

Weston Forest retains Platinum Club status as one of Canada's Best Managed Companies

Mississauga, ON - Tuesday, May 9, 2023 – Weston Forest was once again recognized for its industry-leading performance and its sustained growth by receiving the prestigious 2023 Canada's Best Managed Companies award. The company retained its Platinum Club status with the program by winning a Best Managed designation for nine consecutive years.

Celebrating its 30th anniversary, Canada's Best Managed Companies program awards excellence in private Canadian-owned companies. To attain the designation, companies are evaluated on their leadership in the areas of strategy, culture, commitment, capabilities, innovation, governance and financial performance.

According to Steve Rhone, President & CEO of Weston Forest, "It is a testament to our amazing team that we are being recognized for this prestigious award again." Rhone goes on to say, "Despite the turbulent events of recent years our team continues to pursue and successfully execute our strategic initiatives, delivering consistent performance through challenging times."

"CIBC is proud to sponsor Canada's Best Managed Companies, a program that has been celebrating leading organizations that are working towards building a better future, for the past thirty years," said Blair Cowan, Executive Vice-President, Head of Commercial Banking and Real Estate CIBC. "Companies such as Weston Forest, which successfully deliver innovative solutions for longer-term growth and investments, are a testament to our country's high standards of excellence."

Canada's Best Managed Companies is one of the country's leading business awards programs, recognizing innovative and world-class businesses. Every year, hundreds of entrepreneurial companies compete for this designation in a rigorous and independent evaluation process. Applicants are evaluated by an independent panel of judges with representation from program sponsors and special guests. The 2023 cohort of Best Managed companies shares common themes such as having a people-centric culture, targeting effective ESG strategies, and accelerating operational digitization.

"It has become increasingly important for businesses to foster collaborative workplaces where employees are empowered to make valuable contributions to their organizations," said Derrick Dempster, Partner, Deloitte Private and Co-Leader, Canada's Best Managed Companies program. "This year's Best Managed winners, including Weston Forest, embrace a people-first mentality, enabling employees to cultivate important capabilities and integrating diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives into their core strategy. By prioritizing employee wellbeing and championing professional development, these companies are harnessing their talent pool's fullest potential and in a stronger position to attract the talents needed to embrace the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead."











About Canada's Best Managed Companies

Canada's Best Managed Companies continues to be the mark of excellence for private Canadian owned and managed companies. Every year since the launch of the program in 1993, hundreds of entrepreneurial companies have competed for this designation in a rigorous and independent process that evaluates their management skills and practices. The awards are granted on four levels: 1) Canada's Best Managed Companies new winner (one of the new winners selected each year); 2) Canada's Best Managed Companies winner (award recipients that have re-applied and successfully retained their Best Managed designation for two additional years, subject to annual operational and financial review); 3) Gold Standard winner (after three consecutive years of maintaining their Best Managed status, these winners have demonstrated their commitment to the program and successfully retained their award for 4-6 consecutive years); 4) Platinum Club member (winners that have maintained their Best Managed status for seven years or more). Program sponsors are Deloitte Private, CIBC, The Globe and Mail, Salesforce, and TMX Group.

About Weston Forest

Weston Forest is a leading distributor and remanufacturer of softwood & hardwood lumber and specialty panel products, serving North America's industrial and construction sectors. Weston's remanufacturing and inventory management services help customers create specified crating, packaging, pallets and boxes, and other niche wood products that are essential for the production or shipment of Industrial goods. The company's logistics and just-in-time fulfilment capabilities support truss manufacturing, framing, lagging & shoring, concrete forming and other processes that are crucial to commercial and residential construction and large infrastructure projects.

Weston Forest originated as a family business in 1953. Today it is a vital and dynamic organization, repeatedly recognized by Deloitte as one of *Canada's Best Managed Companies*, recipient of several *Canadian Business Excellence Awards for Private Businesses*, and multiple winner of Waterstone *Canada's Most Admired Corporate Cultures* Award. Weston Forest is certified as a *Great Place to Work®*!

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