

**SOFTWOOD LUMBER SUBSIDIES REPORT
TO THE CONGRESS**

U.S. Department of Commerce

December 2015

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Background and Reporting Methodology.....	3
Identification of Subsidies.....	3
Subsidies Provided.....	5
Conclusion.....	13
Public Comments.....	Appendix

I. Background and Reporting Methodology

As an initial matter, given the large number of countries that export softwood lumber and softwood lumber products to the United States, we concluded that it was untenable to find subsidy information for every country that exports softwood lumber or softwood lumber products to the United States.¹ Instead, in order to provide a report that reflects subsidies which have a significant impact on the U.S. softwood lumber industry, we analyzed U.S. imports of softwood lumber and softwood lumber products to determine which countries were the largest exporters of such products to the United States. As a result, based on data published by the United States International Trade Commission Tariff and Trade DataWeb, we include in this report subsidies provided by Canada and Chile, the only two countries with exports accounting for at least one percent of total U.S. imports of softwood lumber by quantity, as classified under Harmonized Tariff Schedule code 4407.1001,² during the period January 1, 2015, through June 30, 2015. In particular, Canada accounts for 95.38 percent and Chile accounts for 1.22 percent of total U.S. imports.

As in past reports, for this, the Fifteenth Softwood Lumber Subsidies Report to Congress (Fifteenth Report), we are relying on a six-month period to identify the countries subject to review. We will rely on U.S. imports of softwood lumber and softwood lumber products during the period July 1, 2015, through December 31, 2015, to select the countries subject to the next report.

Under U.S. countervailing duty (CVD) law, a subsidy will be found if a government authority: (i) provides a financial contribution, (ii) provides any form of income or price support within the meaning of Article XVI of the GATT 1994, or (iii) makes a payment to a funding mechanism to provide a financial contribution to a person, or entrusts or directs a private entity to make a financial contribution, if providing the contribution would normally be vested in the government and the practice does not differ in substance from practices normally followed by governments, and a benefit is thereby conferred. *See* section 771(5)(B) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act).

II. Identification of Subsidies

The U.S. Government investigates and monitors the provision of subsidies by other countries through various means, including the enforcement of U.S. trade laws, participation at the World Trade Organization (WTO), the implementation of bilateral trade agreements, as well as public comment. Therefore, we examined subsidies identified in those areas, specifically: A) CVD investigations and reviews; B) WTO reporting by member countries and WTO monitoring; C) subsidies identified in the course of enforcing bilateral agreements regarding softwood lumber and softwood lumber products; and D) comments from the public.

¹ For the period January 1, 2015, through June 30, 2015, forty-one countries had exports of softwood lumber to the United States.

² Imports classified under Harmonized Tariff Schedule code 4407.1001 account for the vast majority of imports of softwood lumber and softwood lumber products.

A. Countervailing Duty Proceedings

To identify subsidies on softwood lumber or softwood lumber products provided by Canada, we analyzed the most recently completed CVD proceedings involving exports to the United States of softwood lumber or softwood lumber products from Canada and have included in this report any subsidies identified in relevant proceedings. The Department of Commerce (the Department) has not conducted a CVD proceeding involving imports of softwood lumber and softwood lumber products from Chile.

In 2006, the United States and Canada signed the Softwood Lumber Agreement (SLA), a bilateral accord between the United States and Canada, which resulted in the U.S. government terminating the most recent CVD order on imports of Canadian softwood lumber.³ On October 12, 2015, the SLA expired. The CVD order had been established in 2002, pursuant to U.S. government determinations that federal and provincial governments in Canada were unfairly subsidizing Canadian producers, and that imports of the subsidized Canadian lumber threatened to injure the U.S. industry. We included in our first fourteen reports subsidies identified in the last administrative review of the CVD order on softwood lumber from Canada, which was completed prior to the termination of the order pursuant to the SLA. That administrative review covered the period April 2003 through March 2004. We continue to report these identified subsidies.

In this report, we include for the first time another CVD Proceeding, *Supercalendered Paper from Canada: Final Affirmative Countervailing Duty Determination*, 80 FR 63535 (October 25, 2015). In this determination, the Department found subsidies provided by one of the Maritime Provinces, Nova Scotia. Each of the Nova Scotia subsidies was found to be specific to a particular producer of paper. These subsidies do not apply to the lumber industry within the confines of this report. This determination also identified one program administered by the Province of Ontario that appears to be applicable to softwood lumber production; this Ontario program is included in this report.

B. WTO Notifications and Monitoring

We identified two sources of information from the WTO – Subsidies Notifications and Trade Policy Reviews (TPRs). The Subsidies Notification is the primary source of information under the WTO framework for each member country's subsidy programs. WTO member countries are required to notify the WTO of specific subsidies, in accordance with Article 25 of the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures (SCM Agreement). This portion of the SCM Agreement requires that members notify all specific subsidies, at all levels of government and covering all goods sectors, to the SCM Committee. New and full notifications are due every two years; members may also submit updated notifications at any time, but those particular notifications have been de-emphasized by the SCM Committee. These

³ In January of 2012, the United States and Canada signed a two-year extension of the SLA, which extended the SLA from October 12, 2013, to October 12, 2015.

documents are available from the WTO Secretariat and may be accessed through the WTO's website.⁴

Pursuant to the WTO's Trade Policy Review (TPR) Mechanism, each WTO member country's national trade policies are subject to periodic review by the WTO Secretariat, which then publishes a report. Information on subsidy programs is also found in the TPR report of each member country. The frequency of each country's TPR varies according to its share of world trade. Canada is subject to review every four years and Chile is subject to review every six years. The TPR reports for each country are available from the WTO Secretariat and may be accessed through the WTO's website.⁵

C. Monitoring and Enforcement Related to Bilateral Trade Agreements

We have also included in this report subsidies identified in the course of administering and enforcing the SLA.⁶

D. Public Comment

On October 22, 2015, the Department published a notice in the *Federal Register* soliciting public comment on subsidies provided by Canada and Chile on softwood lumber or softwood lumber products for inclusion in this report.⁷ The comments received are attached as Appendix I.

III. Subsidies Provided

In the First Report, we listed all known subsidies, identified using the methodology described above, provided by Brazil, Canada, Chile, and Germany on softwood lumber or softwood lumber products exported to the United States. In the Second Report, we listed all known subsidies, identified using the methodology described above, provided by Canada, Chile, and Germany. In the Third Report, we listed all known subsidies, identified using the methodology described above, provided by Brazil, Canada, Chile, Germany, and Sweden. In the Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Twelfth, and Fourteenth Reports, we listed all known subsidies, identified using the methodology described above, provided by Canada and Chile. In the Eighth, Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh, and Thirteenth Reports, we listed all known subsidies, identified using the methodology described above, provided by Canada.⁸

For the period January 1, 2015, through June 30, 2015, in this Fifteenth Report we have applied the methodology described above with regard to Canada and Chile. New

⁴ http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/scm_e/scm_e.htm.

⁵ http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tpr_e/tp_rep_e.htm#bycountry.

⁶ The SLA was particular to Canada. The United States does not have a similar agreement involving softwood lumber or softwood lumber products from any other country.

⁷ See *Subsidy Programs Provided by Countries Exporting Softwood Lumber and Softwood Lumber Products to the United States; Request for Comment*, 80 FR 63957 (October 22, 2015).

⁸ Our previous reports are posted on our website at www.trade.gov/Enforcement under the "Trade Agreements" link. See <http://enforcement.trade.gov/sla2008/sla-index.html>.

subsidies and new information on old subsidies were identified for both Canada and Chile. The subsidies identified for Canada and Chile are as follows.

Canada

Below, we identify subsidies provided by Canada on softwood lumber and softwood lumber products through examinations of the most recently completed CVD proceedings, WTO notifications, and the implementation and enforcement of the SLA.

Subsidies Identified in CVD Proceedings

The Department determined that the following programs benefited Canadian softwood lumber producers in the second administrative review of imports under the CVD order, which was the last administrative review completed before the order was terminated. The second administrative review investigated Canadian subsidy programs in effect between April 2003 and March 2004.⁹

- A. Provincial Stumpage Programs (provision of lumber for less than adequate remuneration)
 - 1. Alberta
 - 2. British Columbia
 - 3. Manitoba
 - 4. Ontario
 - 5. Quebec
 - 6. Saskatchewan

In Canada, the vast majority of standing timber used by softwood lumber producers originates from lands owned by the Crown. Each of the Canadian provinces reviewed in the last administrative review completed under the most recent CVD order, *i.e.*, Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, and Saskatchewan, has established programs through which it charges certain license holders “stumpage” fees for standing timber harvested from Crown lands. In the underlying investigation of the most recent CVD order and in subsequent administrative reviews, the Department found that the provincial governments provided a countervailable subsidy to softwood lumber producers by selling the key input for softwood lumber production, timber, to the Canadian producers in each of the provinces listed above for less than adequate remuneration.

⁹ During the conduct of the investigation and three subsequent administrative reviews, the Department investigated a large number of programs, not all of which were in use, or evaluated, during the second administrative review. Because the second administrative review was the most recently completed administrative review with a final determination, we have used it as the most current and accurate measure of our findings.

B. Non-Stumpage Programs Determined To Confer Subsidies

Programs Administered by the Government of Canada

1. Western Economic Diversification Program (WDP): Grants and Conditionally Repayable Contributions

Introduced in 1987, the Western Economic Diversification Program (WDP) is administered by the Government of Canada's (GOC's) Department of Western Economic Diversification headquartered in Edmonton, Alberta, whose jurisdiction encompasses the four western provinces of Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan. The program supports commercial and non-commercial projects that promote economic development and diversification in the region.

During the 2003-2004 period covered by the most recently completed administrative review of the CVD order, the WDP provided grants to softwood lumber producers or associations with two "sub-programs," *i.e.*, the International Trade Personnel Program (ITPP) and "Other WDP Projects." Under the ITPP and "Other WDP Projects," companies were reimbursed for certain salary expenses in Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan.

2. Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) Softwood Marketing Subsidies

In 2002, the GOC approved a total of C\$75 million in grants to target new and existing export markets for wood products and to provide increased research and development to supplement innovation in the forest products sector. This total was allocated to three sub-programs: Canada Wood Export Program (Canada Wood), Value to Wood Program (VWP), and the National Research Institutes Initiative (NRII). The programs were placed under the administration of NRCan, a part of the Canadian Forest Service.

The VWP is a five-year research and technology transfer initiative supporting the value-added wood sector through partnerships with academic and private non-profit entities. In particular, during the 2003-2004 period of review, NRCan entered into research contribution agreements with Forintek Canada Corp. (Forintek) to do research on efficient resource use, manufacturing process improvements, product development, and product access improvement. The VWP is still available. See below under "Subsidies Identified from Canada's WTO Notification" for additional information.

The NRII is a two-year program that provides salary support to three national research institutes: the Forest Engineering Research Institute of Canada (FERIC), Forintek, and the Pulp & Paper Research Institute of Canada. In the 2003-2004 administrative review, the Department found that research undertaken by FERIC constitutes a government financial contribution to commercial users of Canada's forests. Further, the Department found that FERIC's research covers harvesting, processing, and transportation of forest products, silviculture operations, and small-scale operations and,

thus, the Department determined that government-funded R&D by FERIC benefits, *inter alia*, producers of softwood lumber. Similarly, the Department found that Forintek's operations, done in collaboration with the GOC under NRII, which pertain to resource utilization, tree and wood quality, and wood physics,¹⁰ also constitute a government financial contribution. The Department also reconfirmed its earlier determination that because grants offered under the NRII are limited to Forintek and FERIC, institutions that conducted research related to the forestry and logging industry, the wood products manufacturing industry, and the paper manufacturing industry, the program is specific to that industry. The NRII is periodically reinstated and is currently in effect.

Programs Administered by the Government of British Columbia

1. Forestry Innovation Investment Program (FIIP)

The Forestry Innovation Investment Program came into effect on April 1, 2002. On March 31, 2003, FIIP was incorporated as Forestry Innovation Investment Ltd. (FII). FII funds are used to support the activities of universities, research and educational organizations, and industry associations producing a wide range of wood products. FII's strategic objectives are implemented through three sub-programs addressing: research, product development and international marketing.

The Department reconfirmed its earlier finding that the FII grants are provided to support product development and international marketing for Canadian softwood lumber producers.

2. British Columbia Private Forest Property Tax Program

British Columbia's property tax system has two classes of private forest land -- Class 3, "unmanaged forest land," and Class 7, "managed forest land" -- that incurred different tax rates from the 1990s through the 2003-2004 period of review. In the second administrative review, the Department reaffirmed its earlier finding that property tax rates for Class 7 were generally lower than for Class 3 land at all levels of tax authority for most, though not all, taxes. The Department further reaffirmed its finding that the various municipal and district (a.k.a. regional) level authorities imposed generally lower rates for Class 7 than for Class 3 land. The tax program is codified in several laws, of which the most salient is the 1996 Assessment Act (and subsequent amendments). Section 24(1) of the Assessment Act contains forest land classification language expressly requiring that, *inter alia*, Class 7 land be "used for the production and harvesting of timber." Additionally, Section 24(3) or 24(4) of the Assessment Act, depending on the edition of the statute, requires the assessor to declassify all or part of Class 7 land if "the assessor is not satisfied. . . that the land meets all requirements" for managed forest land classification. Amendments to the provision, enacted from 1996 through 2003, retained the same language stating these two conditions. Thus, the law as published during the 2003-2004 period of review required that for private forest land to

¹⁰ The area of wood science is concerned with the physical and mechanical properties of wood and the factors which affect them.

be classified, and remain classified, as managed forest land, it had to be “used for the production and harvesting of timber.”

The Department also found that because the British Columbia tax authorities impose two different tax rates on private forest land, the governments are foregoing revenue when they collect taxes at the lower rate, and the program thus provides a government financial contribution to the British Columbia lumber industry. Further, the Department determined that because the Assessment Act expressly requires that Class 7 land be “used for the production and harvesting of timber,” and additionally requires the assessor to declassify any Class 7 land not meeting all of the Class 7 conditions (of which timber use was one), the British Columbia private forest land tax program is specific to the industry as a matter of law. The Department considered the sum of the tax savings enjoyed by Class 7 sawmill landowners at the provincial, regional, and sub-provincial (or local) levels of tax authority in British Columbia to represent the value of this subsidy.

Programs Administered by the Government of Quebec

1. Financial Aid for the Development of Private Woodlots¹¹

The program provides grants and technical assistance to certified forest producers to carry out logging activities in privately owned forests, with a view to protecting and enhancing registered forest land.

Canada reported in recent WTO notifications that this program was created in 1995 under the authority of *Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs*, and that it remains an ongoing program.¹² Canada reported that the assistance is limited to 80 percent of the costs of eligible initiatives, but the aggregate value of assistance and identity of beneficiaries are not provided in the notification. See *Canada N253* at page 48 and *Canada N284* at page 50.

¹¹ This program was originally titled Private Forest Development Program (PFDP) as translated unofficially from the French used in *New & Full Notification Pursuant to Article XVI:1 of the GATT 1994 and Article 25 of the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures*, G/SCM/N/220/CAN (7/14/11) (*Canada N220*), at 44.

¹² See *New & Full Notification Pursuant to Article XVI:1 of the GATT 1994 and Article 25 of the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures*, G/SCM/N/253/CAN (7/19/13) (*Canada N253*), at 48; and *New & Full Notification Pursuant to Article XVI:1 of the GATT 1994 and Article 25 of the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures*, G/SCM/N/284/CAN (7/9/15) (*Canada N284*), at 50.

Subsidies Identified in the CVD Investigation of Supercalendered Paper

Program Administered by the Government of Ontario

1. Ontario Northern Industrial Electricity Rate Program¹³

The Government of Ontario (GOO) established the Ontario Northern Industrial Electricity Rate program on April 1, 2013. The program's purpose is to assist Northern Ontario's largest qualifying industrial electricity consumers that commit to developing and implementing an energy management plan to manage their energy usage and improve energy efficiency and sustainability. Specifically, participants receive a rebate of two cents per kilowatt-hour, capped at 2011-12 consumption levels or C\$20 million, whichever is lower. The program is administered by the GOO Ministry of Northern Development & Mines. Companies eligible for assistance are industrial facilities located in Northern Ontario. The program has been extended indefinitely. Accepted companies can expect to receive rebates based on the amount of eligible electricity consumed.

Additional Subsidies Information from Canada's WTO Notifications

The following programs were reported in *Canada N220* and/or *Canada N253*.

1. Pulp and Paper Green Transformation Program¹⁴

On June 17, 2009, Canada announced a \$1 billion Pulp and Paper Green Transformation Program (PAPGTP) to support its pulp and paper producers. The stated purpose of this program was to improve energy efficiency and renewable energy production technologies. Canada reported in its WTO Notification that the program provided contribution funding, capped at CAD \$1 billion, to pulp and paper companies for environmental upgrades to Canadian facilities, based on a credits system. As of March 31, 2012, when the program ended, 38 pulp and paper mills across Canada, representing 24 companies, generated credits under the PAPGTP based on their 2009 production levels of black liquor.¹⁵ The GOC confirmed on its website that the program ended on this date. See <http://cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/pages/231>.¹⁶

¹³ See *Supercalendered Paper from Canada: Final Affirmative Countervailing Duty Determination*, 80 FR 63535 (October 25, 2015) and accompanying Issues and Decision Memorandum at 27.

¹⁴ This program was listed in the Sixth Report under the heading "Additional Subsidies Identified in Connection with the SLA."

¹⁵ Source: <http://www.nrcan-rncan.gc.ca/media/newcom/2009/200961a-eng.php>.

¹⁶ This program is also discussed in *Supercalendered Paper from Canada: Final Affirmative Countervailing Duty Determination* 80 FR 63535 (October 25, 2015). The discussion in that determination is more comprehensive than the one in this report, because evaluating programs in the context of an active CVD investigation is different than the purposes of this report, which is a more general reporting of the description of these programs.

2. Value to Wood (VWP)

As explained above in the “Subsidies Identified in CVD Proceedings” section, the VWP was one of three softwood marketing subsidy programs administered by NRCan. Canada reported in its WTO Notification that the VWP funded pre-competitive research and technology transfer activities in support of secondary wood products manufacturers. Canada reported that the VWP expired in March 2011. *See Canada N220* at page 27 and *Canada N253* at page 27.

3. Investments in Forest Industry Transformation Program (IFIT)

Launched in August 2010 as part of Economic Action Plans implemented since the 2009 global recession, the IFIT provides targeted investments in the form of non-refundable contributions for projects that implement new technologies leading to non-traditional high-value forest products and renewable energies. Eligible recipients are companies that produce forest products and own at least one existing forest product manufacturing facility located in Canada. Projects were selected for funding through a competitive process. The program is funded under the *Department of Natural Resources Act* and the *Energy Efficiency Act*. *See Canada N284* at page 29. In 2014, the program was continued with new funding in the amount of CAD \$90.4 million over the next four years. *See Trade Policy Review of Canada, Report by the Secretariat*, WT/TPR/S/314/Rev.1, dated September 30, 2015, Section 1, pages 15-16, para.1.7. (*Canada TPR314/R1*).

4. Transformative Technology Program (TTP)

The TTP provides funding under the *Department of Natural Resources Act* and the *Forestry Act* in the form of contributions for pre-competitive, non-proprietary R&D for development and adaptation of emerging technologies such as forest biomass, forest biotechnology and nanotechnology. The program was created in April 2007 and was set to expire on March 31, 2014.¹⁷ Funded research focuses on the development of breakthrough technologies related to forest biomass utilization, nanotechnology, and next-generation forest products, as well as addressing on-going productivity challenges facing the industry.

5. Forest Innovation Program (FIP)

The FIP provides non-repayable contributions to support pre-competitive research, development and technology transfer in the forest sector, to help position the sector for growth and participation in areas such as bioenergy, biochemicals, nanotechnology and advanced construction materials. Funding is provided under the authority of the *Department of Natural Resources Act* and the *Forestry Act*. The program started on April 1, 2012, and is set to expire on March 31, 2018. *See Canada 284* at page 29.

¹⁷ This program is no longer reported in *Canada N284*.

6. Export Restrictions to Promote Further Processing in Canada

Information in *Canada TPR314/R1* indicates that under the *Export and Import Permits Act*, Canada imposes export controls on logs, pulpwood and red cedar products to promote further processing in Canada. *See Canada TPR314/R1*, Section 3.2.3, pages 72-73, paras.3.99 and 3.100, Table 3.11.

7. Quebec Forestry Financing Program

Ongoing since 2004, under the Québec Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs, the program supports certified forestry producers in acquiring wooded lots, with assistance provided in the form of loan guarantees for loans of up to \$750,000. *See Canada N284* at page 50.

8. Ontario Tax Credit for Manufacturing and Processing

Canada reported in its WTO Notification that this program provides a tax credit under the Ontario Taxation Act 2007 against Ontario taxable income for eligible Canadian profits from manufacturing and processing, farming, fishing, logging, mining, the generation of electrical energy for sale, or the production of steam for sale. Canada did not report the amount or rate of the credit. *See Canada N220* at page 41.

9. Quebec Private Forest Property Tax Refund

Canada reported in its WTO Notification that this program provides refunds of up to 85 percent of property taxes for certified forest producers that log in privately owned forests. The program was created in 1998 to encourage producers to undertake projects to increase the value of their privately owned forests and remains an ongoing program. *See Canada N284* at page 51.

Subsidies Identified in Connection with the SLA which have been Reviewed by an Arbitration Panel¹⁸

On September 30, 2013, the United States and Canada agreed to jointly initiate arbitration under the SLA to resolve a disagreement over the implementation of a prior SLA arbitration award (LCIA No. 81010B). The 81010B award required Canada to apply additional export charges on shipments of softwood lumber from Quebec and Ontario to remedy breaches of the SLA concerning certain forestry programs in those provinces. On April 2, 2014, the LCIA Tribunal found that Canada's collection obligations pursuant to the 81010B award ended on October 12, 2013.

¹⁸ The first five of these programs was listed in each of the first five reports under the heading "Subsidies in Connection with the SLA upon which Arbitration has been Requested." The sixth program was listed in the sixth, seventh, and eighth reports under the heading "Subsidies in Connection with the SLA upon which Arbitration has been Requested."

1. Ontario Forest Sector Loan Guarantee Program

This program was announced in 2005 to make available C\$350 million in loan guarantees over five years to stimulate and leverage investment in the forest industry. These loan guarantees could be for a term of two to five years and generally range from C\$500,000 to a maximum of C\$25 million.

2. Ontario Forest Sector Prosperity Fund

This grant program was announced in 2005 to provide grants to the forest sector that would support and leverage new capital investment programs.¹⁹

3. Forest Industry Support Program

This program was announced in 2006 to make available C\$425 million in financing to foster investment and modernization projects to improve the productivity and competitiveness of Quebec's forest products industry.

4. 15% Capital Tax Credit

This program was announced in 2006 to provide a 15% tax credit to Quebec's forest products industry on investments in manufacturing and processing equipment through 2009.

5. Quebec's Road Tax Credit²⁰

This program was announced in 2006 and allowed the Government of Quebec to incur costs previously borne by the forest products industry. The program includes C\$100 million for a refundable tax credit of 40% for the construction of and major repairs to access roads and bridges.

6. British Columbia Sales of Grade 4 Timber

Since 2007, British Columbia has sold increasing amounts of publicly-owned timber in its interior for salvage rates, providing a benefit to softwood lumber producers. While the mountain pine beetle infestation has caused extensive damage to forests in British Columbia, the majority of the damaged timber is usable for softwood lumber products.

¹⁹ This program is also discussed in *Supercalendered Paper from Canada: Final Affirmative Countervailing Duty Determination* 80 FR 63535 (October 25, 2015). The discussion in that determination is more comprehensive than the one in this report, because evaluating programs in the context of an active CVD investigation is different than the purposes of this report, which is a more general reporting of the description of these programs.

²⁰ In each of the first five reports, this funding was included in the program description "Forest Management Measures," which was listed under the heading "Subsidies in Connection with the SLA upon which Arbitration has been Requested."

On July, 18, 2012, a LCIA Tribunal acknowledged the dramatic increase in the amount of timber priced as grade 4 in British Columbia, and reviewed a number of actions by British Columbia that the United States had explained helped account for that increase (LCIA No. 111790). However, the tribunal did not find that Canada had circumvented the LCIA.

Additional Subsidies Identified in Connection with the SLA²¹

1. Wood Promotion Program

The Government of Ontario provides C\$1 million per year in funding to the forest products industry to enhance value-added manufacturing.

2. North Ontario Grow Bonds Program

The Government of Ontario provided approximately C\$13 million in bonds to new and growing businesses in the North. For example, in September 2006, a C\$250,000 loan to the Manitou Forest Products Limited for expansion of its sawmill was among the projects funded.

3. Forest Industry Long-Term Competitiveness Initiative

This program provides government funding for research and development that benefits the forest products industry.

4. Ontario Forest Access Road Construction and Maintenance Program²²

This program was announced in 2006 to make available C\$75 million to reimburse forest companies for costs incurred for constructing and maintaining primary and secondary forest access roads.

5. Reductions in Operational and Silvicultural Costs²³

This program was announced in 2006 and allowed the Government of Quebec to incur costs previously borne by the forest products industry. The program includes C\$210 million in measures to reduce the cost of operations and silvicultural investments.

²¹ These programs were listed in the Thirteenth Report.

²² This program was listed in each of the first five reports under the heading “Subsidies in Connection with the SLA upon which Arbitration has been Requested.”

²³ In each of the first five reports, this funding was included in the program description “Forest Management Measures,” which was listed under the heading “Subsidies in Connection with the SLA upon which Arbitration has been Requested.”

Chile

We identified subsidies provided by Chile that potentially benefit softwood lumber and softwood lumber products through an examination of WTO monitoring reports on Chile (TPRs), as indicated further below. Chile's most recent WTO Subsidies Notification (N253) does not contain new information regarding programs related to lumber, timber, or other forest products industries.²⁴

- Native Woodland Management Financing supports lumber, non-lumber and conservation activity costs pursuant to *Law No. 20.283* (July 30, 2008), providing indexed interest-free loans of between 2- and 4-year terms, per *Institute for Agricultural Development (INDAP) General Credit Regulations, Resolution No.286* (December 20, 2003). See *Chile TPR315/R1* at Table A4.1, page 160.²⁵
- Incentive Payments for Forestry Development Financing supports reforestation and soil reclamation, with emphasis on smallholders, pursuant to *Decree Law No. 701 of 1974*. See *Chile TPR315/R1* at Table A4.1, page 160.
- ProChile Agriculture and Forestry Fund provides non-reimbursable financing to exporters to boost the export of, *inter alia*, forestry products. The program is administered by the Directorate of Export Promotion (ProChile), providing approximately US\$47 million in financing during 2009-2014. See *Chile TPR315/R1* at page 71, para. 3.135 and page 98, para. 4.16.

IV. Conclusion

We note that this report is limited to all subsidies identified following the reporting methodology described above and does not constitute a finding regarding the countervailability of the listed subsidies under U.S. law or the WTO SCM Agreement. We also note that this report only includes subsidies identified pursuant to the described reporting methodology. A subsidy's presence in or absence from this report is not an indication of whether the subsidy is countervailable under U.S. law, is in accordance with the relevant WTO agreements, or is actionable under any other international agreement.

²⁴ See *New and Full Notification Pursuant to Article XVI.1 of the GATT 1994 and Article 25 of the SCM Agreement: Chile*, G/SCM/N/253/CHL (2/17/14).

²⁵ See *Trade Policy Review of Chile, Report by the Secretariat*, WT/TPR/S/315/R1, dated October 7, 2015 (*Chile TPR315/R1*).

Appendix