Mercer International since February 2009. He has also served as Director, Strategic and Business Initiatives and Business Analyst at Mercer and played a key role in the development of the BC Hydro Energy Purchase Agreement and securing an Eco-energy grant.

“It is great to receive recognition for my team’s contribution to innovation, especially considering how much innovation is occurring across our industry,” said Merwin. “Innovation happens through collaboration, open mindedness, and a drive to evolve. This award recognizes innovation’s importance to our industry as our global competitiveness depends upon it. On behalf of my team at Mercer Celgar, thank you.”

Mercer International aims to provide sustainability sourced fibres, renewable energy and chemicals for essential human needs. They operate four large-scale pulp mills and own and operate one of the largest sawmills in Germany. They also focus on the bio-economy by producing green energy and chemicals. “At Mercer, our core values emphasize boldness, trust, and the pursuit of excellence. All of us at Mercer are proud of Brian and his team, which includes colleagues in industry and government for their creativity and determination. They embraced an idea and brought it to fruition with strong leadership and teamwork. At Mercer, we appreciate that their spirit of collaboration made a big difference,” says David Gandossi, President, Chief Executive Officer and Director of Mercer International Inc.

To see the full list of FPAC Award recipients, please visit <http://www.fpac.ca/canadas-forest-sector-celebrates-its-best-and-brightest-in-vancouver>.

-30-

FPAC provides a voice for Canada’s wood, pulp, and paper producers nationally and internationally in government, trade, and environmental affairs. The \$69-billion-a-year forest products industry represents 2% of Canada’s GDP and is one of Canada’s largest employers operating in more than 600 communities and providing 230,000 direct jobs across the country.

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