An action plan, recently tabled in the Ontario Legislature, will "carry forest management in Ontario into the 21st century," Natural Resources Minister Vincent Kerrior said.

A Ministry news release noted that the plan contains 16 initiatives affecting both technical and administrative aspects of forest management. It will address five major areas, including how to ensure the best end use of timber and how to deal with problems relating to an administrative mindset in the MNR.

Kerrio said his Ministry will, in some cases, bring in outside experts for advice and assistance. Dr. James Kayll, Director of Forestry at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, will chair a committee of MNR and forest industry officials to establish more detailed criteria for forest stand allocation to ensure the best timber utilization.

Dr. Robert Rosehart, President of Lakehead University, will chair a second group which will include forest industry representatives, academics, and environmentalists, to evaluate the Ministry's forest inventory figures and recommend a process for verify-

ing the inventory on an ongoing basis.

This Forest Resources Inventory (FRI) provides a picture of the extent, nature, and condition of the forests in the province and covers an area of 61.6 million hectares, over half the total area of Ontario.

The release noted that the FRI will cost from \$20 to \$25 per square kilo-

metre. That cost, which will reach a total of \$3-million on 1/20th of the province per year, will be shared by the Ministry and the forest companies in Ontario.

Forests are divided into management units for planning purposes. For each unit, the FRI takes three years to do, the release added.



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