



CANADA

# House of Commons Debates

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**OFFICIAL REPORT (HANSARD)**

**Thursday, June 18, 2009**

**Speaker: The Honourable Peter Milliken**

Oral Questions

**Forestry Industry**

**Hon. Geoff Regan (Halifax West, Lib.):**

Mr. Speaker, after months of ignoring the forestry sector, the government rolled out an inadequate package that has already been labelled a cruel joke on unemployed workers.

Will this package help all paper mills? No. Will it help lumber mills? No. Will it help the 55,000 laid-off forestry workers? No, and it will not help Fraser Papers, which filed for bankruptcy today.

Why is the government so callous when it comes to the thousands of families, hundreds of communities, and even whole provinces left out of this deal?

**Hon. Lisa Raitt (Minister of Natural Resources, CPC):**

Mr. Speaker, I had great pleasure yesterday in announcing this government's \$1 billion program, called the pulp and paper green transformation program.

It makes sense for a lot of reasons. Not only is it rewarding those pulp and paper firms that are using renewable fuels, but it is also providing investment for the future, when we come out of this global recession, so that we are better positioned in order to take advantage of the markets.

Indeed the industry has responded and has indicated that it greatly appreciates the government's strong commitment to the industry and its future.