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BDOZ | THE BIOFUEL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY ZONE INITIATIVE

The Canada FIRM Challenge

A NATIONAL AWARDS PROGRAM FOR FOREST REGIONS SEEKING NEW INDUSTRY

15 new BDO Zones ACROSS CANADA

The Canada FIRM (Forest Innovation and Renewable Markets) Challenge is a national competition, and a direct response to the **Canadian Forest Sector Transformation Task Force's** call to support new markets for Canada's wood products.

The goal: **more than $1 billion in new plant announcements in under two years**.

Forest regions across Canada are invited to apply. **15 will be selected** to receive a **Biofuel Development Opportunity (BDO) Zone Rating**, then actively connected with hundreds of global project developers through a **new national Markets Acceleration Centre (BDO-MAC)**.

BDO ZONE IMPACT

73 BDO ZONE RATINGS ISSUED TO DATE	**$10B** PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENTS IN BDO ZONES	**$556M** AVG. ANNUAL ECONOMIC IMPACT PER PROJECT	**6M+** GLOBAL STAKEHOLDER REACH

WHAT IS A BDO ZONE RATING

A BDO Zone rating is an internationally recognized, standards-based technical risk assessment of a region's feedstock, supply chain and infrastructure with respect to the development potential for new biofuel plants. Investment-grade ratings turn local forest resources into a bankable opportunity and put the region in front of the world's largest network of active bio-project developers, driving investment and jobs.

THE STANDARD: Ratings issued in accordance with the Canadian Standards Association's National Technical Specification **CSA TS-005:25,** ***the Bioeconomy Development Opportunity Zone Assessment.***

HOW THE CHALLENGE WORKS

1. **Apply**
   Submit one online application; it takes about 60 minutes to complete.
2. **Selection**
   Every application is scored against published criteria, then independently validated by the Ratings Integrity Committee.
3. **Assessment and rating**
   Selected regions undergo a CSA TS-005:25 assessment of biomass availability, supply-chain resilience and infrastructure readiness. BDO Zone Ratings are issued and published worldwide.
4. **Global market exposure**
   Awardees are actively connected with hundreds of project developers worldwide.

WHAT AWARDEES RECEIVE

- **Funded Rating**
  A fully funded BDO Zone Rating under CSA TS-005:25, at no cost to the region: approximately **$150,000** in technical rating assessment and global market exposure.
- **International Connection**
  Active connection to developers worldwide: 300+ active project developers and 6M+ investors and sector stakeholders.
- **Developer Matching**
  Developer matching through the BDO Zone Markets Acceleration Centre (BDO-MAC).
- **Lasting Advantage**
  A public, third-party-verified rating with a proven track record of attracting **over $10 billion in new project announcements**.

WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR

Biomass Availability

A surplus of sustainable forest biomass, with evidence of at least **50,000 tonnes per year**.

Supply-Chain Resilience

Long-term feedstock commitment, shown through **5 letters of support** — at least **2 from biomass suppliers**.

Infrastructure Readiness

At least **1 industrial site** that could host a new facility — serviced land, a former mill, or a lot in an industrial park.

WHO CAN APPLY

The Challenge is open to Canadian municipal, county and regional governments; regional and provincial economic development bodies; Indigenous governments, Indigenous organizations and Indigenous-owned economic development corporations; biomass supply cooperatives and producer associations; not-for-profit organizations; and owners or operators of forest-sector facilities or industrial assets.

KEY DATES

November 3, 2026	Nov 9–20, 2026	December 3, 2026	January 2027
APPLICATIONS OPEN	INFORMATIONAL WEBINARS	APPLICATIONS CLOSE	AWARDEES ANNOUNCED

Apply now ecostrat.com/canada-firm-challenge

Full Challenge details and webinar registration at the same address.
Applications accepted in English and French.