



West Fraser Timber Co. Ltd

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**NEWS RELEASE
WEST FRASER TIMBER CO. LTD.
("WFT")**

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WEST FRASER CONSTRUCTS NEW SAWMILL IN QUESNEL

Quesnel, B.C: West Fraser Timber Co. Ltd. today announced it will spend approximately \$105 million to construct a new sawmill and significantly expand its administrative office in Quesnel, British Columbia.

"As West Fraser marks its 50th year of operation, this significant capital investment confirms our Company's commitment to maintaining the industry's most efficient, modern and low-cost operations," said Hank Ketcham, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer. "It also demonstrates our confidence in the investment climate created in British Columbia in recent years."

The new three-line mill will replace the existing sawmill on Brownmiller Road. The new mill's annual capacity will be 500 million board feet. It will employ the most modern technologies to optimize productivity and maximize recovery from beetle-killed timber, while improving emissions quality. Construction will commence in late April 2005. Production is expected to begin in the summer of 2006.

"This significant investment by West Fraser is good news for Quesnel, the surrounding region and the province," stated Premier Gordon Campbell. "Much of the new equipment is developed in British Columbia by B.C. companies. It's another reason why our forest industry is the best in the world. The business climate we have worked to establish is generating a new level of private sector investment. Quesnel has taken advantage of the new legislative framework we established to encourage investment in their community. Everyone is a winner when this kind of investment takes place."

"The City is very pleased that West Fraser has once again confirmed the Company's commitment to Quesnel," said Mayor Nate Bello. "Section 226 of the Community Charter allowed us to structure a Revitalization Tax Agreement that results in no decrease in revenue to the City, but made the difference between West Fraser either updating the current mill or building the \$100 million new mill. It is a win for all involved."

The new sawmill will be built along side the existing Quesnel mill to ensure production is not interrupted during 15-months of construction. As part of the project, the Company will add 16,000 square feet to its administrative office to accommodate increased employment levels.

"The expansion of the office confirms our belief in having key senior people where our products are being manufactured," said Ketcham. As a result of the Weldwood acquisition, about 35 positions previously located in Vancouver will relocate to Quesnel.

The construction of both the sawmill and office complex provides significant economic benefits to the community and provincial economy. The project requires in excess of 180,000 person-hours of employment and more than 90% of the new equipment will be sourced from B.C.-based companies.

West Fraser is an integrated forest products company producing lumber, wood chips, LVL, MDF, plywood, pulp linerboard, kraft paper and newsprint. West Fraser has manufacturing operations in British Columbia, Alberta and the southern United States. The Company is headquartered in Vancouver, British Columbia and has approximately 7,300 employees.

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West Fraser shares trade on the Toronto Stock Exchange under the symbol: WFT

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