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Attention News Editors:
Budget 2009 should protect forestry jobs: poll

OTTAWA, Jan. 16 /CNW Telbec/ - A poll for Canada's largest forestry union conducted by Nanos Research has found that a significant majority of Canadians believe that Budget 2009 should protect forestry jobs in this slowing Canadian economy.

Seventy-two percent of respondents expressed support for federal and provincial governments' use of economic stimulus programs to protect forest industry jobs. Ninety percent of respondents in the follow up question indicated that if the federal and provincial governments provided assistance to forestry companies, there should be conditions to ensure the funds are used to maintain operations and prevent lay-offs."

This sends a clear message to the Prime Minister that Canadians want help for small-town economies in a way that supports and protects people's jobs in the forest sector," says Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union President Dave Coles.

"I urge the Prime Minister to invest smartly in the key resource sectors hardest hit by the economic downturn, including the forestry," he adds. "The federal government must ensure that investments made to the forestry sector today will directly benefit the workers by protecting their jobs and sustaining the communities that depend on them."

"These results clearly indicate that respondents are distinguishing between economic stimuli that benefit corporations, and those which target people and jobs," says Nik Nanos, President of Nanos Research. "These results show a clear preference among Canadians for economic investments that come with job-protection conditions attached to them."

The results were obtained through a random telephone survey conducted by Nanos Research with 1,003 Canadians from January 3 to January 7, 2009. The margin of accuracy for a sample of 1,003 is 3.1%, 19 times out of 20.

CEP is one of Canada's largest unions, representing thousands of workers in Canada's forestry sector.

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