

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a dense forest of tall, thin trees, likely pines or cypresses, with sunlight filtering through the canopy. A path leads through the trees, and a few people are visible in the distance, walking away from the viewer.

TRANSITION TO A NEW NATIONAL FOREST MANAGEMENT STANDARD

GENERAL BACKGROUND

Adopted 15 years ago, FSC's Principles and Criteria (P&C) form the guiding framework for developing regional forest stewardship standards appropriate to local social, ecological and economic conditions.

It was in February 2012, that FSC International's membership approved the revised Principles & Criteria, marking the beginning of an important next phase in FSC's work.

To ensure consistent application of the global P&C, so that the intent of the P&C is shared across all countries, FSC launched the development of the International Generic Indicators, which will be the basis of all FSC Standards.

With the successful approval of the P&Cs and the development of the International Generic Indicators underway, it paved a clear path for FSC Canada to begin revising its regional Forest Management Standards (National Boreal, Maritimes, BC, and Great Lakes-St. Lawrence (draft) Standards) and aligning them with these new requirements.

FSC Canada sees this as an opportunity to not only update its Forest Management Standards with the newest science and knowledge but a way to continue to have the most rigorous social and environmental standard in the forest industry.

This document provides an overview of FSC Canada's Forest Management Standards Revision Process and how you can continue to be involved.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL GENERIC INDICATORS

The International Generic Indicators provide consistent global application of the Principles & Criteria and will be the basis of all FSC Standards.

The International Generic Indicators (IGIs) are a suite of indicators, based on the new FSC Principles and Criteria, that act as a starting point for FSC Canada's national Forest Management standard.

The IGIs underwent a first public consultation in the spring of 2013 and second round in February 2014. During both consultation periods, FSC Canada strongly encouraged members and stakeholders in Canada to submit feedback to FSC International, to ensure that chamber focused concerns were heard and addressed.

The IGI Working Group reviewed all stakeholder feedback and the final IGIs were approved by the FSC International Board of Directors in March 2015.

CONSULTATIONS & NORTH AMERICAN ENGAGEMENT

Draft 1 (2013)

Discussion Paper

FSC Canada & FSC US solicited feedback from stakeholders on a Discussion Paper that assessed the first draft of the IGIs in relation to their potential impacts on FSC in North America.

Theme Paper

FSC Canada developed a Thematic Paper which provides a summary and analysis of comments received based on content, structure, strategic direction and recommendations for improvements.

Webinars

FSC Canada and FSC US hosted webinars to provide perspective on draft 1 of the IGIs.

Draft 2 (2014)

Crosswalk Document

FSC Canada developed a Crosswalk Document, that references compatible elements in current regional standards.

Review Report

A Review Report of Draft 2 IGIs and Crosswalk Document were developed and submitted to FSC International on March 31, 2014.

Webinars

FSC Canada and FSC US hosted webinars to provide perspective on the major thematic changes between the first and second IGI drafts.

Mock-desk Audit

FSC Canada facilitated a cross-chamber mock desk audit to assess the auditability of draft 2 IGIs and provide recommendations to FSC International.

INTERNATIONAL GENERIC INDICATORS

TRANSFER

Transferring the International Generic Indicators to the National Forest Management Standard

DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL INDICATORS

FSC Canada and the Standards Development Group will draft approximately 50-70% of the indicators, while the Technical Expert Panels coordinate the remainder. The following general structure will be followed when developing Draft 1 of the National Forest Management Standard:

- Review International Generic Indicators and consider the location of similar indicators found in regional standards (Crosswalk Document).
- Preliminary analysis with transfer of International Generic Indicators
- Additional research and consultation with experts
- Discussion with Technical Expert Panels & develop a recommended approach (indicators and guidance)
- Agreement by Standards Development Group on approach (indicators)
- Agreement & sign-off by FSC Canada Board of Directors
- Draft 1 Public Consultation

TRANSFER PROCESS

A Transfer Procedure has been created, by FSC International, to facilitate development of national indicators. When developing FSC Canada's National Forest Management Standard, each International Generic Indicator shall be assessed against one of the following options:

- Adopt: The Standards Development Group copies an International Generic Indicator into the National Forest Management Standard.
- Adapt: The Standards Development Group reviews and revises an International Generic Indicator in order to address terminology, scope, or effectiveness in measuring conformance to a Criterion.
- Drop: The Standards Development Group may omit an International Generic Indicator where it is determined to be inapplicable or otherwise non-contributing in measuring conformance to a Criterion.
- Add a new indicator: The Standards Development Group may suggest additional indicators in order to better establish conformance to a criterion as appropriate to a Canadian context.

NATIONAL FOREST MANAGEMENT STANDARD DIRECTION

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Canada is committed to developing and maintaining high standards for responsible forestry. In the past year, FSC has focused on engaging with members and stakeholders to ensure that our standards and policies support healthy forests for generations to come.

In order to ensure that the FSC Canada Forest Management Standards Revision process is well supported by the membership, in 2012, FSC Canada proposed a strategic direction for the Forest Management Standard revision process. The strategic direction (outlined below) was well received and approved by 94.5% of the membership. In moving forward with the Standard Revision process, FSC Canada will:

Develop one National Standard.

One National Standard that includes national common indicators and region specific indicators, where warranted, will replace existing regional standards.

Establish national common indicators that will be applied in all regions.

FSC Canada will assess the similarities and differences between regional standards with the goal of developing national common indicators.

Identify and develop region specific indicators.

FSC Canada will develop and approve criteria used to determine circumstances when region specific indicators should be developed. FSC Canada understands that ecological and social differences in a region may justify the development of region specific indicators for some criteria.

Support and encourage meaningful national and regional participation.

FSC Canada understands that chamber balance and regional representation is required to ensure the development of National Standards.

**94.5% of FSC
Members in Canada,
voted in favour of the
strategic direction.**

FOREST MANAGEMENT STANDARD REVISION PROCESS

The National Forest Management Standard Revision Process is based on three phases. This process is designed to encourage considerable stakeholder consultation and feedback.

PHASE 1

PROCESS DESIGN & RESEARCH

- Received approval from FSC International for FSC Canada revision process
- Process survey
- Gather information and research
- Identify key themes
- Establish Standard Development Group
- Establish Technical Expert Panels

PHASE 3

FIELD TESTING & APPROVAL

- Field test in various regions
- Submit final draft to FSC Canada Board of Directors for approval
- Submit final draft to FSC International for accreditation

PHASE 2

DRAFTING & CONSULTATIONS

- Identify key indicators for discussion & expert input
- Technical Expert Panels and Standards Development Group to develop indicators and guidance
- Release draft 1 for public consultation
- Review feedback and prepare draft 2 of Standard
- Refine indicators, discuss & review
- Release draft 2 for public consultation
- Review feedback and prepare final draft

IDENTIFYING KEY THEMES

FSC Canada hosted a series of workshops, webinars and online surveys across Canada to identify indicators considered ecologically or socially important and to help strengthen regional specific indicators.

Based on FSC Canada's work; new research and best practices; and feedback provided through workshops, webinars and online surveys, the following key themes were identified :

- **Ecological & Operational Considerations (P6, 9, 10)**
- **Species at Risk—Woodland Caribou**
- **Pesticides, Conversion & Invasive Species**
- **Aboriginal Peoples Rights & Free, Prior and Informed Consent**
- **Community & Stakeholder Rights**
- **Scale, Intensity & Risk & Small, low-intensity management forests**

Process to identifying Key Themes

Alignment of Standards & Indicators

FSC Canada compared existing regional Forest Management Standards and found substantial alignment across a majority of the indicators.



Consultation

FSC Canada hosted a series of workshops, webinars and online surveys, where members, stakeholders and Aboriginal Peoples provided feedback on significant indicators— those that have been identified as problematic, ecologically or socially important or requiring strengthening.

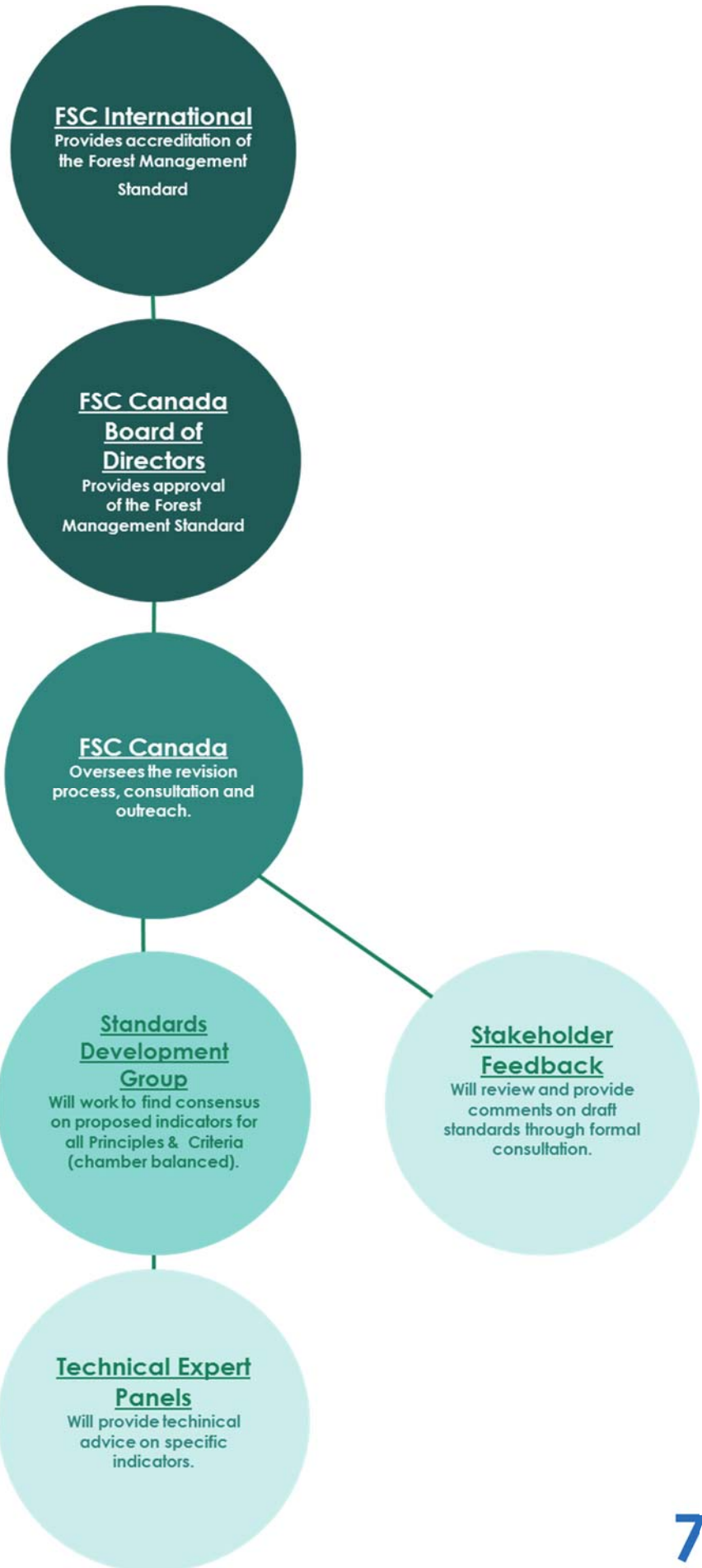


New research & best practices

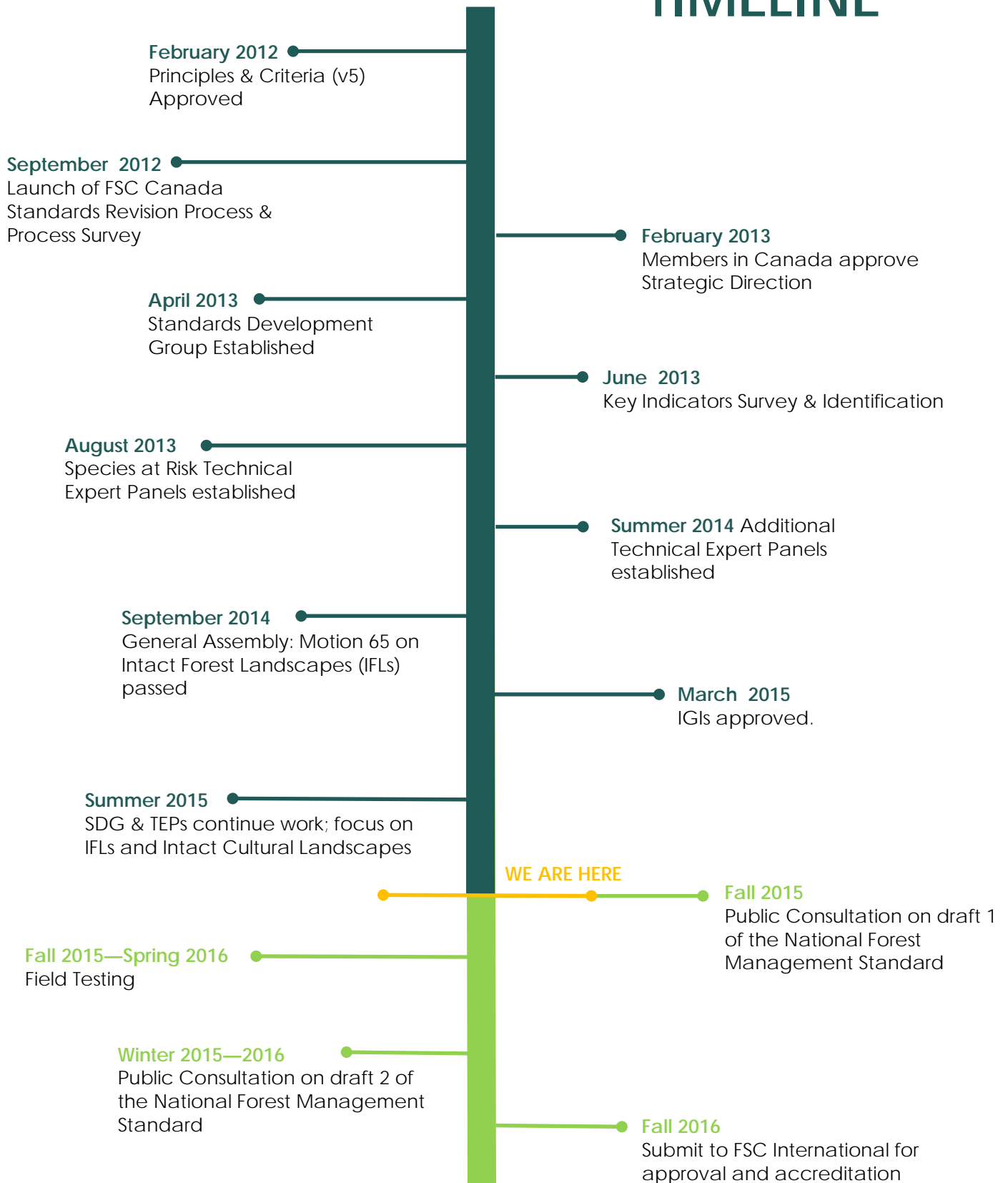
FSC Canada has identified new research and best management practices that have been noted under specific key themes, where further discussion is required.



STANDARD REVISION
**DECISION
MAKING**



STANDARD REVISION TIMELINE



HOW TO GET INVOLVED

FSC Canada encourages you to get involved and have your voice heard to ensure that the FSC Forest Management Standard continues to be the most rigorous social and environmental standard in the forest industry.

FSC Canada will hold two rounds of public consultation on the National Standard including regional sessions at main centers across Canada. Stay up-to-date on the latest developments of the FSC Canada Forest Management Standard Revision Process and the development of the International Generic Indicators.

STAY UP-TO-DATE

Technical Updates

Sign up for FSC Canada's E-blast notifications which provide up-to-date news about Standards and Policies under development and review and for opportunities to participate. [Sign up here.](#)

Forest Management Standard Revision Process Website

Visit the FSC Canada website to learn more about the Forest Management Standard Revision Process. [Learn more here.](#)

International Generic Indicators Website(s)

Visit the FSC Canada website to learn more about the IGIs and their applicability in Canada. [Learn more here.](#)



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