

Out-of-Province Ministerial Travel and Expenses
(including expenses of participants and general expenses associated with travel)

Ministry	Environment	
Title of Travel	Canadian Conference of Forest Ministers	
Location	St. John’s, Newfoundland and Labrador	
Date(s)	June 16-18, 2025	
Participants	Honourable Travis Keisig, Minister of Environment Kevin France, Deputy Minister of Environment Kenneth Cotterill, Chief of Staff to Minister Keisig	
Purpose of Travel	Federal Government Meetings	
Total Travel Expenditures for Participants		
Air Travel (including airfare and airport service fees, baggage fees)		\$3,185.26
Ground Travel (including taxis, car rentals, trains and buses)		\$103.91
Accommodation (including room charges, and all related taxes and fees)		\$1,908.00
Meals (personal per diem meal claims)		\$313.00
Conference & Registration Fees		\$0.00
Miscellaneous (including incidentals, parking, temporary cell phone upgrades, fax and internet charges, passport and visa fees, medical and vaccination fees, and other sundry expenditures)		\$45.00
Subtotal		\$5,555.17
General Travel Expenditures		
Business Hosting Expenses (expenses for luncheon and/or dinner meetings hosted by the Government of Saskatchewan, including food, beverages, catering staff, service charges, equipment, and entertainment)		\$0.00
Miscellaneous (Including meeting rooms, translator and interpreter fees, police security, publications, shipping charges, gifts)		\$0.00
Subtotal		\$0.00
TOTAL		\$5,555.17

Overview of Travel and Objectives

The Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (CCFM) Ministerial meeting was held on June 15 to 18, 2025, in Newfoundland and Labrador (NL). Ministers and Deputy ministers from various jurisdictions participated in the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to address and discuss various forestry topics of national and international significance.

NL hosted the Forum on Forests and NIO meetings on June 16, which provided the ministers with opportunities to hear about topical forest sector priorities and to meet with Indigenous leadership to better understand their unique perspectives in areas of CCFM influence.

The ministerial meeting was held on June 17th. The objectives of the meeting were to understand jurisdictional positioning, share intelligence and coordinate Canadian responses on forest sector priorities. The main topics of discussion were US – CAN trade relations, market access and competitiveness, wildfire management, indigenous engagement, industry challenges and workforce attraction. The discussions underscored the importance of collaborative efforts in advancing sustainable forest practices and strengthening Canada's position in the global forestry sector.

Participation in CCFM provides Saskatchewan (SK) access to resources, tools, expertise, and projects that would otherwise be unavailable. It provides an outlet for collaboration on emerging issues and shared interests with our jurisdictional partners and strengthens our relationships, as well as provides an opportunity to share SK specific concerns and comments on the works of CCFM working groups at the table.

Travel Activity

Day 1:

On June 15, NL hosted an evening reception open to all Forum on Forests participants, including speakers and moderators.

Day 2:

On June 16th, The Forum on Forests meeting was held in four sessions from 9:00 to 15:00 (NST) followed by the Meeting with the Assembly of First Nations (NIO meeting) from 15:30 to 14:15 (NST).

Due to a flight delay, Saskatchewan representatives were unable to attend the Forum on Forests sessions. However, they were present for the National Indigenous Organizations (NIO) meeting held afterwards. During the meeting, Minister Travis Keisig highlighted the success of Indigenous engagement and collaborative initiatives in Saskatchewan in his discussion with New Brunswick Regional Chief Joanna Bernard, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) representative.

Following the meeting, a Forum on Forests Reception and Exhibits took place from 17:30 to 19:00 NST. This was followed by a Ministers' Reception (18:00–19:00 NST) for Ministers and Heads of Delegations, and dinner (19:00–21:00 NST) for Ministers, Delegates, Forum participants, speakers, and moderators.

Day 3:

On June 17, the Ministerial Section of the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (CCFM) convened from 9:00 to 15:30 (NST). The meeting commenced with an opening session, followed by a focused discussion on the resilience of Canada–United States relations.

During the session, Minister Travis Keisig addressed the broader implications of the evolving trade relationship between the United States and China, emphasizing the ripple effects experienced by Canada. He highlighted the longstanding dispute over softwood lumber duties as a key issue in Canada–U.S. trade relations. Minister Keisig also expressed appreciation for the support provided by the United States in response to Canadian wildfires. He reaffirmed that, given the geographic proximity and shared economic interests, the United States has been—and will continue to be—Canada’s most significant trading partner.

The subsequent session of the meeting focused on the topic of market access and competitiveness. Minister Travis Keisig underscored the importance of promoting Canadian-produced goods, emphasizing that these products must be offered at fair and competitive prices. He also highlighted the critical need for effective delivery systems and the strengthening of market corridors to enhance accessibility and efficiency.

In addressing competitiveness, the Minister stressed the importance of increased engagement and outreach with industry stakeholders. He noted that SK has paused the implementation of the carbon tax and acknowledged the high cost of electricity as a significant challenge impacting pulp and sawmill operations.

The next items discussed addressed the topics of wildfires and forest degradation. Minister Travis Keisig expressed appreciation for the advocacy efforts surrounding forest degradation and commended the work of the Definitions Task Team. He raised the question of whether it is appropriate at this time to impose additional regulatory burdens on industry, suggesting that existing tools may continue to be effectively utilized. The Minister recommended that work on forest degradation should proceed.

This session was followed by a discussion on strategic communications, during which a draft communiqué was presented to ministers for live editing. SK proposed revisions to emphasize positive language, specifically recommending that the communiqué affirm that Canadian forests are not degraded and are being managed sustainably.

From 14:45 to 15:15 NST, the meeting concluded with a closing session and the formal transfer of the CCFM Chair. NL passed the title British Columbia for the 2025–2026 term. A press conference followed from 15:15 to 15:30 NST.

The evening reception was held from 19:00 to 21:00 NST.

Important Information from CCFM Ministerial Meeting:

BC with the input from New Brunswick had drafted a letter requesting the PM to appoint an envoy from Canada to work on trade issues with US counterpart. The letter was circulated through I-Net, and jurisdictions are reviewing the letter. SK had recommended edits to add a statement regarding proactive and continuous support from the federal government if the envoy is not successful in reaching a negotiated favorable agreement with the U.S. The recommendations need to be sent to B.C by June 27, 2025, by the end of the day.

The communiqué from the meeting is available at: <https://scics.ca/en/product-produit/canadian-council-of-forest-ministers-advance-market-access-and-forest-stewardship/>