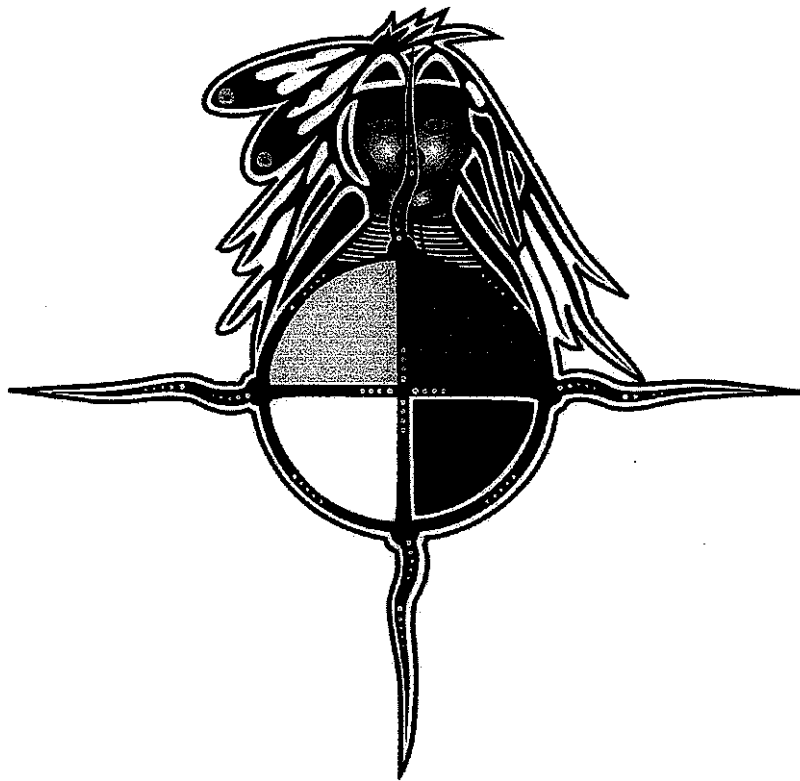


**Aboriginal Forestry 2001**  
**Capacity Building, Partnerships, Business Development and**  
**Opportunities for Aboriginal Youth**  
Proceedings of a conference and workshop held in Saskatoon,  
Saskatchewan, January 21 to 24, 2001



**Conference sponsored by the**  
**First Nation Forestry Program,**  
**a joint initiative of**  
**Natural Resources Canada, Canadian Forest Service,**  
**and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada**  
**in partnership with First Nations**

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# Foreword

The First Nation Forestry Program is in its final year. When the program was first announced in the spring of 1996, it was to be a five-year program subject to a positive evaluation mid-way through its scheduled program life. That evaluation was completed after year two of the program and because of the positive response to that evaluation, the program proceeded toward its full term. We are now approaching completion of that five-year term. Shortly after this conference, the First Nation Forestry Program was extended for another year, i.e. the program would continue to the end of March 31, 2002. This was good news to the many First Nation communities across the country who had been introduced to the opportunities in forestry and were now anxious to participate in the sector for the many economic benefits they foresaw.

The First Nation Forestry Program (FNFP) is intended to build the capacity of First Nation communities to participate in forest sector economic opportunities. The program is a funding partnership between the federal government through the Canadian Forest Service of Natural Resources Canada, and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, and between First Nations communities. The partnership with First Nations extends not only to funding arrangements but also to program management through the participation of First Nation representatives on the program management committees at the national as well as at the provincial/territorial level.

The FNFP in the Prairies and Northwest Territories has delivered a conference to First Nations since the first year of the program. In January, 2001, the conference returned to Saskatoon where the tradition started four years earlier. At the FNFP conference held in Winnipeg in February 2000, Winnipeg elder Frank Wesley commented on the lack of youth involvement in such gatherings. The conference organizing committee took Mr. Wesley's comments seriously and as a result, this year's event has a youth focus. I would like to extend a special welcome to the young people who are attending this conference.

This year, we have partnered with the Prince Albert Model Forest, and we have broadened our horizons to include the Canadian Forest Service headquarters in Ottawa to bring a national perspective to our event. We have made special efforts to include speakers from across the country and from the United States to ensure you receive a broad range of perspectives on forestry issues. We have relied on members of the FNFP regional management committees in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and the Northwest Territories, and the National Management Committee in Ottawa for advice and guidance through various phases of conference development. This partnership approach is consistent with the spirit of partnership and co-operation that is the trademark of the First Nation Forestry Program across Canada.

The conference is intended to provide information on a wide range of opportunities in the forest sector both on and off reserve lands with a special focus on opportunities for Aboriginal youth. Presentations are made on the achievement of Aboriginal communities, businesses and individuals from across the country and how partnerships were forged between these successes and the First Nation Forestry Program and the Model Forest Program. Concurrent workshop sessions present valuable insights in technical topics such as forest management, business topics such as operating a small logging company and economic and social topics such as preparing for employment in forestry and the community's economic and social health.

Over 400 people attended the conference. If number of delegates is a measure of success, then the

conference was indeed successful. But this success would not have been possible without the dedicated participation of many people and organizations. Financial assistance was provided by the First Nation Forestry Program both regionally and nationally, the Model Forest Program, and Human Resource Development Canada. Many speakers contributed their time and offered their knowledge and wisdom to the conference delegates. The high quality of presentations is what continues to draw increasingly higher numbers to our annual event. Participation by a wide variety of businesses and organizations with their display booths made an important contribution to the knowledge transfer aspect of the conference. The provincial/territorial management committees of the FNFP in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and the Northwest territories provided valuable advice and supported a number of First Nation people to attend the conference. Administration assistance was provided by Keith Chaytor, Sharon Desjarlais and Irene Roy, staff at the Prince Albert Model Forest. Harry Bombay, Executive Director, National Aboriginal Forestry Association, Steve Ginnish Eel Ground First Nation, New Brunswick, and Gene Kimbley, Chairman, Enhanced Aboriginal Involvement Strategic Initiative, were program advisors to the organizing committee. The conference organizing committee recognizes and acknowledges the valuable contribution made by these individuals, organizations and agencies.

I am particularly grateful to the dedication of the organizing committee to making this event a success. Specifically, I would like to acknowledge the contributions of Jack Smyth, CFS, Ottawa, Michael Newman, Carol Mardell, and Gerald Brahniuk, CFS Prince Albert, and Stacey Moskaluk, Eugene Burnstick and Lorne West, CFS Edmonton.

A special acknowledgment is due to Dr, Dan Welsh who before his untimely death just days after the conference, was the CFS member on the National Management Committee of the First Nation Forestry Program. Dr Welsh was a major supporter and proponent of the First Nation Forestry Program at the national level. The organizing committee would like to dedicate these proceedings to the memory of Dr Dan Welsh.

Joe De Franceschi  
Conference Chairman  
Canadian Forest Service, Edmonton

# Plenary Sessions

# Forestry Issues and Challenges for Canada's Aboriginal Community

Jim Webb  
Little Red River Cree Nation, Alberta

The theme of this conference focuses on four topics:

- partnerships
- capacity – building
- business development
- opportunities for youth

I have tried to focus my presentation on the primary forestry issues and challenges related to these topics.

What I will say reflects my experience and perspectives as a representative of the Little Red River Cree Nation and of the Sustainable Forest Management Network, which is undertaking a large scale cooperative research initiative focussed on “sustainable Aboriginal communities”.

The issues I have chosen evolve from a variety of dialogues, chief among them is the *Royal Commission on Aboriginal People Reports*, which has been described as “... Canada's version of a Truth and Reconciliation forum”, and the 1998 *National Forest Strategies – Strategic Direction Number Seven*.

I believe that the fundamental issue which confronts both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples and our institutions is the issue of relationships, specifically:

- the nature of man's relationship to the environment; and
- the nature of the relationship between Canada's Aboriginal peoples and other Canadians.

These relationship issues are integral to the challenge that Aboriginals face at the individual, community, and Nation levels, when undertaking to forge, establish, and maintain “partnerships” with other Canadians focused on sustainable forest management and truly sustainable forest-based business ventures.

## **Man's relationship to the environment (ideal types):**

**Aboriginal perspective** sees man as a part of the ecosystem engaged in a web of relationships with all other aspects of the ecosystem, and responsible for managing human use of natural resources so as not to destroy ecological balance.

**Euro Canadian perspective** sees man as outside of and apart from the ecosystem and capable of managing the ecosystem in order to enhance man's ability to harvest goods valued by man.

## **The relationship between Aboriginals and other Canadians:**

**Aboriginal perspective** is that we have agreed to share use of these lands and resources with other Canadians, provided always that their use does not destroy the resources or our relationship with the ecosystem.

**Crown perspective** is that we, as a peoples, entered into treaty relationships whereby the Crown extinguished our rights to determine resource use, and gave limited use rights for sustenance, ceremonial, and cultural purposes.

In this context, our government views treaty relationships as bringing our peoples and our lands into the Canadian confederation. We are seeking true “partnerships” which reflect and support this confederation relationship.

Crown governments and the majority of non-Aboriginal Canadians tend to see “partnerships” in a much different perspective. To quote Moses Kiguundu,



**“they view the horse and its rider as partners”**

– a perspective that suits the need of the rider, but doesn't do much to validate the autonomy of the horse.

In the context of this conference, the challenge for Aboriginal and for non-Aboriginal participants is to examine the partnership initiatives being proposed/discussed with a critical eye towards balancing these relationship issues. The question I pose for your consideration as you participate in the conference sessions is whether the information being presented, the models being proposed for Aboriginal participation in forest management and forest-based business development emphasize co-equal participation and equitable benefit, or are they simply intended to make us “better horses”?

This is not a trivial question since the vision of “partnerships” which dominate these models and initiatives will define the parameters of Aboriginal capacity building initiatives, the nature of business development ventures, and the range and extent of forest-based opportunities for youth. They define the limits of your future.

**The Sustainable Forest Management Network – Sustainable Aboriginal Communities Research Initiative and LRRCN's Role as a Mentor**

The *Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples* (RCAP, 1996) has an entire section dealing with recommendations to the federal, provincial, and territorial governments for interim measures to be put into place which will enhance Aboriginal participation in forestry management, and improve Aboriginal access to forest resources on Crown lands while our peoples and the Crown sort out the larger relationship issues at Treaty negotiation tables. The RCAP recommendations have been widely circulated and discussed, and they can be used in concert with *Strategic Direction Number Seven* to construct a template for action towards creation of sustainable Aboriginal communities.

The Little Red River Cree Nation is a founding partner and a “mentor” of the Sustainable Forest Management Network. Being a “mentor” means that we support and undertake to influence the network's approach to research on sustainable forest management. Together with the National Aboriginal Forestry Association (NAFA), we have worked cooperatively with the forest industry, the Canadian Forest Service, several provincial governments, and a large number of Canadian universities to establish a national research focus on the topic of “**sustainable Aboriginal communities**”.

The **Sustainable Aboriginal Communities** research group has evolved over the first five years of the SFM-N's existence to the point where it has now undertaken research on the following:

- models for integrating Aboriginal knowledge, values, and institutions into sustainable forest management processes;
- the need/capacity for accommodation of Aboriginal and treaty rights into sustainable forest management;
- ways to enhance Aboriginal economies and capacity;
- identification of Aboriginal criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management practices.

We have utilized a participatory research approach to engage a number of First Nation partners who are using this research to support their negotiations and forest-based development initiatives. It is our hope/ambition that this “partnership” approach will produce protocols, models, and Aboriginal institutional frameworks for meaningful participation of Aboriginal peoples in the management of Canada's forests, and equitable sharing of the benefits of sustainable forest management among Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians.

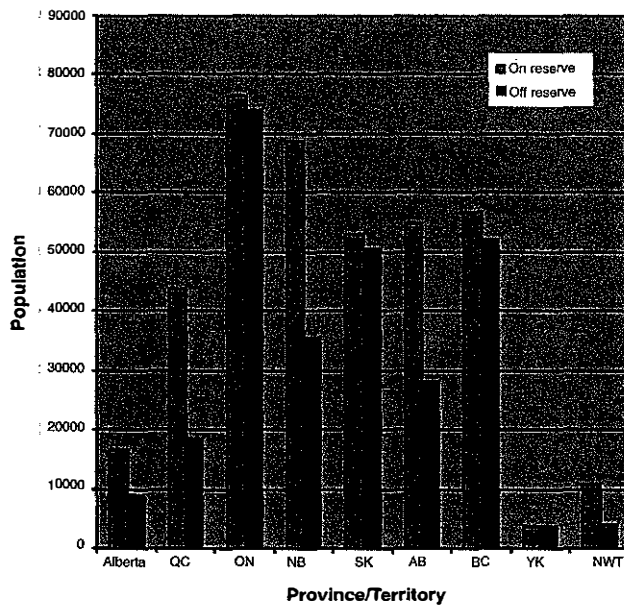
# An Overview of the Employment and Training Created under the FNFP

Jack Smyth  
 Chief, Forestry Development and Aboriginal Affairs  
 Canadian Forest Service

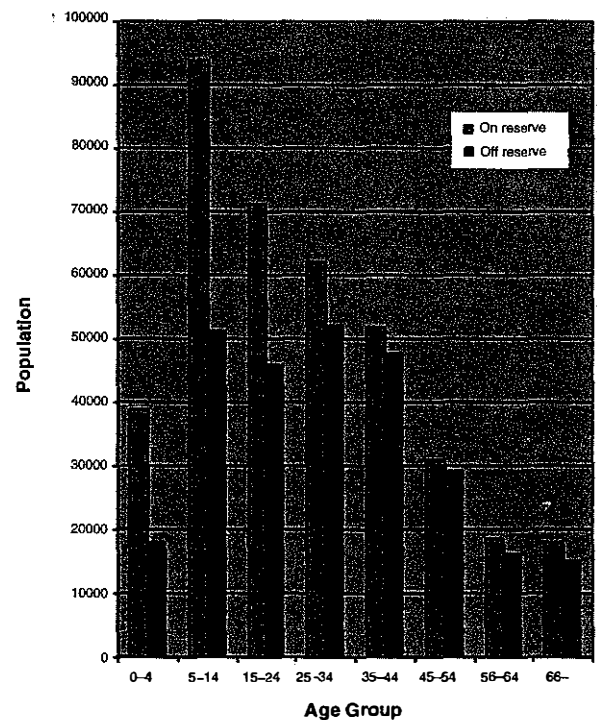
## Aboriginal Population 2000

- 1.4 million Canadians are of Aboriginal ancestry
  - 48% Status
  - 31% Non-status
  - 16% Métis
  - 4% Inuit
- 64% of on-reserve population (246,000) live in rural and remote areas

## First Nation Population by Province/Territory



## Number of First Nations On and Off Reserve by Age Group 1999



## Resource Based Opportunities

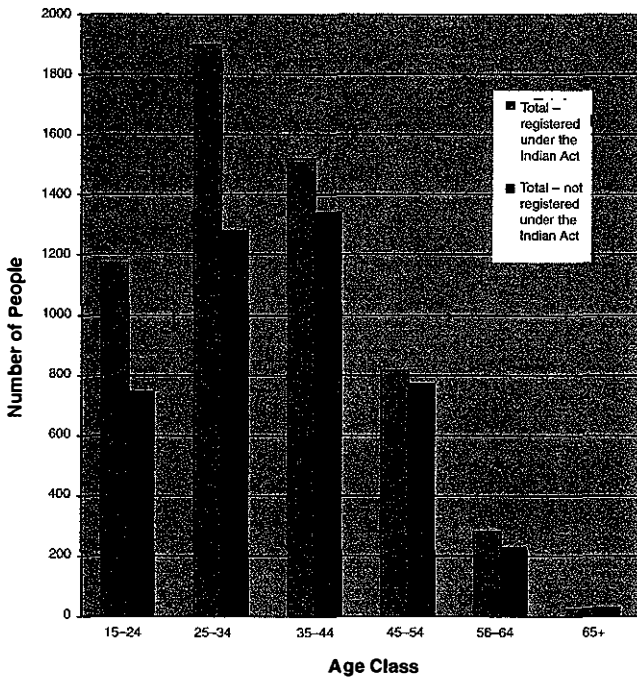
Natural resource industries (mining and minerals, forestry and energy)

- are major contributors to Canada's standard of living;
- Contribute \$88 billion to Canada's GDP (11% of the total economy);
- Are main sources of employment for over 650 Canadian communities;
- Generate 780,000 direct jobs;
- Require a skilled to highly skilled workforce.

**Forest Sector**

- Forest products industry is Canada’s leading manufacturing sector.
- The forest sector is the largest contributor to Canada’s balance of trade surplus.
- Canada is the largest forest products exporter.
- The forest sector employs 877,000 people in Canada.
- Workers in the forest sector are generally well paid

**Number of Aboriginal People Working in Forestry by Age, 1996 Census.**



**Opportunities for First Nations**

- Forest surrounds over 70% of First Nation communities.
- Work opportunities are close to home.
- A young work force is readily available in the communities.
- Growing opportunities:
  - Treaty land entitlements
  - Co-management agreements
  - Joint ventures
  - Off-reserve access

**First Nation Forestry Program**

- To improve economic conditions in status Indian communities with full consideration of the principles of sustainable forest management.
- To assist First Nation participants build skills and capacity leading to long term job opportunities in forestry both on and off-reserve.

**Types of Training**

- Tree Nursery Management
- GIS
- Silviculture
- Management Planning
- Log Home Building
- Fire Suppression
- Project Planning
- Non-Timber Forest Products
- Data Collection
- Business Planning

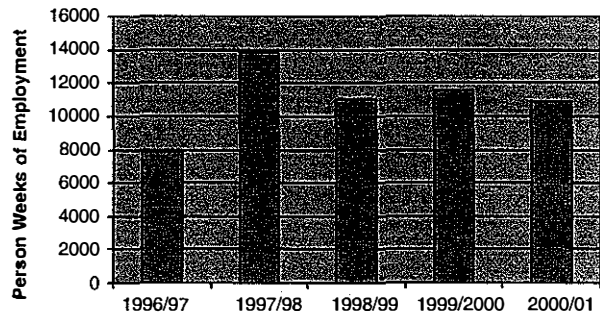
**Training Forums**

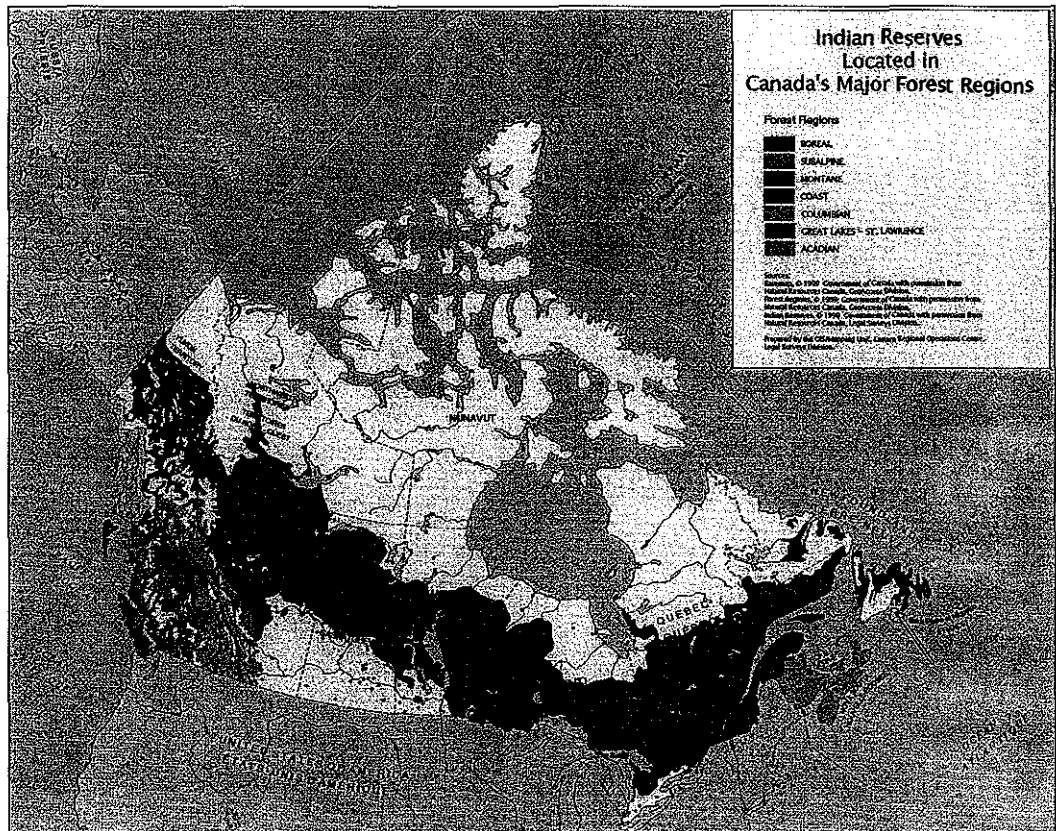
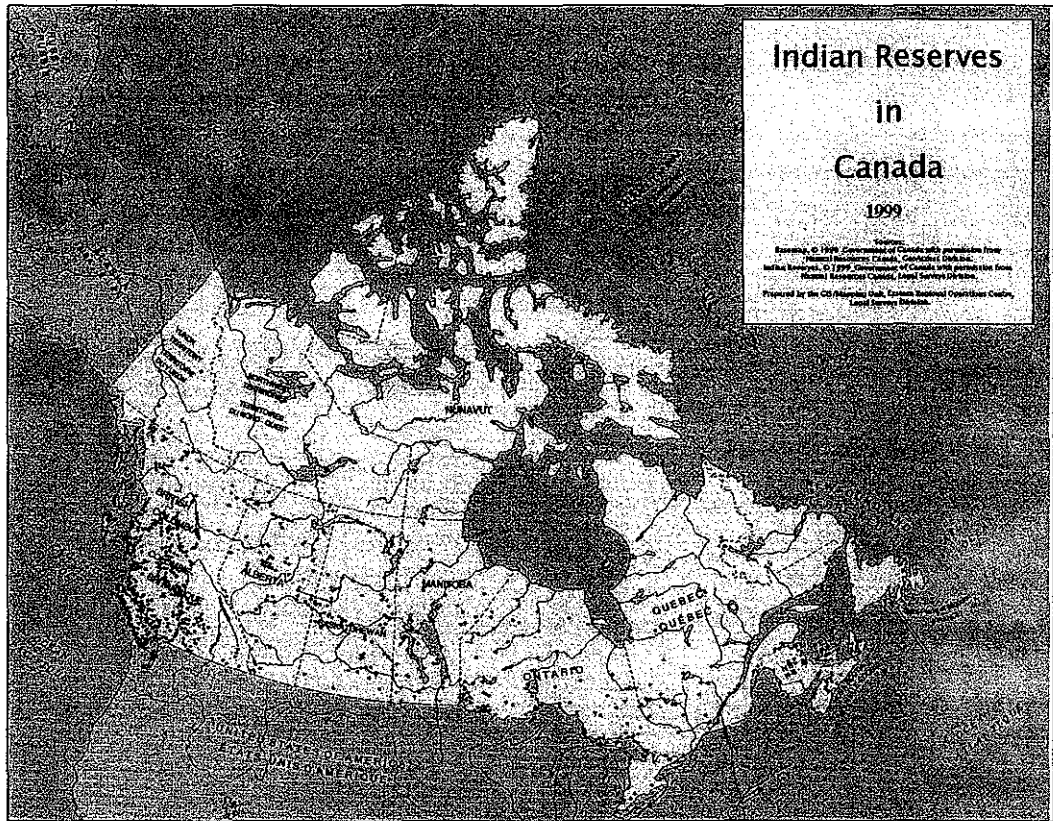
- Conferences
- Workshops
- Technology transfer
- On-site demonstrations
- Field excursions

**Employment**

- 55,189 person weeks of employment were created.
- 3,961 First Nation workers received forestry related job experience during the five years of the program.
- Post project employment are encouraging.

**Person Weeks of Employment by Year**





# The Forest Technician: Technical Activities in Forestry

Steve Ginnish  
Miramichi, New Brunswick

## Operation Phase 1

- Phase 1 consisted of the following and will be completed and submitted to the Client by mid December, 2000.

## Assessment of Effected Area

- Size of affected area
- Volume of wood removed from site
- Volume of wood left on the ground
- Volume of standing timber remaining
- Value of the above fiber
- Damage of surface terrain in term of poorly constructed woods road and fish habitat damage to both the Colonels and the Nolan Brooks caused by operation
- Extent of site damage and reclamation costs
- Timeline to achieve proposed remediation plan under a Phase 2 operation

Grand Lake Reserve IR 13



Sampling method for determining affected area, damage done, and volumes affected

Shubenacadie First Nation; Grand Lake Reserve IR 13



Consists of 413 hectares, 364.2 is productive forest land

Grand Lake Reserve IR 13



Total affected area (forest land and water bodies) consists of 222.30 hectares, 53.8% total land base or 61.0% productive forest area

### Total Effect of Illegal Harvesting

- 222.30 hectares of the 413 hectares or 53.8% of area, 61.0% productive forest area was affected.
- 19,405.910M<sup>3</sup> or 9,164.98 cords has been affected by operation.
- 5,186.090M<sup>3</sup> removed, 3,742.840M<sup>3</sup> recoverable and 10,476.980M<sup>3</sup> was left standing.
- Only 15.92% stocking remains, insufficient to ensure a new forest.
- There is extensive damage to Nolan Brook.
- There is forest terrain damage.

### Volume Removed

- Data collection was gathered at the stump by plots placements (40m<sup>2</sup>).
- Normally a 2% cruise is to be carried out to determine volumes, but we executed a 4% cruise, doubling our effort.
- All wood salvage would see added revenue generated to aid in the remediation process.
- Total volume removed was 5,186.090 M<sup>3</sup> or 2,445.28 cords.



Softwood log pile, White pine, Red pine, Spruce  
Evidences of old wood by sap running out

### Total Remaining Fiber

- It should be a priority to recover this wood fiber as soon as possible to capture what value is left.
- Recoverable fibre includes wood pushed over by operation and process wood (logs and stud wood, pulp) left at the stump.
- Total Volume to be recovered is 3,742.840 M<sup>3</sup> or 1,757.70 cords.



Typical patch of trees remaining.  
Notice rough terrain and trees pushed over.

### Total Standing Volume

- There are 10,476.980 M<sup>3</sup> or 4,962.00 cords standing.
- Fiber has in some cases been devalued because of the forwarding and skidder operation.
- Harvest of standing volume would aid in the overall cost of remediation.
- It is scattered throughout entire site.
- Standing volume would blow down if left.



Example of the damage to the trees: left, Hemlock damage above and below hard hat; Red Pine in background is also damaged.

### Total Fiber

- Value of the fiber both standing and lying on the ground would be a value source of revenue to aid in the cleanup operation.
- Same sampling method used as in determining harvested amounts.
- Residual removal treatment is to be performed.
- Rate for such activity is \$325 per hectares, (cutting, yarding and supervision).
- 222.30 hectares estimated would require at least \$72,247.50 to complete.

Grand Lake Reserve IR3



Water, lakes, and streams

Grand Lake Reserve IR3



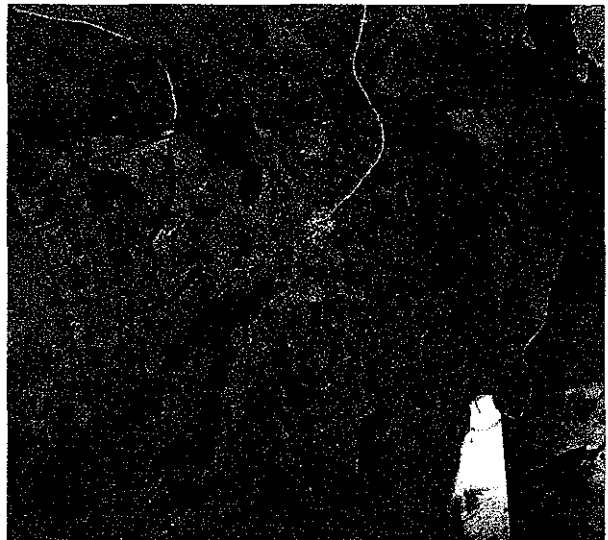
Roads and water sources

Grand Lake Reserve IR3



Infrastructure (roads), existing and proposed new roads

Grand Lake Reserve IR3



Damage within water course



Gravel pit: needs to be drained and shaped, a danger to wildlife and work crews.



Stream crossing along extraction road. Near hard hat is a 16" drain crushed and not properly installed.



Wood extraction road, large ruts, trucking impossible



Evidence of machines crossing stream. Notice large ruts and logs floating in water.

### **Water and Terrain Damage, Surface and Sub-surface**

- An additional 2.0 kms must be built to provide a safe and effective road system.
- Road repairs must be done to existing 1.7 kms for safety of wildlife and work crews.
- Heavy machines have severely damaged Nolan Brook, completely changing its natural flow patterns.
- After site visit, experienced contractor has quoted price to clean up the damage at \$198,000.00.

### **Grand Lake Reserve IR 13**



Total degradation on IR #13



## Operational Layout



Total degradation on IR #13



Example of older cutover. Poor regeneration, high vegetation, and shallow soil have caused a poor stand of trees to grow in. This is a possible example of what may happen to the entire area if no remedial work is completed immediately.

### Reforestation Plan

- All planting would take place after the removal of both the standing and the felled wood fiber is completed along with any infrastructure and brook reclamation work.
- The planting of bare root stock will be done throughout the entire 222.30 hectares to a level of 2,200 seedlings per hectare or 489,000 trees.
- At an estimated \$1.25 per tree, reforestation would cost a total of \$525,725 during the spring and summer of 2001.

### Timeline to Achieve Remediation Plan

- Roads construction and Nolan Brook would require immediate work while weather conditions allow and water flows are low.
- It is proposed to begin the harvesting of the remaining standing volume along with recoverable volume to ensure we are ready to plant next spring.
- Total costs excluding wood revenue and supervision for this operation is \$ 786,973.00.

### Conclusion

- In concluding, the remediation plan determined under Phase 2 would commence shortly after the Client approves the assessment report and the remediation plan.
- Forestry teams are proposing to hold bi-weekly debriefing sessions to update progress with Clients.
- There is the need for an immediate start up of operations in order to recover wood fiber left on the ground and to restore the natural flow of Nolan Brook.

# The Professional Forester

Peggy Smith, R.P.F.  
Senior Advisor, National Aboriginal Forestry Association  
Faculty of Forestry and the Forest Environment, Lakehead University

## Introduction

- Who are we?
- What is expected of us—from our communities, from Aboriginal organizations, from professional organizations, from industry, from government?
- How are we responding?

## "Integrity"

- In 1991, only a handful of Aboriginal R.P.F.s in Canada
- Garry Merkel, U of Alberta, a pioneer, practitioner, policy maker, and educator



## "Diligence"

- In 2000, about 30 Aboriginal R.P.F.s
- Lennard Joe, UBC
- Young entrepreneur melding business and community service



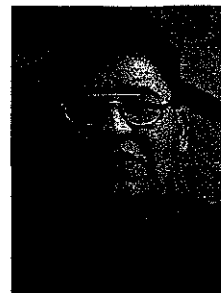
## "Confidentiality"

- Need Aboriginal professionals to influence provincial governments
- Sheila Madahbee, Michigan Tech, Wikwemikong
- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Sault College



## "Fidelity"

- Need community stability to hire our own
- Angus Dickie, UBC grad
- DIAND and Penticton First Nation
- Single dad



## "Credibility"

- Need to translate Aboriginal rights and knowledge into forest operations
- Keith Atkinson, R.P.F., Nisga'a
- Brad Henry, bug man
- Laurie Montour, wildlife biologist



## "Respect"

- Need good examples of sustainable practices
- Steve Ginnish, technician
- Community development



### "A Commitment to Learning"

- Need Aboriginal professors to teach forestry
- Pam Perreault, UBC, Garden River FN
- Deb McGregor, Whitefish Lake FN, first Ph.D. in Canada



### Assuming responsibility

- Need balance between traditional and contemporary, timber and non-timber
- Myrle Traverse, M.Sc., Interlake Tribal Council
- Negotiating joint ventures



### Gaining Experience

- Need practitioners and policy-makers
- The Lakehead U crew
- Lily Peters, Hudson
- Peggy Smith, R.P.F.
- Trena Allen, West Fraser, BC



### Role Models

- Need to attract more Aboriginal students to forestry; >500
- Rebecca McKay, UBC, NAFA
- It's tough being a role model!
- Science and math



### Serving Diverse Interests

- Need professionals who understand community complexity
- Jean Paul Gladu, Northern Arizona
- How to bring together conflicting community interests



### Providing Support

- NAFA has led the way
- From protest to capacity building to policy making
- We can't deliver without leadership and support

# Where Do Youth Fit In?

Lennard Joe  
Forestry Consultant  
Grizzly-Man Resource Management

## Who are Youth?

- Age 15-29 years old
- High School
- College
- University
- Private/ Adult Education

## Who Supports Youth?

- All levels should support youth
  - Government
  - Industry
  - Academia
  - Private Research Institutes
  - Private Consultants
  - Home/Community
- You fit somewhere in here.

## Developing Capacity

- Youth will be used to develop future capacity =  
YOUTH ARE THE FUTURE
- We must implement a capacity developing strategy.
- What do we have?
- What do we need?
- How do we get there?

For example at a community level:

- What is our resource management inventory?
  - 1 R.P.F., 1 F.I.T., 5 Techs., 10 Field assistants.
  - Acquired timber volume.
- What do we need?
  - Wood scientists, ways to develop raw timber
- How do we get there?

## How do we get there?

- Everyone must become involved.
- Expose our leaders to what is happening.
- Expose youth to what is happening.
- Through exposure we will
  - Increase awareness
  - Increase opportunities
  - Allow youth to make more informed career choices.
  - Increase the Aboriginal Work Force.
- We need to provide opportunities to allow youth to enhance their involvement.

Through:

- Education and Training
- Employment
- Increased exposure to Mentors and Peers
- Increased exposure and awareness
- Funding

## Funding

- Without funding, other opportunities are almost impossible to accomplish.
- We need to be more flexible in how we view youth projects and proposals.
- In many communities, youth are already the “local experts” in their field.
- They are newly educated with greater responsibilities.

## Funding Projects

- There needs to be flexibility for funding projects/ventures proposed by youth.
- Allowing youth to pursue new projects will:
- Develop youth skills
  - Allow youth to create their own opportunities
  - Expose youth to mentors and peers
  - Creates an incentive to pursue areas where we have little to no representation; i.e., develop capacity.

## **Youth and Other Values**

We need to

- Understand today's youth.
  - Nintendo Generation = High Tech. Knowledge
- Maintain Traditional Knowledge as well as develop understanding of western science.
- Understand today's political and economic landscape.
  - Delgamuukw, Land Claims, Treaties, Economic opportunities.

## **Youth Are Our Future**

Globalization

- Seamless link between Band and National Levels
- Increased access to information, communication, and transportation.
- Allows access/delivery of specialized services
- Increases the potential for partnerships.
- Need to keep the traditional and spiritual values alive.
- Fewer elders and knowledge keepers within communities.
- A need for sharing of knowledge = Bridging the gap.

# Partnerships Created with the Forest Industry and Potential Impacts on the Community's Economy

Trevor Ives  
General Manager  
Peter Ballantyne Developments Ltd. Partnership

My name is Trevor Ives. By trade, I am a Chartered Accountant. I articulated in the Calgary office of Deloitte Haskin and Sells.

For the last 8 years, I have been working within First Nations business development.

I am currently the General Manager for Peter Ballantyne Developments Limited Partnership which is the "for profit" business arm of the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation.

We have invested in 15 different businesses. Our proportion of these businesses have a combined asset base of over \$11 million dollars and revenue which exceeds \$10 million dollars annually. Our interests in these businesses range from 100% to as little as 3%, and our involvement in management and operations is dependent on our ownership percentage.

We are involved in a varying range of industries from the hospitality industry to the lumber manufacturing industry.

We feel that forestry holds our next greatest opportunity for commercial development.

## Review of Topic

### *Review assigned topic for presentation*

The topic of my presentation is "Partnerships created with the forest industry and potential impacts on the community's economy"

During my segment of the presentation, I will discuss a current partnership as an example, outline the benefits that have resulted.

To conclude, I will point out some opportunities that are developing for the future within the forestry industry for First Nations here in Saskatchewan.

Given the short time available for such a broad topic, I would like to present to you a working example that demonstrates the success that industry and First Nations are having within the forestry industry.

The example I will be using is Wapawekka Lumber.

## Wapawekka Lumber Ltd.

### *So What is Wapawekka??*

Wapawekka Lumber is a single line sawmill located just north of Prince Albert.

The sawmill is a small log mill which uses small diameter trees, many of which were previously used for pulp.

Wapawekka is a random length mill and has planned production of 78 million board feet annually of 2x4 and 2x6 product.

The mill utilizes new technology curve sawing to maximize the production value from the logs received. Curve sawing allows bent trees or trees with a large sweep to move through the saw heads and follow the sweep. The lumber straightens during the drying process.

Wapawekka receives its timber from the Weyerhaeuser Licence area. The mill produces rough green lumber which is trucked to Big River for custom planing and drying. The final product is shipped to market by Weyerhaeuser.

After a very successful construction phase, Wapawekka started production on May 10th, 1999 and has never looked back.

### *So What Makes Wapawekka Different from "Just Another Sawmill"??*

There are a number of distinguishing characteristics of Wapawekka. I will focus on four:

- Ownership and Structure
- Vision
- Diverse Workforce, and
- Employee Work System Environment

#### **First – Ownership**

Wapawekka Lumber is a Partnership between Weyerhaeuser and the three individual Woodland Cree First Nations: Montreal Lake Cree Nation, Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation, and the Lac La Ronge Indian Band.

Weyerhaeuser owns 51% and the balance is held equally among the three First Nation Partners.

The Board of Directors, who meet approximately four times per year, is comprised of seven individuals:  
Chief Ron Michel – Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation  
Chief Harry Cook – Lac La Ronge Indian Band  
Chief Ritchie Bird – Montreal Lake Cree  
Bill Gaynor – President of Weyerhaeuser Canada  
Reynold Hert – VP of Canadian Lumber Business for Weyerhaeuser

Steve Smith – VP Saskatchewan Operations for Weyerhaeuser

Graham Kennedy – VP of Finance and Administration for Weyerhaeuser Canada

#### **Second – Vision:**

Wapawekka's Vision is as follows: "Wapawekka Lumber will be a safe, successful, joint venture, modeling excellent partnering relationships and achieving excellent business results." We believe this philosophy distinguishes our Company.

You will note the emphasis not only on "achieving excellent business results", but also the focus on being a successful partnership between industry and First Nations.

#### **Third – Diverse Workforce:**

Wapawekka has a well diversified workforce. This is an attribute valued by everyone associated with the Company.

Currently Wapawekka has 46 full-time and 8 part-time employees.

Turnover has been extremely low since Wapawekka has opened.

Wapawekka's current workforce is 65% Aboriginal.

#### **Fourth – Work Systems Environment:**

Wapawekka Lumber has adopted a High Performance Work System Environment. Effectively, it is an environment which empowers employees and makes them more part of the overall business team than traditional environments.

Staff members were provided with an extensive training program on all areas of the business before the mill opened.

Staff members are encouraged to learn all of the different operating positions within the mill and they become very versatile.

Individuals from each team participate in all areas of the business including business planing sessions, human resource sessions, and even Board of Director's meetings.

We believe that this type of team environment improves staff morale and commitment, safety, quality, production, and overall financial results.

These are a number of the characteristics that we believe distinguish Wapawekka.

#### **So What Opportunities have been Created for the First Nations:**

There have been a number of positive opportunities for the First Nations Partners as a result of this partnership with Weyerhaeuser.

Investment: To participate in this business, the First Nations contributed real equity, due in part to the assistance from Aboriginal Business Canada and

Indian Affairs. Over the long term, this business investment should provide a good rate of return.

The investment allowed the First Nations the opportunity to invest in the manufacturing process within the industry, not simply the traditional areas of timber harvesting and silviculture activities.

**Jobs and Training:** A number of the employees of Wapawekka, especially the employees from the three First Nations, had no previous experience working in sawmills. The training and the support systems within the organisation have provided not only initial jobs, but the opportunity to understand the business and develop an increasing number of skills.

I have a personal example of how well this is working and how good the training and personal development has been.

It was last summer when I was hosting two representatives from the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. Both were from CIBC's forestry area (one was from Edmonton and the other was from Vancouver). Anyway, I had made arrangements to have them tour Wapawekka.

On arrival, we were greeted by two staff members, Dougal and Marlene, both of whom were members of the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation. It was Marlene and Dougal who gave the tour, not the management of the Company. Following the tour, both of the CIBC guests had a number of very detailed and technical questions about the operation, most of which I certainly could not answer. All of the questions were responded to by Marlene and Dougal.

On our way back to Prince Albert, the CIBC folks complimented how well informed the tour was and the great job the Wapawekka folks did. I asked the two guys from CIBC how long they thought Dougal and Marlene had been working in the industry. Both suggested that it was a long time – well over five years. You can imagine how surprised they were to learn that neither individual had even set foot in a sawmill prior to a year ago when Wapawekka opened. This experience made me very

proud not only of the two First Nation employees, but also of Wapawekka as an organisation which was truly developing its people.

**Knowledge Transfer of the Industry:** Another benefit to our involvement with Wapawekka has been the forestry industry knowledge that all three First Nations have gained. Partnering with Weyerhaeuser has provided us with an incredible amount of insight into the lumber business. This knowledge will benefit everyone into the future.

**Contracting Opportunities:** There have also been a number of contracting opportunities that have evolved as a result of our Partnership:

From the beginning, Wapawekka has been committed to involve the First Nations Partners. This was demonstrated when a joint venture construction company that involved two of the Partners was successful in over five million dollars of construction work.

Other contracting opportunities that have been realized include the expansion of the Woodland Cree Resources operations. Woodland Cree Resources is a mechanical timber harvesting company owned by the same three First Nations that are owners in Wapawekka. This company has been a delivery contractor for Weyerhaeuser for over seven years. With the inception of Wapawekka, Woodland Cree has received significant increases in the contract volumes that it harvests. This year Woodland Cree will harvest over 85,000 cubic meters of timber for Weyerhaeuser.

Northern Resources Trucking or NRT as it is commonly called, has the contract to haul 100% of the green lumber from Wapawekka to Big River.

First Nations Insurance Services Ltd., a wholly owned First Nation's Company, was awarded the contract to provide the employee benefits package for Wapawekka.

In addition, there are a number of other contract opportunities that exist that will provide future opportunity for the First Nations involved.



## **So Why is Wapawekka working???**

In addition to all of the advantages that I have already discussed, including the strong management and staff that run the day-to-day operations, I believe that the Wapawekka Partnership is working because of the mutual respect that the Partners involved have for one another. The Partners of Wapawekka are committed to the vision and success of Wapawekka Lumber.

## **Provide Examples of Other Proposed Developments**

Building on the experience and success of Wapawekka Lumber and as a result of the provincial government's recent allocation of provincial timber rights, a number of First Nations are moving towards additional forestry projects.

Lac La Ronge Indian Band is in the process of securing timber rights in Northern Saskatchewan. Together with Zelenski Brothers, a well established sawmill operator in La Ronge, access to this timber will allow for a future manufacturing development in the area.

The Agency Chiefs from the Western side of the province have recently announced that they are in the process of developing a \$20 million dollar sawmill project in their area.

The Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation, together with Ainsworth Lumber of B.C., have created Mee-Toos Forest Products L.P. Mee-Toos is proposing to develop the forestry rights obtained by the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation on the eastern side of the province.

The initial phase of the Mee-Toos proposed development involves a sawmill near Deschambault Lake and a finger joining and re-manufacturing facility, complete with drying and planing capacity, to be located near Prince Albert.

For First Nations without timber allocations, there are many opportunities such as harvesting, silviculture, and secondary processing that will be created as a result of forestry expansion. It has

always been said that there are two jobs in the bush for each job in the mill.

## **Outlook for the Future in the Forestry Industry**

In conclusion, the future for First Nations in the forestry industry is bright.

Building on current successes, First Nations are poised to increase their level of participation in all areas of the forestry industry.

From tenure holders to value-added processors, expansion is imminent and opportunities are continuing to develop.

It is this industry that has the potential to have the greatest impacts on Northern Saskatchewan Communities. Forestry will attract capital investment into the north near our First Nation communities. As a result, the forestry industry will assist in developing a commercially-based economy where a socially-based economy currently exists. This will be accomplished through investment and job opportunities for local area residents.

In fact it will provide more than jobs, it will provide careers!

## **Conclusion and Thank you**

That concludes my presentation. I hope that throughout the conference you have the opportunity to learn more of the success that is starting to develop for First Nations in the forestry industry.

I would like to thank the Organizing Committee of the Aboriginal Forestry Conference and the Canadian Forest Service for inviting me to speak and providing me the opportunity to share some examples of the successes we are experiencing in Northern Saskatchewan.

# Overview of Development, Structure, and Programs of the Maritime Forest Ranger School

J. Stephen Hoyt, Director  
Maritime Forest Ranger School

## **MFRS Vision Statement**

The Maritime Forest Ranger School will be globally recognized as the leader in technical, vocational, and continuing education in forestry.

Graduates from any MFRS program will have superior technical competency, work ethic, and interpersonal and communications skills.

This will be so because MFRS will offer the best facilities, resources, and cutting-edge technology delivered by a qualified, motivated faculty and staff.

We have a history of excellence and will maintain this tradition while we grow in the third millennium.

## **Maritime Forest Ranger School (Established 1946)**

1. A regional school, established primarily to serve Atlantic provinces
  - Students from all Canadian provinces and Northeastern United States.
2. Established as a joint venture by University of New Brunswick, provincial governments, and forest industries
3. Located at the edge of 1,450 hectare U.N.B. forest
  - Location provides ready access to a forest under active management and operation.
  - A second 1,450 hectare forest 20 kilometres from Fredericton, the Noonan Forest, is also used for training.
4. Originally affiliated with U.N.B.: became incorporated in 1978

Governed by a 17-member Board composed of

- Deputy Ministers of Natural Resources of each of the Maritime provinces
- Regional Director, Forestry Canada – Atlantic Region (Federal)
- President of U.N.B. and Dean of Forestry, U.N.B.
- Five representatives (management level from industry)
- One representative each from New Brunswick and Nova Scotia Forest Technicians Associations
- Legal Counsel
- Director and Treasurer of M.F.R.S.

5. Parallel program in French language established at Bathurst, N.B. in 1980
6. Training at both locations adheres to standards set by the Association of Registered Professional Foresters of N.B. and the Society of American Foresters (SAF)

We are “recognized” (accredited) by the SAF as the equivalent of a two-year forestry technology program in the United States.

## **Objectives**

1. To prepare competent forest technicians for service with public and private forestry organizations as the centre unit of this three-part forestry team made up of professional foresters, forest technicians, and skilled forest workers
2. To provide continuing education programs for graduate forest technicians:
  - (a) For updating graduates
  - (b) To facilitate specialization
3. To train key people for the sawmilling industry. This program now operational in a world-class training sawmill facility.

## Two Entrance Routes

1. Traditional Route
2. Module Route

### 1. Traditional Entrance Route

#### *Technician Course Structure*

1. Learning begins with pre-admission forestry work
  - Minimum 12 months
2. First School Term: early January to Mid-May
  - Classes 8:00 – 12:00 (Monday through Friday)
  - Classes 8:00 – 12:00 (Saturday)
  - Field or lab work 1:00 – 5:00 (Monday through Friday)
3. Summer Practicum: mid-May to end of August
  - Equivalent of an internship
  - All students must be employed in forestry-related work for at least 12 weeks
  - Each student is rated by a forester or forest technician and must “pass” practicum before re-admittance to MFRS.
4. Second School Term: September to mid-December
  - Weather permits major field exercises
  - Several all-day field exercises per week
  - Other days as in First School Term

#### Minimum Learning Experience:

- 12 months pre-school
  - 4 months First Term
  - 3 months Practicum
  - 4 months Second Term
- Total            23 months minimum

#### *Entrance Requirements*

1. High school graduation with Grade 11 Math (college preparatory) or equivalent, English or French, Biology, and Introduction to Computers
  - Usual Range: Grade 10 (plus upgrading) to Bachelors and occasionally Masters degree
2. Entrance exams in Math and verbal reasoning.
3. Minimum age: none.  
Usual Range: 20 – 50 with at least 30% age 25 and over
4. Minimum 12 months forestry employment and letters of recommendation from two supervisors who are foresters or forest technicians
  - Usual Range: 1 year to 15 months or more

### 2. Module Entrance Route

The Maritime Forest Ranger School has modified its entrance requirements to permit the possible entry to the School directly from high school.

In the fall of 2000, the School offered a course entitled “Is The Maritime Forest Ranger School For You?” This course consisted of six modules, four of which were compulsory (modules 1 – 4) and two of which were optional (modules 5 and 6).

Successful completion of the four compulsory modules does **not** guarantee that a candidate will automatically qualify to enter the Maritime Forest Ranger School Technical program in January of the following year. Graduates of “Is The Maritime Forest Ranger School For You?” are evaluated on their performance and attitude to assess suitability for further technical training. **Only if deemed suitable, will the person be accepted as a candidate for the next MFRS class.**

#### *Module Dates*

- 1 Math/English/Computers  
October 30 – November 3
- 2 Forestry Equipment  
November 6 – November 10
- 3 General Forestry  
November 13 – November 17
- 4 Safety  
November 20 – November 24

#### *Optional Modules*

- 5 Chainsaws  
November 27 – November 29
- 6 Spacing Saws  
November 30 – December 2

## Is the Maritime Forest Ranger School for You?

### *Mandatory Modules*

#### MODULE 1

Mathematics  
English (grammar, composition, and comprehension)  
Introduction to Computers

#### MODULE 2

Heavy Forestry Equipment  
Introduction to its proper application and safe use (Logging, Road Building, Sawmilling, and Forest Protection)  
Technical Forestry Equipment  
Introduction to its proper application and safe use (Forest Measurements, Forest Fire, Compass, Surveying, Global Positioning System)

#### MODULE 3

General Forestry  
An introduction to forestry terminology and practices, wildlife management, and tree identification

#### MODULE 4

Safety  
(a) Standard St. John Ambulance First Aid, or equivalent (does not include CPR)  
Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS)  
Defensive Driving – Cars/Trucks  
(b) Safety and Accident Control  
Occupational Health and Safety  
Safety rules for the operation of ATVs, snowmobiles, watercraft, and helicopters

### *Optional Modules*

#### MODULE 5

Chainsaws  
Introductory course, emphasis on safety and operation

#### MODULE 6

Spacing Saws  
Introductory course, emphasis on safety and operation

## Other Interesting Points about MFRS

1. MFRS recognized as a place of work, not school (Worker Compensation)
2. We ate a dormitory school.  
Unless you live within greater Fredericton, or are married, you must live in Residence.
3. Work not up to standard must be redone
4. Absence from class is not tolerated
5. We operate on the principle of “three strikes and you’re out.”
6. Pass mark in all subjects is 60%, except Dendrology Laboratory, which is 75%.
7. Students must maintain a term and yearly average of 67.5% or they are required to withdraw.  
Students must pass both Dendrology and Map and Compass course or they will be required to withdraw from the program.
8. We tell students what they are responsible for, and hold them accountable.
9. There are a few jobs in N.B. or N.S., some in B.C. and Alberta: cyclical forest industry.  
There is work available somewhere.
10. As part of our 50th anniversary, celebrations we commissioned Lloyd Fitzgerald (MFRS 1960) to do a painting for us entitled “Forest at Sunrise” and Girvan Harrison, MFRS faculty, wrote a best selling book on our history entitled *So Ya Wanna Be A Ranger*.

With that as background for MFRS, I would now like to turn my attention to the main reason I’m here today – “Education of Aboriginal Students at MFRS.” Over the years, we have had several Aboriginal students graduate and find work as forest technicians, but there was never a concentrated effort made by anyone to encourage Aboriginal students to attend MFRS.

For reasons you are perhaps more aware of than I, that approach changed, culminating in a specific request to every band chief in New Brunswick in January of 1994. In his letter, the then New Brunswick Minister of Natural Resources and Energy, provided a brief introduction to the importance of natural resources to the province and

encouraged the Chiefs "to increase the enrolment of natives at the school". Since at that time 12 months of forestry work experience was an entrance requirement at MFRS, the Minister also offered to assist any Aboriginal student in completing his/her work requirements. Although the offer was made in January 1994, it wasn't until January of 1998 that the fruits of our labour appeared at MFRS. The "our" included not only the Department of Natural Resources and Energy (DNRE), the Department of Labour (D of L) and a local consulting group, Progressive Planning Ltd., as well as MFRS. It took a lot of behind-the-scenes work before six Aboriginal students arrived in January as members of the class of 1998. Progressive Planning Ltd., in co-operation with DNRE, provided students with meaningful work experience while at the same time providing some educational upgrading to permit the candidates to pass the MFRS math and verbal reasoning entrance tests.

I must state publicly that I have never seen a keener, more dedicated, more interested, and harder working group of students. Their enthusiasm was infectious. Unfortunately, enthusiasm will only carry you so far. Of the original six, only one graduated. The underlining problem was, in my opinion, the fact that the educational system had short-changed them. The students who failed had high praise for our efforts but recognized shortcomings in their educational backgrounds.

Although three of the Aboriginal students from the 1998 class returned to MFRS, only one graduated. One even took a year of upgrading at the University of New Brunswick through the MicMac Maliseet Training Institute and was still not able to pass. Perhaps some of those original students should not have entered MFRS – but they met the entrance standards.

The same process of soliciting Aboriginal candidates was applied in 1999. Of the five Aboriginal students who came in January none graduated. One of the two returning Aboriginal students from the previous class graduated.

In 2000, six Aboriginal students enrolled in January, five of whom were returning students. Again, only one of the returning Aboriginal students graduated.

Six Aboriginal students are registered for the 2001 class. Four of those students have come through the MFRS Module Program. One is a returnee from 1994 and the other came the regular route for admission. We anticipate one other returnee at the start of the second term.

Although none of the original organizations have been happy with the number of Aboriginal graduates, we have been encouraged by their enthusiasm. We are also encouraged to see a higher academic standard being met by the newer entrants. DNRE, D of L, and Progressive Planning Ltd. have now agreed to initiate a more vigorous screening process whereby potential students may be directed to vocational, technical, or university training, i.e., more specific career planning.

What have we learned from our experiences?

- Aboriginal students have been enthusiastic and dedicated students.
- Most gave 110%. Some were (are) still trying to find themselves.
- Most Aboriginal students have been short-changed in the education system.
- Aboriginal students must be encouraged to stay in school to get a good, solid base of education.
- We must be more selective in accepting students to MFRS – we cannot all be forest technicians.

# Education in Forestry R.P.F. Accredited Programs

Gordon Prest  
Coordinator of Forestry Programs for First Nations Students  
University of British Columbia

## Seven Professional Schools of Forestry in Canada

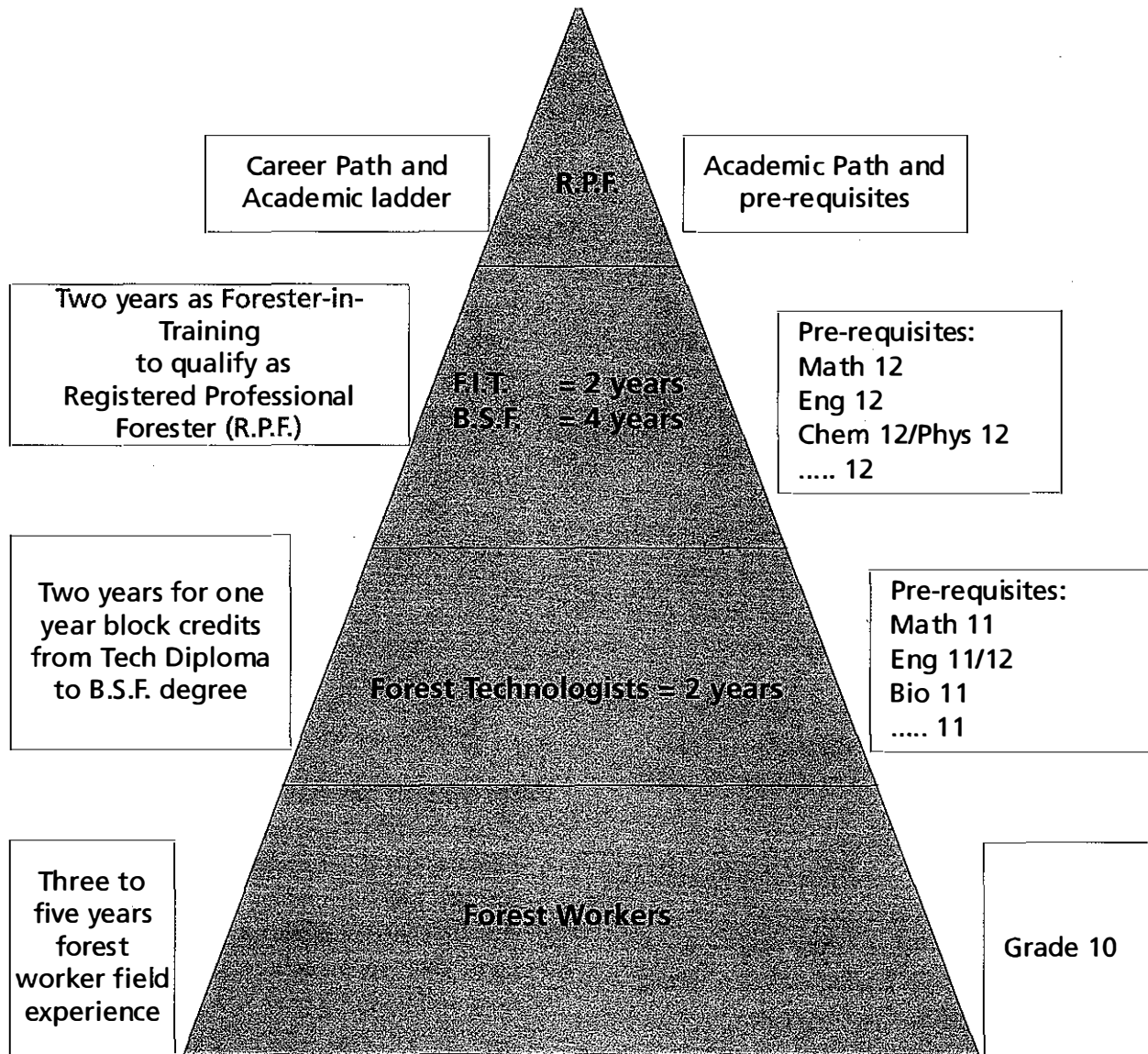
- University of New Brunswick situated at Fredericton, NB
- University of Moncton situated at Edmunston, NB
- University of Laval situated at Montreal, Quebec
- Lakehead University situated at Thunder Bay, Ontario
- University of Alberta situated at Edmonton, Alberta
- University of British Columbia situated at Vancouver, BC
- University of Northern BC situated at Prince George, BC

There are presently 16 known Aboriginal R.P.F.s from a profession of 8,500 R.P.F.s in Canada.

## Six Forest Technology Schools in BC

- BC Institute of Technology, Burnaby, BC
- Malaspina University Colleges, Nanaimo, BC
- Nicola Valley Institute of Technology, Merritt, BC
- College of New Caledonia, Prince George, BC
- Northwest Community College, Terrace, BC
- Selkirk College, Castlegar, BC

# Aboriginal Forest Education Career and Academic Paths



## Aboriginal Career Path – Forest Worker to R.P.F.

- **Forest Worker:** loggers/machine operators; silviculture workers, mill workers, etc.
- **Forest Technologist:** two year college diploma. Field surveys, road and cutblock layout
- **Bachelor of Science in Forestry:** four year University undergraduate degree
- **Forester-in-Training:** two years as an F.I.T. to write qualifying exam for R.P.F.
- **Registered Professional Forester:** right to practise forestry as a Professional Forester.

# Natural Resources Canada's Science and Technology Internship Program

Joe Anawati  
Marketing Officer  
Canadian Forest Service, Ottawa

## **NRCan S&T Internship Program**

- What is the nature of the program?
- How has NRCan delivered the program?
- What are the benefits to the participants?
- What are the criteria?
- What is the process?
- Success stories.

## **What is the nature of the program?**

- The Science and Technology Internship Program provides an opportunity to recent graduates in Science, Engineering, or Business to gain relevant and meaningful work experience.
- The program provides salary support to employers to hire recent graduates.
- Part of the Youth Employment Strategy (YES)

## **Structure of the program**

- Funding is provided to participating departments by Human Resources Development Canada.
- Each department delivers their version of the program (on the S&T side); each department has sector knowledge and expertise.
- The conditions may vary from one department to another.

## **How has NRCan delivered the program?**

- Program has been operating since FY 1997/98.
- Program has received "permanent" status, though future after fiscal year 2001/02 is unsure.
- For the first three years of operation, NRCan placed 179 interns with a contribution of \$1,977K.
- Normally, employers' contribution is twice the federal contribution.
- NRCan delivers the program through sectors.
- Numbers for CFS are
  - In the first 3 years, 66 interns were placed with a contribution of \$714K.
  - Over same period, employers' contributed \$1,705K in salary and operating expenses.

## **What do you get out of it?**

- Chance to hire a new graduate with new ideas
- Opportunity to do a project for which you may not have had the funding
- A well-defined one-year commitment because participants are brought in on a term basis
- Opportunity to try out a new graduate with reduced risk (wage is partially subsidized)
- What does the program cover?
  - Will fund up to \$12,000 for a maximum of 52 weeks.
  - NRCan contribution is never more than half the salary; in other words, we match the salary up to \$12,000 per year.
  - NRCan contribution is to match salary only and not other expenses.



### **What are the criteria?**

- For the organization:
  - Private company
  - Non-federal government organizations
  - Universities
  - Model Forests and Tribal Councils
- For the intern
  - Must be under 30 years of age
  - Newly graduated, within 2 years of having obtained a Technical diploma or Bachelor's, Master's, Ph.D.
  - Able to work in Canada, citizen or landed immigrant
- For the project
  - Related to resource science and technology
  - Provide a meaningful work experience
  - May be a research project
  - May involve supervision

### **What is the process?**

- Allotment of interns starts in April.
- Applications for new financial year can be taken in February and March
- Contact sector reps with proposal; they will then send forms to be completed:
  - Grants and Contribution form
  - Project and Intern information forms
  - Project description
- Complete Forms.
- Intern must be identified.
- Normally we can provide a quick answer.
- First come, first served.
- After the project, we need:
  - Financial report from organization
  - Internship report from intern

### **Success Stories**

- Program has been used by Native Groups in NT, mostly involved in environmental work
- Many Model Forests have used the program:
  - GIS work
  - Socio-economic work
  - Remote Sensing work
- Universities
  - Entomology
  - Biotechnology
  - Genetics
- Companies
  - Software development
  - Forest operations
  - Industrial forestry research
  - Phyto-remediation

### **Future**

- Program has "permanent" status, meaning an evaluation will be done, and it may be renewed.
- Funding is secure until end of March 2002.
- Program has received wide acceptance.
- Stay tuned.

### **Conclusions**

- The program is the federal government's response to increasing S&T capacity in organizations.
- Also, it helps new graduates gain valuable experience.
- It has allowed CFS to place 66 interns (1997 to 2000).
- It has leveraged 2 to 3 times that investment from the organizations.

# Government and Industry Employment for Aboriginal People

## Industry Perspective

Gerry Lapointe, R.P.F.  
Canadian Pulp and Paper Association

### Rapid Change in the Forest Industry

- Globalization
- Competitiveness
- Sustainable Forest Management
- Need For Certainty
- Changing Relations with Aboriginals

### Towards Successful Business Relations

1. International Commitments
  - UNCED
  - Convention on Biodiversity
2. Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, Land Claims, Treaty Rights
3. National Forest Strategy
4. CCFM Criteria and Indicators of SFM
5. Model Forest Program
6. SFM Certification
  - 35 million ha. by 31/12/2001
7. 80% Aboriginal People Reside in Forested Regions

*CONCLUSION CLEAR!*

### Are Aboriginals Employed on Woodlands Operations?

Yes – 100%

### Proportion of Workforce

0.5% – 46.0%

### Main Areas of Activity

Harvesting	30%
Silviculture	59%
Transportation	4%
Planning, Monitoring, etc.	3%
Other	4%

### Business Enterprises Owned and Operated by Aboriginals

Yes – 90%

- Logging Contractors – Manual and Mechanized
- Silvicultural Contractors
- Transportation – Chip, Logs, Pulpwood
- Fish Habitat Improvement; Beaver Control
- Thinning; Manual Weeding

### Joint Ventures or Partnerships

Yes – 45%

No – 55%

- Mills
- Forest Management

### Trend over Last Ten Years

Up – 67%

Same – 33%

- Fewer in Logging
- More in Contracting, Silviculture, and Consulting

### Anticipate Changes in Future?

Yes – 100%

- Continued Increase in Silviculture
- Increase in Contracting Firms
- More Joint Ventures, Business Partnerships, and Tenure Sharing
- Shared Management Planning/Operations
- Planning and Certification

### General Overall Experience

Positive	45%
Improving	45%
Neutral	10%

### **Concerns, Difficulties Encountered**

- Higher Supervisory Load Required (Overly Protective)
- Lack of Properly Trained Personnel
- Different Expectations
  - Jobs vs Economic Viability
  - Seasonal Aspirations
  - Quality Issue
- Need for Training, Building Experience
- Accepting Quality Issue

### **What Has Worked?**

- Involvement of Elders
- Individual Contractors
- Long Term Contracts to Build Experience
- Aboriginal Involvement in Cultural and Environmental Resources
- Union Support When it Occurs

### **Moving Forward**

- Training – Technical, Business
- Building Expertise and Experience
- Understanding by Industry
  - Building Business Infrastructure
  - Different Aspirations
- Understanding by Aboriginal Community
  - Need for Industry to be Economically Viable and Competitive

# Government and Industry Employment for Aboriginal People

## Human Resources Development Canada

Jason Haviland

Human Resources Development Canada

### History and Evolution of Partnerships and Programming

- HRDC has a long and successful relationship with Aboriginal people, organizations, and institutions.
- Pre Pathways (< 1991)
- Pathways to Success (1991 – 1996)
- Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP, 1996)
- National Frameworks / Regional Bilateral Agreements (1996 – 1999)
- Gathering Strength Government of Canada's response to RCAP (1998)
- Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy (1999 – 2004)

#### *Pre-Pathways (< 1991)*

- HRDC delivers programs and services
- No Aboriginal specific programming
  - "Off-the-Shelf" responses
- Complex and varied criteria

#### *Pathways, 1991 to 1996*

- Evolving partnership/co-management model
- Co-management Boards at the national, regional, and local levels
- Five year, \$1 billion national allocation
- Utilizes "off-the-shelf" HRDC programming
- HRDC programming criteria restrictive

### *National Framework/Regional Bilateral Agreements 1996-99*

- National Agreements: AFN, ITC, and MNC
  - Constitutionally consistent
  - "Political" recognition
  - Full transfer of program responsibility
  - Local design and delivery flexibilities
  - Increased flexible funding
- 54 agreements include all Aboriginal people from coast to coast to coast, regardless of status or residency

### *Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP) 1996*

- A five-year comprehensive examination of complex and long standing issues between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people
- Extensive public consultations with Aboriginal people and organizations and non-Aboriginal people
- 440 recommendations
- Canada's admission that there has been fundamental neglect of Aboriginal needs and rights
- Issues surrounding employment, education, and training highlighted
- "The unemployment problem is immense"
  - More than 80,000 jobs are needed now (1996) just to raise Aboriginal people's unemployment rate to the overall Canadian rate.
  - Public investment in education and training is vital to improve prospects in the existing job market.
  - Aboriginal communities cannot rebuild their institutions, manage their economies, or staff their social services without education and employment opportunities.
  - Motivating youth to complete their education is of great importance.

### *Gathering Strength 1998: Canada's Action Plan and Response to RCAP*

- Renewal of Canada's relationship with Aboriginal People
- Relationship renewal is based on
  - Recognition of past mistakes and injustices
  - Commencing reconciliation, healing, and renewal
  - Building a joint plan for the future
- Action Plan has four objectives
  - Renewing the Partnerships
  - Strengthening Aboriginal Governance
  - Developing a New Fiscal Relationship
  - Supporting Strong Communities, People and Economies

### **Aboriginal Human Resource Development Strategy 1999 to 2004**

- AHRDS is based on the fourth objective of Gathering Strength – Supporting Strong Communities, People, and Economies
- Full Aboriginal partnership within spectrum of public participation models
  - "Citizen-Engagement" within the FPT process
  - Consultation with the attentive Canadian public
- 5 year, \$1.6 billion investment
  - National Aboriginal Resource Allocation Model
  - Key capacity building component, \$30 M over 5 years
- Builds upon
  - Integrated community based HRD systems
  - Successes of its predecessors
- Provides Aboriginal partners with the responsibility for the design and delivery of programs that meet their own needs
- 79 Agreements (AHRDAs) across Canada (2 in Saskatchewan)
- Leverage IT to promote shared sense of accountability
  - Web-based system (WebAROLink) enables groups to upload their own data and results to HRDC systems
- AHRDAs – Agreements which outline terms and conditions of the agreements
- Internal HRDC program integration – enabling programming for youth, disabled, and childcare to be funded and managed under AHRDS

- **Aboriginal capacity investments** – improving the administrative and management capacity
- **Partnerships** – between communities, federal government, provinces, territories, and private sector
- **AHRDS Sector Council** – representatives from industry, government, and Aboriginal groups
- **Horizontal management of Aboriginal HRD**

### **Managing Risk**

- Standard Contribution (AHRDA) agreements
  - Specific terms and conditions
  - Expanded audits
  - Annual reports
  - Payments directly linked to reporting
- Enhanced HRDC engagement/monitoring
  - Special audits – IAB, RCMP, etc.
- Range of corrective remedies
  - Probation, suspension, termination
  - Co-management/third party administrator

### **Measures of Success**

- Jobs
- Reduced dependency on public expenditures
  - EI unpaid benefits
  - SA savings
- Child care spaces supported and occupied
- Youth returning to school
- Completion rates

### **Saskatchewan Region (SITAG)**

- SITAG is the overall coordinating organization for Saskatchewan First Nations labour market strategies.
- Sub-regional Management Agreements have been made with 25 agencies.
- Province is geographically divided into Management Areas.
- Management Areas are responsible for providing reasonable opportunity for First Nations people to access services.
- Three types of Management Areas:
  - Urban
  - Tribal Council
  - Independent First Nation

## Management Areas

- **Urban Management Areas** – responsible for providing AHRD service to any First Nations person who has resided in the city for at least six months (3 urban centres)
- **Tribal Council Management Areas** – responsible for providing AHRD service to any First Nations person who has resided in the Tribal Council or surrounding district for at least six months (9 Tribal Councils)
- **Independent First Nation Management Areas** – responsible for providing AHRD service to any First Nations person who has resided in that First Nation for at least six months (10 First Nations)

## Labour Market Programs

- Employment Activities
- Self-employment Activities
- Job Creation Activities
- Job Preparation and Search Activities
- Skills Training Activities
- School Retention Activities
- Employment Counselling
- Employment/Education Postings
- Youth Programs
- Programs for Individuals with Disabilities

## Successes To Date

### April 1996 – Present

Firefighters	408
Fire Suppression Workers	221
Fire Crewmen/women	061
Resource Management Technicians	018
Sawmill Workers	089
Surveyor Helpers	006
Truck Drivers	296

## Lessons Learned

- Conditions conducive to long term success include
  - Community control, sound governance, and accountability
  - Comprehensive, coordinated strategies
  - Effective partnerships
  - Community capacity building
  - Stable and flexible funding arrangements
- Short-term interventions are not effective for long term labour force attachment
- Most promising approaches focus on
  - Preventing premature exit from school
  - Integrating vocational and occupational aspects
  - Upgrading literacy and numeracy skills
- Individual Case Management works best
  - AHRDS is based on this approach

## The Future

- Significant progress has been made in the last decade
- AHRDS winds down in 2004
- Begin planning and discussions regarding a successor program
- Committed to
  - learning, improving, evolving
  - strengthening relationships
  - supporting Gathering Strength
  - maintaining Ministerial and Parliamentary accountabilities
- Good governance and accountability is in everyone's interest
  - we must continue to promote a shared value in our relationship with our Aboriginal partners
- As a government, we must
  - Reinforce horizontal policy and program linkages across the federal government
  - Enhance program integrity, policy and program coherence
  - Strengthen the relationship by communicating with greater clarity, consistency, and transparency
  - continue to build on our successes

# Implementing the Forest Management Plan with Community Involvement

## The Woodland Cree First Nation Experience

Howard Townsend  
Gwich'in Tribal Council, NWT

### What do we want to accomplish?

- Our land base must be committed to forestry (AAC).
- We need plans (FMP, GDP, AOP).
- Our Land Use Bylaw must be considered.
- Everybody must be included.
- We need to learn new skills.
- We need partners.
- We want to access Traditional Public Lands.

### The assets we started with

- Most of the Reserve had not been logged.
- Our Land Use Bylaw was nearly complete.
- It set aside the Cadotte River Valley for recreation (such as hiking trails).
- There were potential heritage sites (such as the old fish traps).
- People wanted to use the forest.
- We had a traditional site at Haig Lake.
- There could be several willing partners.

### We will include

- An uncommitted land base through our planning
- Daily activities and celebrations
- Our Elders, adults and youth
- Traditional public lands
- New skills
- Partnering with our stakeholders
- Confidence before we use our forest

### Our products will be

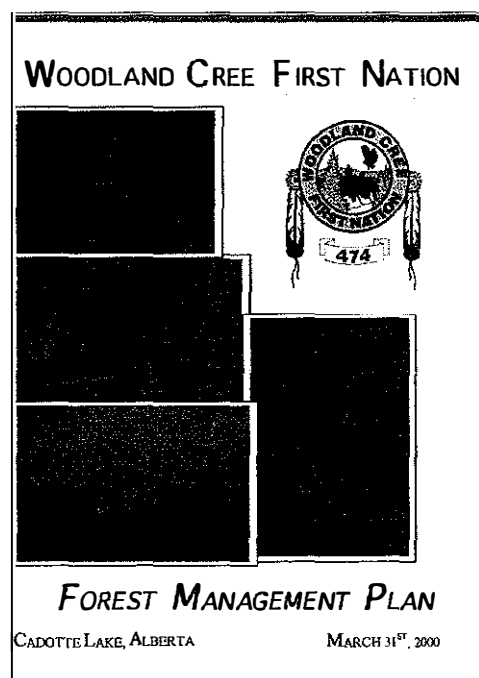
- The Land Use Bylaw will set aside the land base for forestry.
- The Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) will be determined.

- The Forest Management Plan (FMP), General Development Plan (GDP), Annual Operating Plan (AOP) will all be written.
- We will have trained members or introduced skills.
- Community will determine wood use.

### Status Summary

- The project is on track
- Delivery is April 31st, 2001
- We still have a little time and money
- Status of our goals?
  - We have work to do on the trail and recreation area.
  - Our GDP and AOP need finalization.
  - There's a thinning project to pursue.
  - There are surveys, field work, mapping, and trips to take.

This is an update of our Forest Management Plan implementation



### **The Annual Allowable Cut (AAC)**

- The land base must be committed to long term forestry or it won't work.
- The forest is managed for certain species – in our case, spruce and pine.
- The volume is set at the rate of growth with a safety margin included.
- We can improve the sites, the forest stands, and our techniques.
- The volume and quality should last forever if the plan is followed.

### **The General Development Plan (GDP)**

- Areas and volumes for 10 years
- Reviewed likely after 5 years
- Serves as a long term guide
- Forests are managed evenly

### **Annual Operating Plan (AOP) explains**

- Access and landings
- Buffers, reserves and creek crossings
- Stands to harvest
- Destinations of volumes
- Reforestation
- Audits

### **Spring 1997-'98... We play catch-up**

- DMI offer to assist us as "good neighbours"
- We prepare a 1:10,000 scale light table
- Hold open houses
- Search for sand and gravel off and on reserve (new skills)
- Maps are created and a forest resource land base is established

### **Spring 1998-'99 ... The momentum builds**

- We hold an "open house" to review the FMP
- DMI's forester is available for questions, but everybody is comfortable with the proposal

### **Hint: Door prizes are better than honoraria – nearly 50 people attended!**

- After numerous land use meetings and discussions, there are few surprises
- Some still want to log using horses

### **Treaty #8 Centennial – a legacy from the Elders to the youth**

- Summer activities must work around the Centennial in June,
- The First Nation's 10th Anniversary in August

### **Reliving an old custom of travel**



### **An original copy of the Treaty finds its way to Grouard**



### **August herald's Woodland Cree's Tenth Anniversary. We celebrate!**

- Treaty Day customs are re-lived.
- It also brings a break in regular activities.
- This is a time for heritage, enterprise, and fun.
- Off and on Reserve, we search for gravel.
- On Reserve – the Elders are consulted.
- Our youth learn how to do a fish monitoring study.



- One of these boys returns next year too...as a timber cruiser.
- We partner to upgrade a forest recreation area on public lands.
  - Alberta Conservation Association
  - Woodland Cree First Nation
  - Alberta Environment
- Forestry takes you many places and provides valuable experiences.
- Elders and experts both play key roles.
- Knowing what to look for is vital to protecting heritage.
- It is important to dialog with the Elders – they know the land.
- It's not history – it's culture.

**Haig Lake Forest Recreation Area Upgrade – involved youth and energy**

- We're to finish another kilometre and to upgrade the day use area.



*We have many resources – some are younger than others*

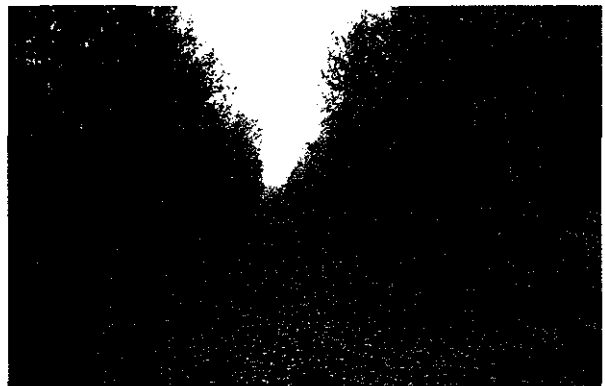
- Living with the trapper on site is a grandson.
- This young man left to pursue forestry for a while.
- He too passes on important skills.
- The tanning of moose hides and a knowledge of the land are traditional skills.
- Traditional camps are held at Haig Lake every year

*A traditional trail that became a road around 1959 – needs help now*

- A municipal road
- Provincial gravel
- ACA funding
- Equipment and labour – Woodland Cree
- Ditches and gravel are a must



- Finished for 1999 – time to start planning again



- 60+ years on this lake, this Elder plays an important role – he locates graves to be protected.



*The winter months still see progress*

- Learning to map on the Internet begins our land use bylaw mapping and starts the housing maps.
- New skills bring confidence.
- DMI assists us with field reconnaissance.
- Sample stands are jointly checked to confirm estimated volumes.
- DMI has assisted us often in the last two years.

*The Elders are involved also*

- Root rot is a concern around the homes.
- However, losing a tree affects the look of a house.
- Let's try something different using new equipment and techniques.



**Year 2000 – a challenge**

- Wet weather hurt us all summer.
- We had to be a little more resourceful.
- We could still train our youth in forestry – but how?
- Land and Forest Service agree to a thinning area.
  - We meet on site to assess the potential
  - We also brush up on tree height “guessing”
- This area will be used for several exercises to follow.
- Field courses help to select summer student staff.
  - First compassing
  - Then timber cruising
  - Followed by tree marking and thinning
  - Intro to GPS
  - Bear Awareness is also a good idea
- CFS/FNFP/INAC are on site for our training exercises
- Everybody gets a chance. The opportunity to try it is important
- After the summer, some learned GPS/GIS.
  - Some students helped map out our housing subdivision
  - Further training could help with several career choices
  - Work and school working for the student



### **Accomplishments so far**

- Off Reserve
- On Reserve
- Youth
- Adults
- Elders
- Stakeholders
- At an Elders' feast, "Bertie" the Beaver keeps forestry in mind
- With us, forestry starts early (we also do career days at school)
- With progress, we find support

### **Partners in Our Progress:**

#### **MANY THANKS TO YOU ALL!**

- CFS/FNFP
- INAC
- EP
- ACA
- DMI
- Alta. Culture
- NAIT
- AVC
- MD of East Peace

### **Attention Areas**

- We found that
  - Short term employment elsewhere lured students and caused delays.
  - This was anticipated and we thought we had the right lures.
  - Can we draw them back or entice others? We think so – but time will tell.

### **Schedule**

- There are committees, meetings, surveys, further field work, trips, and decisions along the way before April, 2001.
- We have to stay versatile and not be distracted with too many details.

### **Deliveries**

- The main deliverables now are
  - Determining forestry products
  - Signing a "BCR", 2001-'02 funding and "go"  
Do we go for FSC / Forestcare certification? It's a serious maybe
  - We have the confidence to deliver

### **Costs**

- New projections of costs?
  - Soon, but not at this point
- Do we need FNFP? Definitely!
  - Support is important with staffing changes
  - Our back-up includes prepared project outlines and advisory contacts
  - Realistically expect at least one more year with people occupying new roles

### **Technology**

- We did quite a bit of technical training last year
- An outstanding need is further ESRI training
- Dependencies for our forestry program?
  - We still need help in the office
  - It's more than enough for one person
  - Students continue to come and go
  - We will continue to use them – and to learn the technology ourselves

### **Resources**

- Our project resources?
  - Dedicated full-time staff
  - Our youth, adults, Elders, and Council support us
  - Numerous great partners
  - Our forests are still to be accessed
  - Our peoples' patience and understanding

### **Goals for Next Review**

- New goals should be established by April 2001
- Those goals will be dependent on the progress made this quarter by staff, students, committees, and field work done.

# Tools (and lack of them) for the Forest Manager

Dean Assinewe and Todd Lewis  
with help from Peggy Smith, R.P.F.  
Faculty of Forestry and the Forest Environment  
Lakehead University, Thunder Bay, Ontario

## What do managers need most?

- Good information
- Community vision and support
- Integration of a range of values: ecological, cultural, social, and economic
- Sustainability over the long term: first and foremost of the forest
- Ability to communicate

## Good Information

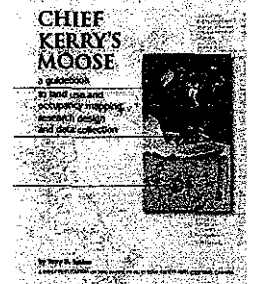
- What tools are forestry students given?
- Courses:
  - entomology
  - pathology
  - policy and legislation
  - regulation and scheduling
  - fisheries management
  - GIS
  - wildlife management
  - harvesting
  - silviculture
  - tree development and function
  - chemistry
  - statistics
  - biometrics
  - forest genetics
  - soils
  - photogrammetry
  - forest management planning
- Access to information: timber inventories often lacking, dated, or inaccurate; inventories for non-timber forest products almost non-existent
- Internet, esp. maps
- Government: <[www.atlas.gc.ca](http://www.atlas.gc.ca)>
- Non-governmental organizations: Global Forest Watch: <[www.globalforestwatch.org](http://www.globalforestwatch.org)>
- Information management: GIS

## Community Vision and Support

- Political leadership
- Community participation and decision-making
- Accountability, monitoring, and enforcement
- Knowledge about forests: exchange between elders, youth, and technicians
- Livelihood and self-sufficiency

## Integrating All Values

- What tools are available to integrate what seem to be conflicting values such as logging, trapping, hunting, fishing, medicinal plants, spiritual and cultural sites, non-timber forest products?
- NOT MANY! But growing
- Traditional land use studies – Chief Kerry's Moose  
<[www.ubcic.bc.ca](http://www.ubcic.bc.ca)>
- Nemaska Trapline Project:  
[www.gcc.ca](http://www.gcc.ca)
- NAFA Aboriginal Forest Land Management Guidelines

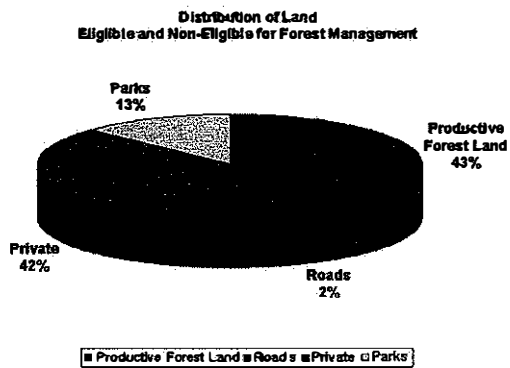


## Ability to Communicate

- Public speaking skills: Toastmasters
- Aboriginal languages to talk to Elders
- Knowledge of technical terminology with ability to put in simple language for community
- Ability to communicate with diverse groups – government, industry, community

## Long-Term Sustainability of the Forest

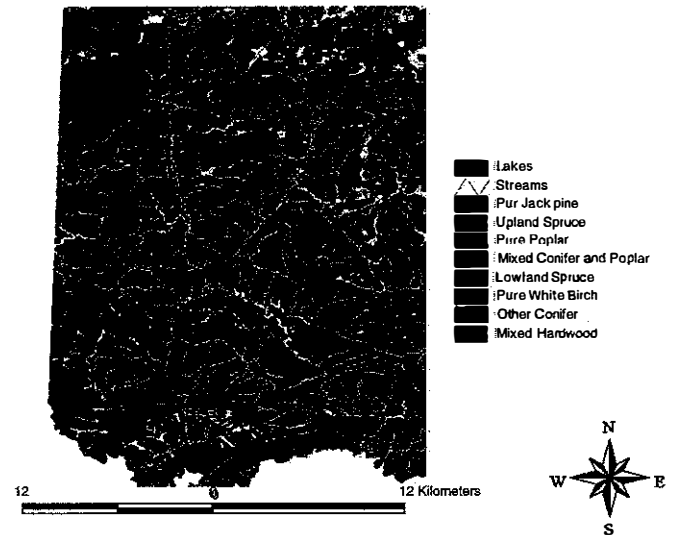
- How do we calculate the Allowable Annual Cut?
- Sustained Yield: timber focus, don't log more than will grow over time (Boreal 1-2 cubic metres/hectare/year)
- What happens to timber supply in a short-term management plan (20 years) when we consider other values?



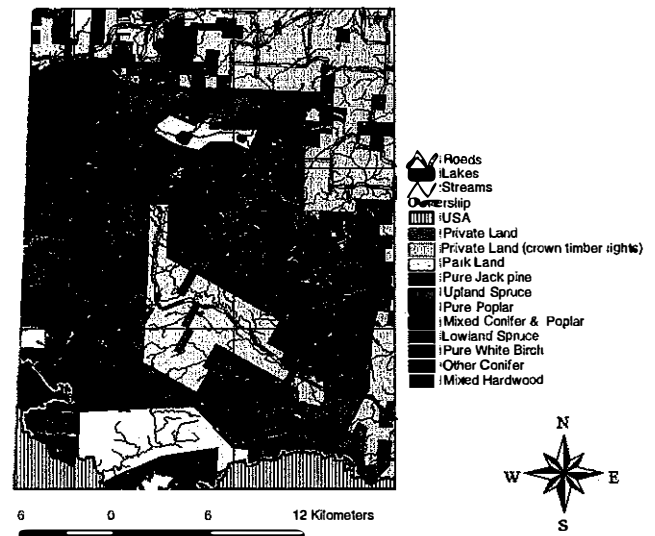
## Conclusion

- Need to pool and share resources
- Need to integrate Aboriginal subsistence activities and contemporary forest economy
- Need better information incorporating a wider range of values, especially wildlife and non-timber
- Need better education which considers Aboriginal issues, participation, and values
- Need a sufficient land base
- Need political savvy

## Productive Forest Land



## Productive Forest Land with Value



# Services Available from Government and the Private Sector to Assist Communities in Forest Land Planning

## Legal Surveys Division

Vicki Grant  
Legal Surveys, NRCan

### Mandate of Legal Surveys Division

LSD has a dual role as mandated by the Canada *Lands Surveys Act*

- To maintain the integrity of the CLS System in order to facilitate the orderly development and proper management of Canada Lands
- To serve the survey related needs of our clients

### LSD Offices

Headquarters: Ottawa

Regional Operation Centres: Ottawa, Edmonton, Yellowknife, Whitehorse

Client Liaison Units (CLU): Vancouver, Edmonton, Yellowknife, Regina, Winnipeg, Toronto, Quebec, Amherst

### Some Products and Services

- Scanned Survey Plans
- Digital Reference Plans
- Wall Maps of Canada Lands
- Orthophoto Maps
- WEB Access

### Legal Survey Plans

- Available for sale
  - In Paper format (\$8/copy)
  - In Digital format (\$6/copy)
- Order from local CLU or
- Online ordering from WEB ([www.lsd.nrcan.gc.ca](http://www.lsd.nrcan.gc.ca))

### Digital Reference Plans

- Georeferenced
- Data Entry by Coordinate Geometry
- Mathematically Correct
- Unique Layering Scheme
- Provides accurate base for GIS

### Updating of Digital Reference Plan

- Real Time
- Ratification

### Availability of Digital Reference Plans

- Currently available in digital or paper format (hope to slowly phase out paper product)
- Cost of paper product is \$8.00 per sheet
- Cost of digital product is based on number of features (average price is approx. \$400/digital file)
- Largest use of digital product is for GIS base
- All captured reserves in Western Regional Operations Centre (WROC) available for viewing on WEB ([www.wroc.nrcan.gc.ca](http://www.wroc.nrcan.gc.ca)) -- no cost

### Wall Map of Canada Lands

- Small scale map 1:1,000,000 of IR's and NP's
- Available from CLU's
- Cost is \$30/map (colour paper product)

### Orthophoto Maps

Rectified Photo – all distortions have been removed

- Available for most reserves in agriculture belt
- Main use is for General Maps and Land Use Areas
- Update cycle is approximately every 10 years
- Paper product – cost is \$8/sheet
- Digital product – cost is \$100/image
- Digital product has a 1 metre pixel

### National WEB Address

[www.lsd.nrcan.gc.ca](http://www.lsd.nrcan.gc.ca)

### Western Regional Operations Centre (WROC) WEB Address:

[www.wroc.nrcan.gc.ca](http://www.wroc.nrcan.gc.ca)

## Sample Orthophoto Map



# aboriginalmall.com aboriginalmarket.com now open!

Vicki Grant  
Legal Surveys, NRCan

## aboriginalmall.com

Canada's first full-service Aboriginal virtual mall!

Launched in November 2000, this Business to Consumer (B2C) site is dedicated to helping organizations and individuals sell their Aboriginal made products online. We are also striving to be your one-stop online source of Aboriginal related

News, Events, Programs, Services, Businesses, Community Contacts, and Traditional sites.

Browse, Buy, Sell, or List... Participate in this exciting new e-business solution.

The screenshot shows the website's header with the URL 'aboriginalmall.com' and navigation links: 'Home | Your Account | Shopping Cart | Sell / Advertise'. Below the header is a banner for 'Golf Anyone? The 2001 Season is in Full Swing!' featuring a golfer. A vertical sidebar on the left contains a search bar with 'Match All' and a 'Go' button, a 'Stores' dropdown menu with 'Arts & Crafts' selected, and links for 'About Us', 'Contact Us', 'Help', 'Policies', and 'Message Board'. At the bottom of the sidebar is a 'Developed by CSM' logo. The main content area features a vertical column of paw print icons next to a list of menu items: 'Shopping', 'Aboriginal Trail', 'Businesses', 'Programs/Services', 'Traditional Sites', 'News & Media', and 'International Links'. The background of the main area is a faded image of people.



## **aboriginalmarket.com**

This business to business (B2B) site is focused on improving the method in which Aboriginal businesses and communities currently procure products and services. The site features a robust Request for Quote (RFQ) system that significantly rationalizes the requisitioning process, as well as a B2B marketplace for companies to buy and sell products or services.

aboriginalmarket.com also provides Aboriginal businesses, bands and communities with the ability to purchase products on-line at a more competitive price and with greater selection than through conventional purchasing. The site will also allow Aboriginal companies to access new markets by using the RFQ system to bid on previously unavailable tenders.

The key objective behind Aboriginalmarket.com is to create a B2B solution that captures existing trade between and beyond the Aboriginal communities.

## **For more information**

#1202 10030 107St.  
North Tower, Seventh Street Plaza  
Edmonton, AB, T5J 3E4  
Canada  
Email: [info@Aboriginalmall.com](mailto:info@Aboriginalmall.com)  
Phone: (780) 442 – 6255(MALL)  
Fax: (780) 414 – 1006  
Toll Free: 1 – 866 – 442 – 6255(MALL)  
[www.aboriginalmall.com](http://www.aboriginalmall.com)  
[www.aboriginalmarket.com](http://www.aboriginalmarket.com)

# Capacity Building in the First Nations

National Chief Matthew Coon Come  
Assembly of First Nations

This is the second day of a conference on capacity building, partnerships, business development, and opportunities for Aboriginal youth. Yesterday and today, you no doubt heard about a number of different initiatives which promise to bring the benefits of training, economic development, and job creation to First Nations Peoples through participation in the forest industry.

I have to tell you before I go any further that before I became National Chief, I had been doing battle with the forestry industry in Quebec for a number of years. You might even say that I have a “conflict of interest” speaking here today, because I am the plaintiff in a number of cases involving corporations that are present here.

This also means, however, that I have done a lot of thinking about forestry.

I have been involved in forestry negotiations. And where I live, in Mistissini, our people get their food from the forest. This is an important subject for me.

One of the themes of this conference is “capacity building” – “Capacity building” is a very popular expression this year – I heard it used during the Burnt Church dispute, after the Marshall Decision, and I have heard it frequently since then. I think we ought to ask just what is meant by “capacity building”?

Capacity building refers to the need for First Nations People and First Nations organizations to gain the competence and ability to do various things. In Burnt Church, it was a term used by the government to say that the Burnt Church people

were not ready to fish for lobster, not ready to manage the fishery in a responsible way, not ready to engage in business and economic development. Capacity building has become a polite and politically correct way for governments and others to say to the First Nations: ‘You are not ready to do this yet. But if you wait; if you are patient; if you get more training; if you make the arrangements we suggest; if you just do this our way, sooner or later you will have the capacity to do what we do. And when you accomplish this, when you have qualified for our programmes, when you have slowly managed to gain the qualifications we require, then we will consider some kind of partnership with you.’

“Partnership” is another one of these popular slogans. Partnership, when the term is used properly, implies a coming together of equals – people or organizations that contribute equally to an enterprise or cause, and who therefore expect to receive equal benefits. I guess we have to ask ourselves if the partnerships being offered to First Nations People are real partnerships in this sense?

I raise these questions because I am concerned that our First Nations People are not being properly informed about their rights, and because I question the fairness and justness of some of the proposals that are being called “opportunities for Aboriginal youth.”

I want to be clear: I do not want to discourage anyone or any First Nation that wants to explore business development opportunities in forestry, or hydroelectricity, mining, or anything else. But I do want our people to go into these fields with their

eyes open, and with a full understanding of the rights that are theirs, the sovereignty that is ours, and a land that we have never forsaken.

Let me return to the concept of “capacity building”. This idea has an unfortunate and nasty history. It is the language of the colonial masters who held many nations under their control, and who exploited the natural resources of their subject peoples and gave little in return.

The idea was used by the UK, by France, by Germany, by Holland – by many countries that were reluctant to give up their colonial “possessions”. The argument they used was this: ‘These people are not yet ready to handle their own affairs. They still need us to civilize and teach them about business, management, government, and technology. We have been trying to do this for the benefit of these disadvantaged people, but they are difficult to teach. They do not understand the value of money. They are poor managers. They do not understand the idea of accountability. They are dirty and wasteful. They do not appreciate the order and discipline we have given them.’

This may sound familiar, but I am not talking about the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, or the Alliance Party, I am referring to the history of colonialism in Africa and South America.

This was the excuse – that the people lacked capacity. These “enlightened” countries told the world that they were offering to help the local people gain capacity. But in the meantime, they were hauling out gold and diamonds, lumber and ivory, coal and petroleum. The local people saw little or nothing of these benefits from their own resources. They were said to be learning how to manage their affairs and achieve eventual self-government. It was capacity building. As I said, the idea does not have a good reputation.

I am all for education and training. I seriously encourage all First Nations people to get all of the education they can; and I will tell you why.

Of course you need to learn how to do things. You need to have skills and technical ability. You need to have a good education – to read, to do mathematics, to know science and technology – so that our people are not at a disadvantage. I want all of this, but I want more. I also want our people to know and understand their rights. I want you to know what is yours. I want our people to demand what is properly ours, so that our First Nations do not lose any more of their lands or any more of their rights.

And if the governments really believe in capacity building, then I have a challenge for them. Why do they continue to underfund and skimp on our reserve schools? Why do they make it so difficult for our First Nations students to obtain a proper post-secondary education? Why do they talk capacity building while they cut funding for education, training, and human resource development?

You see my position on this is simple. I want the real thing for our people. If government promises capacity building, then I want real education and training. But I do not want a government to come and tell our First Nations that we are not ready to participate in economic development, or not ready to exploit our own natural resources, or that we do not know how to responsibly manage our own affairs. Because those things are not true.

Those are the myths, the lies, the misrepresentations. They are the excuses for keeping things as they are.

We have to ask ourselves: after all of these years of trust and care from a considerate and responsible federal government, how is it that our people are still unemployed, still poor, still underprivileged? How is it that all of those wonderful, enlightened programs from past years have accomplished so little to advance our communities and our wealth in Canada? Ask yourself, “Is this the first time you have been at this kind of meeting and heard about these opportunities for partnership and capacity building that will put jobs and economic development in First Nations communities?”

My approach is this: I want to know what is wrong. I want to know why we are still talking about capacity building and economic development. Where are the real partnerships? I do not mean joint ventures where an Indian band is invited to take a small interest or to contribute financing to a project. I do not mean the offer of a few jobs. I do not mean being invited to cut a few trees where someone else owns the cutting rights. That is not partnership.

Partnership will only be possible when our rights as First Nations are fully respected. Then we will have something to bring into the partnership. Let me explain.

We are First Nations Peoples. This is our land. This is where we have always lived.

Governments like to say that those are not the kind of words that will lead to economic development. They like to say that talking about rights scares investors away. I do not think so. Governments may be afraid of our rights, but investors will go wherever business opportunities exist.

This is our land. We are the peoples of this land. What are First Nations? Is it just a slogan without meaning, or does it mean what it says? We were here first. We are nations.

International law recognizes the First Nations peoples in Canada as peoples who have the right of self-determination. The right of self-determination consists of both political rights and economic rights. So do not let anyone tell you that rights have nothing to do with economic development. Rights are a vital part of economic development. Let me give you a quick overview of the connection between forestry and our international human rights as First Nations or indigenous peoples.

The forest industry and other resource industries in territories used and occupied by indigenous peoples must take into consideration the constraints imposed by international human rights law.

Human rights bodies have approved legal instruments which set standards with specific application to the rights of indigenous peoples (e.g.,

ILO Conventions 107 and 169) and are presently engaged in drafting additional standards. Furthermore, the United Nations bodies that make sure that countries respect their treaty obligations have recognized that existing instruments of general application may be invoked for the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples (see e.g., CCPR/C/79/add. 105 of 7 April 1999).

In fact, our rights to benefit from the natural resources on our lands have been explicitly recognized by the UN Human Rights Committee, which has informed Canada that it must assure that First Nations benefit from their own resources.

The treaty compliance bodies have invoked common Article 1 of the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* – and the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* as it applies to indigenous peoples. This article requires respect for the right of self-determination, and states (par. 2):

“All peoples may, for their own ends, freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources without prejudice to any obligations arising out of international economic co-operation, based upon the principle of mutual benefit and international law. In no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence.”

There are two distinct human rights issues addressed in the above citation,

First, is the economic provision that a people may freely benefit from the wealth of natural resources which derive from their own territory.

Obligations created through international agreements may not be invoked to impose conditions upon the exercise of the right of a people to benefit from the natural wealth of their land. Thus the NAFTA agreement, for example, may not be invoked to prejudice the right of First Nations to benefit from the natural resources in their territories.

Second, there is the stringent and absolute prohibition against any act which serves to deprive a people of their own means of subsistence. This is of

crucial importance to peoples, who through hunting, fishing, and gathering gain their subsistence.

Clearly, where environmental practices are permitted which deprive a people of their traditional means of subsistence, this international law protection is being denied. In the case of clear-cut forestry operations where wildlife populations that are an essential part of First Nations Peoples' traditional diet are disrupted and displaced, there is a clear violation of the International Covenants, and the government that permits such operations stands in contravention of its international obligations.

Now that we understand the international rights implications we are in a better position to consider First Nations participation in the forest industry.

There are two fundamental issues for First Nations: Ownership of the forest resources and protection of the environment and our way of life. These two themes are very closely related because our ownership of the natural resources also gives First Nations control over their use.

When First Nations control the way the forests are used, we also have the means to protect the forest environment that is used by our people, who hunt, fish, and trap as a way of life. I am going to explain this with my own experience in Eeyou Istchee, the Cree Territory in Quebec.

When we signed our treaty, the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, forestry activity in Eeyou Istchee was limited to small chain saw operations. In 1975, trees above the 49th parallel were not considered economically viable for wide scale production. The Cree leaders at the time were aware that forestry development would increase in the future, but were unaware of the potential scale of this development. Even so, the leaders sincerely believed that the James Bay Northern Quebec Agreement would protect our land and rights. Forestry activity was to be compatible with our way of life.

Today, 25 years later, we know this compatibility is impossible under the existing forestry regime. Shortly after we signed the James Bay Northern

Quebec Agreement, Quebec began reorganizing its forestry operations. Years of over-harvesting and unsound management of the forests immediately south of our traditional lands led Quebec's own foresters to warn of coming mill supply interruptions if practices did not change or new stocks were not developed.

Instead of changing cutting practices to conserve the remaining southern forests, Quebec's response was to expand by moving mechanized operations onto our lands. Under the reorganization, mills were encouraged to expand through the adoption of lengthy supply management agreements. Companies like Domtar, Donohue, and Barrette Chapais began buying out small local mills and replacing them with large regional mills. These large-scale mills put an end to local chain saw operations.

The expansion of the industry into our territory occurred at a rapid pace. The level of investment in wood production for the Abitibi-Temiscamingue region rose from 13.1 % of the industry's total in 1983 to 57.7% in 1988. That is an increase of 44.6% in just five years. These new mills were technically more efficient than their predecessors and did not require tall, thick trees to make a profit. So the smaller, northerly trees in Eeyou Istchee became economically attractive, and the depletion of our forests began in earnest.

Since most of this investment was directed to mills just south of Eeyou Istchee, they were not subject to the environmental regime we had as a treaty right under the James Bay Northern Quebec Agreement. Under our treaty, changes in land use affecting areas 65 square kilometers or more, and any major access roads longer than 25 kilometers are subject to environmental assessment.

To avoid logging under these provisions and environmental assessment, companies build roads in 25 kilometer increments. Once these roads are completed, another 25 kilometers are added. Over time, the road networks expand, and secondary roads become major access roads. When roads are evaluated, the emphasis is placed on engineering

details rather than the impacts of opening up the territory. It is in this manner that companies avoid assessment and accountability for their activities.

This conscious effort to avoid environmental accountability is encouraged by Quebec through its forestry standards. What kind of message does this give the companies when they consider their actions in terms of environmental accountability?

Over the last twenty years, the exploitation has steadily increased. The amount of our land allocated to logging companies has doubled to 52,000 square kilometers. Our land now accounts for about 15% of Quebec's forest products industry. Forestry companies in our territory clear-cut in excess of 300 square kilometers per year. In some years, more than 400 square kilometers have been cut. Since 1975, over 5000 square kilometers of Eeyou Istchee forest has been cleared.

Despite this rapid expansion, very few Crees are employed by the non-Aboriginal companies operating in our territory. The few opportunities that do exist for Crees have been created by ourselves. Two Cree-run forestry companies have been operating on a small sustainable scale for over 10 years.

This project brings up an important point. Under the present forestry legislation in Quebec, timber supply agreements are only available to companies who have mills. This legislative impediment has effectively prevented Crees from having a larger role in the development of this resource. Local First Nations cannot afford the millions of dollars of investment required to build a mill; without a secure timber supply agreement it is difficult to get outside financing.

And so our First Nations communities have only two alternatives. They either can have micro operations, or they can seek investment capital through, what we are calling in this conference "partnerships" with forestry companies. The partnership alternative is not wholly desirable because Cree companies are then pressured to uphold the unsustainable forestry practices of the companies they join.

And so if non-Native companies do not hire Crees and legislation hampers us from developing our own sustainable opportunities, what do we get in return for the destruction of our traditional lands: mile upon mile of clear-cut forests, damaged habitat, polluted water, garbage, hundred of miles of roads, theft, vandalism, and threats from sport hunters who use the logging roads. And most important, families are displaced from their traplines, unable to live off the land.

The hunting territories of Eeyou Istchee are organized around a system of traplines. These traplines are managed by a tallyman who determines where and when other families can hunt, fish, and trap. This is how trappers have successfully organized their subsistence harvest to ensure that it remains sustainable. But this does not work anymore when traplines repeatedly have more than 70% of their land deforested.

With the forest gone, families are forced off the traplines that they have depended upon for generations. They are then left with two choices: they must either crowd onto another trapline or permanently give up their subsistence way of life. Since they know that traplines can only support a few families, this means the end of a way of life.

This has already occurred on many traplines in Eeyou Istchee. In the Cree community of Waswanipi, 100% of their traplines are situated on Cree land given to companies for logging. In Ouje-Bougoumou, this figure is also 100%; in Waskaganish it is 23%; in Mistissini 10%, and in Nemaska – a community situated at the northern fringe of the boreal forest, where trees are tiny – 33% of their traplines are going to be cut.

This is all legal under the existing forestry regime. When questioned about the depletion of traplines, Quebec forestry representatives, and the companies respond by telling us these cutting rates fall within the goals of sustainable yield.

But sustainable yield and sustainable development are not the same. Sustainable yield is designed to ensure that the needs of the industry are met. Sustainable development ensures that the needs of

all who depend on the forest are met. Try to tell a trapper who has seen 70% of the forest on his trapline destroyed through road construction and clear-cutting that this is sustainable.

Yesterday, near my community of Mistissini, there was a ceremony. The Cree youth had raised funds to establish a local hemodialysis centre. You might wonder how this has anything to do with forestry. Let me explain.

In 1975, when the Crees signed their treaty, there were only three Crees who had been diagnosed with diabetes. We were still living our traditional life on the land, eating our own food. Today, there are over 800 of our people diagnosed with diabetes. In Eeyou Istchee diabetes has become an epidemic. In its later stages it destroys eyesight, kidneys, and limbs. That is why we needed a dialysis centre.

As hydro projects and forestry operations on our traplines have destroyed our traditional sources of food and have forced us to eat foods that our bodies cannot tolerate, the sickness has increased. The doctors have explained to our people that we have to return to our own foods. But how are we going to do this?

Let me return now to the issue of ownership and control. The failure of governments to recognize and respect our ownership of the forests forces us into an unfortunate relationship. It destroys our way of life; it destroys the forests themselves, and it destroys the environment.

But I think you can see by now that it is also a relationship that prevents real economic development.

First Nations People understand the forest. We invented the whole idea of sustainability. Without sustainability, we would never have survived on the land. My father always took pride in the fact that he could look out over his trapline and see exactly what his father had seen. He could use the land and be sustained by the land without changing it.

Our economy on the land was the most stable and reliable economy in the world because we took only what the land could support.

Forestry in Canada has consisted of "mining out" the forest, keeping an industry alive by taking as much as possible, as fast as possible. In the meantime, the First Nations have not had a fair share of what is, after all, our wealth, our capital, our equity. This is the land that we have saved for later generations. Now others come to our land to take – no, to plunder – what we have preserved and protected.

Why should our people seek partnerships with companies that have somehow obtained the cutting rights, the ownership and possession of resources that belong to the First Nations under international law? How did these companies come to own the resources that belong to us? Why do we have to go to them to share in what is rightfully ours?

These are the questions we have to ask. And when we do go – when we seek to have some benefit from what is being done by others on our own lands – we are forced to join in the destruction of our own way of life and the health of our people. We have to do it their way.

But we know where this goes. The forest is cut; it is exhausted, used up. Then they move on and leave us sitting there.

I think we can do better than that, and so did the *Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples* (RCAP). The RCAP Report made recommendations on this very subject that have never been implemented.

The UN Human Rights Committee has asked Canada to implement these recommendations. The RCAP Report recommended that the ownership and benefit of the natural resources support the First Nations that live on the land. It recommended that the First Nations land base be increased so that it is capable of creating sustainable economies for our people.

This is what I would call real "capacity building" – building a land and resource base that will create sustainable economies for First Nations.

It must be accepted, in the words of the RCAP, that "Federal, provincial and territorial governments, through negotiation, [must] provide Aboriginal

nations with lands that are sufficient in size and quality to foster Aboriginal economic self-reliance and cultural and political autonomy.”

It must also be, again in the words of the Commissioners,

“ensure[d] that Aboriginal nations ...have exclusive or preferential access to certain renewable and non-renewable resources, ... and granted share of revenues flowing from resource development...”

And finally, in the words of the Royal Commission:

“If what Aboriginal peoples thought they had won had been delivered – a reasonable share of lands and resources for their exclusive use, protection for their traditional economic activities, resource revenues from shared lands, and support for their participation in the new economy being shaped by the settlers, the position of Aboriginal peoples in Canada today would be very different. They would be major land owners. Most Aboriginal nations would likely be economically self-reliant. Some would be prosperous.”

When we as First Nations enter into partnerships with industry, our investment, our equity, our capital should be the resources we own – the water, the forests, the minerals on our lands. We should not be asked to seek financing to support economic development projects on our lands, We have already provided the financing – Canada is built upon our territory, our land.

We bring our expertise, our resources, and our knowledge and love for the land. That is why there are still resources left to exploit. We certainly do not come in “empty handed”. A relationship based on true partnership will recognize that First Nations own the resources and know best how to use them so that we will still have them in the future.

The governments and the companies that are making the rules today disappoint me. All you have to do is look around to see that they have not done well, either for themselves or for the First Nations. If things continue on this path, there will be little left for anyone.

Yes, we are interested in economic development. Yes, we want employment. Of course we do not want to be poor. Why should we be limited, as the Supreme Court of Canada has decided, to a “moderate livelihood”? Why should we not benefit from the wealth of this land? These are reasonable questions.

I approve of any effort that any First Nation makes to improve its situation – to find work, to build the community, to help our people find what they need.

I know that our First Nations are desperate to escape the poverty and ill health. I know that our people are willing to work, to try anything. I do not condemn any deal you can make.

But I want our people to see where this should go. I want our people to know what is rightfully theirs. I want our people to strive to obtain justice, and to be treated fairly in this wealthy society. And I know that you can only do this if you see the future.

Just a few years ago, we would never have believed that the United Nations would recognize the right of our people to self-determination. Only a little while ago that would have been a dream. But now it has happened.

These things are not extreme. They are based on existing law-the Constitution of Canada, our treaties, the international human rights conventions that Canada has signed and ratified.

These things make sense. They are logical. They are the conclusions reached by the RCAP, by economists, by environmentalists, by jurists, and by many in government and our institutions of higher learning.

We are not asking for the impossible. We are asking for what is right, and just, and fair, and reasonable. Thank You. Meegwetch.



# Identifying, Harvesting, and Marketing Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP)

## Opportunities in the Northern Forest

Dave Buck, NTFP Project Coordinator  
Keewatin Community College, The Pas, Manitoba

I would like to share with you some of my experience in the NTFP business, and some of the opportunities that I believe this industry may offer. I will give you a bit of information on the NTFP training course that I have been working on and also an exciting new initiative that is happening at Keewatin Community College, where I am presently employed.

I have been advised many times over the past 20 years that to be successful one should not try to do it all...be a harvester, buyer, broker, processor, and marketer. Perhaps I measure success differently, because I did try them all, and as much as I love to be in the bush picking mushrooms or berries, I discovered that I also like to sell things...and I like to explore marketing possibilities.

I have operated a small Non-Timber Forest Product business out of my home for about the last eight years – everything from crafts, floral supplies, wild foods to wild botanicals. I have exported product to Asia, Europe, the US; I operate a small mail order business, and I supply a few local and western natural food stores as well. I have also done some small scale drying and processing to create new value-added products.

My first experience with the Non-Timber Forest Product business began with the development of a wild rice industry in Northern Manitoba in the early 80s. We followed Saskatchewan's expansion of their wild rice production. Soon I was seeding lakes, harvesting rice, building a processing plant, looking for markets, and organizing a Producers Co-op. My learning curve was straight up.

In spite of the Manitoba Government first telling us that wild rice would not grow in Northern Manitoba, and then trying to tell us that we would never be able to sell all our production, we now have a northern wild industry that generates an annual income of about \$600,000.00 to one million dollars. That's new money that goes directly into the pockets of the harvesters and is spun into the northern economy.

**And that's just one non-timber forest product.**

During a trade show in Vancouver (Food Pacific 88), I began to realize that there was more opportunity than just wild rice in our northern forest. A buyer from California stopped at our booth and demanded to know why we were not marketing more than just wild rice. He wanted wild berries, wild mushrooms, wild rose hips, anything that was wild.

That incident and another one a few years later probably got me started in the NTFP business.

I received a call from the Regional Metis office in The Pas, asking me to meet with an elderly couple from Moose Lake. You probably cannot tell from the lighting in this room, but I am a member of the Manitoba Metis Federation. Anyway, I met with this couple who were trying to sell two bags of dried senega root. We talked for about an hour, and they told me how people in Moose Lake had picked and sold senega root for over 50 years, mostly to the local store...but for the past several years, no one was buying.

Knowing nothing about senega root, I bought the two bags and began to search for markets. I wanted to know

- How much was being sold (exported)?
- Who was selling (my competition)?
- Where was it going and who was buying it?
- What was it worth?
- What was it being used for?

I began calling some of my contacts in External Affairs in Ottawa, who I had met during the past several years while we developed the northern wild rice industry, and I also called Trevor Winters from Agriculture Canada in Winnipeg. Trevor had been assisting us when we were organizing the Canada Wild Rice Council.

Trevor began to research the senega root market as well, calling his contacts out east and reporting back to me almost on a weekly basis. He was not having much success either. After about two months, he finally called me and said that after being referred to several people in Ottawa, who might know something, he was finally told to call Dave Buck in The Pas, Manitoba, as he knew something about senega root.

Anyway, about a year later, after sending faxes to several US botanical companies, I received a phone call from Wilcox Natural Products in North Carolina, asking me to buy senega root for them.

At first, my bank was a little reluctant to lend me the first \$5000.00 to get started, (THIS IS A CASH BUSINESS), but when I presented them with a purchase order from Wilcox, I got the loan and I began to learn the senega root business. After working with Wilcox for two years, I invited Tony Hayes, their senior buyer, to come up to spend a week with me, fishing and looking over the country for other products. After this visit, I was able to get Wilcox to finance the operation and I no longer needed bank loans.

As far back as the early 90s, I began to work with other non-timber forest products....and I began to test market them in local stores and in craft shows.

For the past seven years, I have had a booth at the Brandon Christmas Craft test-marketing Non-Timber Forest Products. My parents, my daughter, and my sister have all become involved, and my wife gets to spend time with our grandchildren. This one sale has become a social event for us, even though our goal is to introduce at least one new product each year, and to increase our sales volume every year.

You would not believe what people will buy; beaver stumps, birch tube vases, wild mint, driftwood, moose droppings with eyes, tree branches, willow wreaths, cones, to name a few, as well as my wild rice vegetable soup, which I mix and package myself in my basement.

As I continued to research the various NTFP markets, it became very clear to me that our northern forests offer many sustainable economic opportunities for residents of northern communities. I have had a glimpse of the growing global fascination for wild foods and other wild harvested products. I have worked and traveled in Northern Manitoba all my life, and I know that we have many of these products growing in our back yards. What is missing is the awareness of these opportunities, of the markets, of the vast range of products... and of the full range of opportunity at the local community level for wild harvesters, buyers, processors, and marketers.

I began to work for the Keewatin Community College about three years ago as a technician for their Natural Resource Management Technology Program. KCC delivers many community based programs in the North and about 70% of our students are Aboriginal. So it was not too difficult to convince the college that NTFP community-based training was also needed in the north.

Last March, I was seconded to work on developing a 10 day community-based NTFP business training program which we are calling, "Non-Timber Forest Products – Opportunities in the Northern Forest"

Perhaps the most interesting part of this story is that this initiative has evolved into something much

larger ... something that is being called The Northern Forest Diversification Center.

And the rationale is very easy... Even training is not enough to ensure reasonable success in developing community based small business. The center will give us the ability to work with individuals and community groups for as long as it takes to get them up and running successfully, and we will be there for further assistance. The Center will complement, rather than duplicate other development agencies. We will be able to assist in new product development value-added processing, marketing, transportation, and we will be able to promote co-operative marketing efforts between northern communities.

**The Northern Forest Diversification Center** will initially focus on three areas

**Non-Timber Forest Product Business Training** along with product and market development

**Community-Based Eco-Tourism Training** (Eco-tourism is perhaps the most important Non-Timber Forest Product),

**Research** in areas such as sustainable harvesting methods, and the development of community based NTFP inventory methods.

Now, I would like to share a number of ideas to consider when you are developing a NTFP business.

- Friends, relatives, and local stores are potential customers
- The internet gives you access to the world. Finding markets for Non-Timber Forest Products is much easier now with the Internet than it was ten years ago.
- Work with your provincial and federal market development services
- Canadian Embassies in every country are only an e-mail message away.
- When you find a buyer, try and meet him and get to know him. If you can develop a personal relationship, you will stand a better chance of keeping his business in the midst of competition.

- Constantly work to establish your credibility for delivering your product on time and within your customer's specifications.
- Diversification is almost essential in the NTFP business.
- Many international markets will require certification of your products. Certification will require you to show an inspector how ethically and sustainably your operation is being conducted.
- Don't be afraid to start small.
- Test market your products locally.
- Try out craft shows to see if you like selling things.
- Use your imagination.
- And don't be afraid to fail.

And for our Aboriginal youth....

I would encourage you to check out this Non-Timber Forest Product business, for yourself and your community. If you are interested in resource management or research in this area, make sure that you have the college or university training.

Discuss your ideas with your elders. Most Non-Timber Forest Products business can be done on a sustainable basis and with respect for the land.

The NTFP Industry is just beginning to develop in many parts of Canada, and both governments and communities will require more resource managers, and researchers. As an example, our college is constantly on the lookout for qualified Aboriginal instructors and managers.

Here is a question that you may be asked by those who may be able to offer you the funding to develop this business: Will the development of a Non-Timber Forest Products industry offer any significant economic opportunity for small and even isolated communities?

From my experience, NTFP development has much to offer small communities, but John Martin, our college Elder, perhaps put this question into perspective. John is a very wise man and speaks very softly... But when he speaks, everyone listens. John

was at a meeting discussing how to reply to a funding committee, questioning our numbers on the benefits of developing a community-based training program for Non-timber Forest Products business.

John put it something like this...**"The only number they have to be concerned about is zero. That's what we have in my community of Moose Lake right now. Anything more than that would be a good thing."**

For me, as I continue to be fascinated with the opportunities offered by Non-Timber Forest Products, The BIG question still goes unanswered **"What is the best use, the best value of a hectare of Northern Forest?"**

And I don't mean for timber companies or for government. I mean for the residents of forest

communities. The answer, I believe, lies somewhere in a mix of social, economic, aesthetic, and cultural arguments.

And so, for those of you who have not explored the possibilities of this industry, I would offer you these final words;

The NTFP industry can offer sustainable economic opportunity for individual entrepreneurs and for communities.

This industry offers a wide range of opportunities and possibilities.

With these opportunities, also comes responsibility. I believe that by placing more and diverse economic values on the Northern Forest, this will only strengthen our sense of responsibility, and our respect for what the Creator has given us.

# Non-Timber Forest Products in Saskatchewan

Gerry Ivanochko  
Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food

I have worked with the Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) industry in Northern Saskatchewan for fifteen years. During this time, I have seen the interest in non-timber forest products increase significantly as people realize the opportunity to earn some supplemental income from harvesting products from the wild. When I refer to non-timber forest products, I am talking about such products as wild mushrooms and berries; edible and medicinal plants, essential oils; and other products used in the nursery, floral, and craft industries. Non-timber forest products can help to diversify forest-based incomes. Harvesting non-timber forest products requires more labour and less capital than timber harvesting. In some cases, the value of some non-timber forest products may exceed the value of the timber. Aboriginal people are well positioned to take advantage of this opportunity due to their traditional knowledge of the plants and marketing opportunities that are available for Aboriginal products.

The NTFP industry in Saskatchewan is still quite small compared to the Pacific Northwest where this industry has been developing since the early 1900s. The industry in the Pacific Northwest is now estimated to be worth hundreds of millions of dollars. However, in Saskatchewan, people are only beginning to realize the potential of this industry.

In 1993, Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food in conjunction with the Canadian Forest Service and Weyerhaeuser conducted a market study that looked at the market potential for non-timber forest products in Northern Saskatchewan. The study identified an immediate demand for over \$2M of product.

In my presentation I will give some examples of some of the opportunities that I see in this industry in Saskatchewan.

In the last 50 years, the major activity has been the harvesting and marketing of wild berries. There was a successful wild blueberry business in Northern Saskatchewan in the 1940s and 1950s. Pickers were paid 10¢/lb. for wild blueberries, which were packaged and sold fresh or frozen. Wild berries are still harvested in Northern Saskatchewan, but the markets are still largely undeveloped. Efforts have concentrated on the fresh market because higher returns can be obtained. There are a number of other wild berries that can be harvested in Saskatchewan. These include lingonberries, Saskatoons, chokecherries, pincheries, and highbush cranberries. There are some companies that are now processing some of these wild berries and marketing them.

There are several other edible crops that could also be harvested from the forest. Fiddleheads are a big crop in the Maritimes and we do have some large areas of fiddleheads on the eastern side of the province. The Cumberland House region has large areas of production. The fiddleheads are found in Manitoba maple stands in the area. However, commercial harvesting of Saskatchewan product has not occurred to any large extent yet. Some people are also tapping Manitoba maple or birch to produce syrup.

About 10-15 years ago, commercial wild mushroom harvesting was introduced to Northern Saskatchewan. Wild mushrooms have now become the largest sector of the NTFP industry in

Saskatchewan. In each of the last two years, harvesters have earned around \$1,000,000 picking wild mushrooms in Saskatchewan. The main mushrooms harvested are the morels, chanterelles, and pine mushrooms.

The interest in natural products to maintain and improve health is growing dramatically with our aging population. The most common native medicinal plant in Saskatchewan since the early 1900s, is senega root. A more recent example of another botanical that has stimulated interest in botanicals is fireweed. Fytokem is a company in Saskatoon that produces plant extracts. It produces a plant extract from fireweed that is sold to cosmetic companies. This company began buying wildcrafted fireweed but is now also contracting with some farmers to grow the crop.

There are a number of different products that can be harvested for the floral and craft industry.

Harvesters sell their product to buyers or processors, who sort, clean, bunch, package, dry, preserve, or otherwise prepare the products for the wholesale market. One of the biggest problems the Saskatchewan (NTFP) industry has faced is the limited number of buyers for some of the non-timber forest products especially the floral and craft products.

Some of the floral and craft products that are in demand include:

- Birch poles are used in the floral and craft industry to make artificial trees. They are also used for furniture and craft products. There have been several large shipments of these products, but it has not been on a consistent basis. Semi-load shipments for a lot of raw products are necessary in order to reduce the per unit transportation costs.

- Green moss is a staple product in the floral industry. Some large shipments of this product have been sold into the US market. Canadian floral wholesalers have also made some purchases.
- Reindeer moss is a very interesting product that can be used for a variety of purposes. In the Scandinavian countries, they harvest several million pounds each year.
- There are other floral greens such as lycopodium or club moss that can also be harvested.
- Floral greens such as balsam fir branches can be used for making wreathes, twigs and roots can also be used for making wreaths.
- Native handicrafts such as birch bark bitings, baskets, and other items have increased in demand.

The Non-Timber Forest Products industry provides many opportunities for value-added processing. This helps to increase employment opportunities and economic returns. Preserving and dyeing of plant material, packaging, preparation of herbal teas, lotions, etc. can help to increase the returns from this industry.

This is a brief overview of the Saskatchewan Non-Timber Forest Products industry. I feel the interest in non-timber forest products will continue to grow as consumers look for more natural products for their health and well being. Aboriginal people are well positioned to take advantage of these changing trends if they so desire.

# Enhancing Strategic Economic Investments in First Nation and Inuit Communities

David Henley  
Economic Development Programs Directorate  
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

## Strengthening DIAND's Capacity to Support Strategic Investments in Economic Development

- On May 18, Minister Nault announced increased funding (\$75 million in 2000-2001) for strategic economic investments in First Nation and Inuit communities.
- This furthers the Gathering Strength commitment of helping to build strong Aboriginal communities, people, and economies.
- It boosts funding available for strategic economic investments from \$25 million to \$100 million in 2000-2001, and to \$200 million starting in 2001-2002.

## Major Elements of Increased Funding

- Increase participation in and benefits from major regional economic development initiatives
- Enhance business development support
- Strengthen capacity to negotiate benefits and participate in resource-based partnership opportunities
- Increase access to workforce skills and experience
- Improve First Nation and Inuit access to capital
- Enhance departmental capacity to design and deliver new and enhanced programs

## DIAND Funding Increases for Aboriginal Economic Development Programs

Program	Funding (\$ millions)		
	Existing	Additional Investment	Post-Announcement
<b>Business Development:</b>			
Opportunity Fund/Resource Acquisition Initiative	\$10	\$10	\$20
Major Business Projects Program	\$0	\$10.5	\$10.5
Equity Investment Fund	\$0	\$0.5	\$0.5
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$10</b>	<b>\$21</b>	<b>\$31</b>
<b>Resource-Based Partnerships:</b>			
Resource Partnerships Program (formerly FPTP)	\$4.5	\$5	\$9.5
Resource Access Negotiation	\$7.3	\$1	\$8.3
Aboriginal Workforce Participation Initiative	\$0.5	\$1	\$1.5
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$12.3</b>	<b>\$7</b>	<b>\$19.3</b>
<b>Innovative Access to Capital:</b>			
Contract Bonding Facility	\$2.5	\$3	\$5.5
Major Regional Economic Development Projects			
Regional Partnership Fund	\$0	\$40	\$40
Enhanced Program Delivery/Capacity	\$0	\$4	\$4
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>\$24.8 M</b>	<b>\$75 M</b>	<b>\$99.8 M</b>

## Strengthened Business Development

### *Opportunity Fund/Resource Acquisition Initiative*

- Provides funding to First Nation and Inuit businesses via their respective Community Economic Development Organizations (CEDOs) in order that they may attract joint venture partners or secure conventional debt financing

### *Major Business Projects Program*

- Provides funding to First Nation and Inuit businesses via their respective CEDOs in order that they may lever conventional debt financing for business start-ups or expansions in order to pursue a major industrial, commercial, or resource-based business opportunity

## Strengthened Resource-Based Partnerships

### *Regional Partnerships Program*

- Assists First Nation and Inuit communities to participate in the planning and implementation of large scale resource development projects involving the private sector, federal and provincial/territorial governments, and other stakeholders

### *Resource Access Negotiation*

- Helps individual First Nation and Inuit communities negotiate bilateral benefit agreements with governments or the private sector relating to resource development
  - access business and employment opportunities in major resource projects
  - attract investment in reserve natural resource projects
  - access off-reserve natural resources
  - manage off-reserve natural resources

## Strengthening Major Regional Economic Development Projects

### *Regional Partnerships Fund*

- RPF is designed to assist First Nations and Inuit communities to participate in cost-shared investments, with the provinces/territories and private sector, in regional economic infrastructure and large scale economic development projects in such areas as tourism and resource development

### *Regional Partnership Fund – Eligibility Criteria*

- Expected economic benefits must contribute to the long-term growth and sustainability of First Nations and Inuit communities and commercial enterprises which will result from strategic investment
  - Benefits include
    - business development
    - short and long term employment
    - infrastructure development
    - transferable workforce skills and experience
    - community revenues (taxes, royalties, etc)
- Partnerships must include non-federal, preferably private sector participation
- Recipients may include: Bands, Community Economic Development Organizations, Tribal Councils, Aboriginal Economic Organizations
- Preference given to projects which are regional in nature
- Initiative must lever financial contributions from other governments and/or the private sector to assist First Nations and Inuit projects
- Partnership agreements to manage project priorities and funding arrangements should already exist or be in development
- DIAND will not provide funding in excess of 66% of the total project value – funding may vary depending on project circumstances, expected benefits, and the findings of the Cost/Benefit Analysis
- DIAND regional offices will identify potential projects and conduct a screening against program funding criteria



# Use of Forest Biomass for Energy in Aboriginal Communities

Carl Chaboyer  
Technical Advisor  
Grassy Narrows First Nation  
Natural Resources Canada

## Introduction

I work for Grassy Narrows First Nation, a community located 80 km north of Kenora, in North-western Ontario. It is a semi-remote reserve with a population of about 650. When it was planning to build its new school, it encountered a problem—how should the school be heated? Electricity was the option most favoured by the school design committee but was not possible without a \$6,000,000 upgrade to the existing transmission lines. Propane, oil, and heat pumps were considered to have ecological and economic costs that were too high for Grassy Narrows and the decision was made to heat the school with a wood-fired district heating system.

The total project cost would be much less than \$6,000,000, and the whole community would benefit from the project. In 1995, construction began on the first “all plastic pipe” district heating system in North America.

A closed network of shallow-buried underground pipes links buildings to a central heating plant that produces hot water by burning residual wood products. The wood fuel can vary from sawdust to large wood chips, with wood chips being the preferred type of biomass.

The central heating plant also contains the circulation pumps that move water through the piping network to each of the buildings and back to the heating plant. Two oil boilers are used to provide heat at peak times as well as providing a “back up” for the wood boiler. A diesel generator ensures that the heating plant can operate during a power failure.

The district heating system went on-line in the fall of 1996 using the oil boilers only and the wood boiler was commissioned in September 1997.

## Challenges and Successes

During construction, the community struggled with several problems associated with building the system. Most of the technical problems experienced were related to the fact that many pieces of equipment had never been used in North America before. There were also organisational problems and a major contractor (the first wood boiler manufacturer) backed out of the project. The community's determination and perseverance was key in its decision to push on as problems developed.

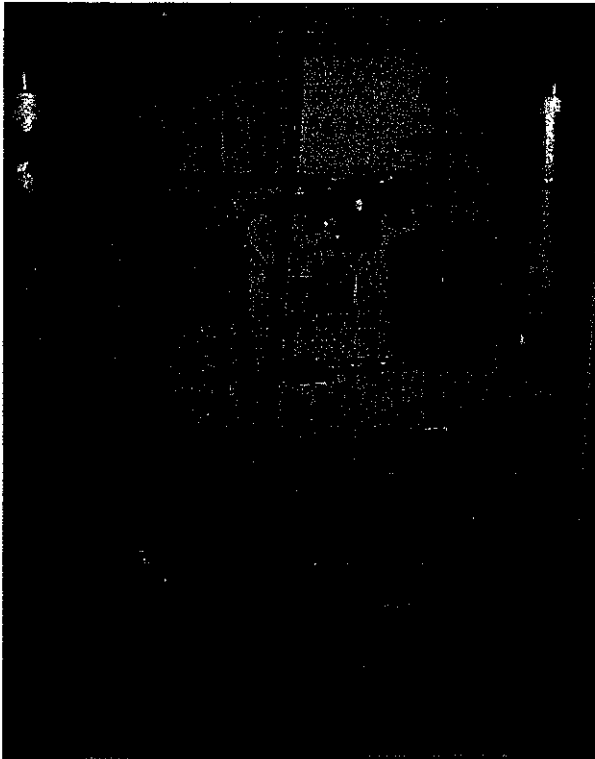
Following the commissioning of the system, the complex design chosen for many of the component systems proved to make operating the system difficult.

## Energy Transfer Stations

The connection point at which each building is joined to the system is called an energy transfer station or ETS. This is also known as a substation because its task is similar to that of an electrical substation. It controls the flow of district heating water into and out of each customer building.

There are two main types of substations; direct and indirect. An indirect substation has two heat exchangers that isolate the district heating water from the customer building. This is mostly done to decrease the chances of a catastrophic system leak damaging a customer building, but it is also done to isolate any refrigerant used in the system from the

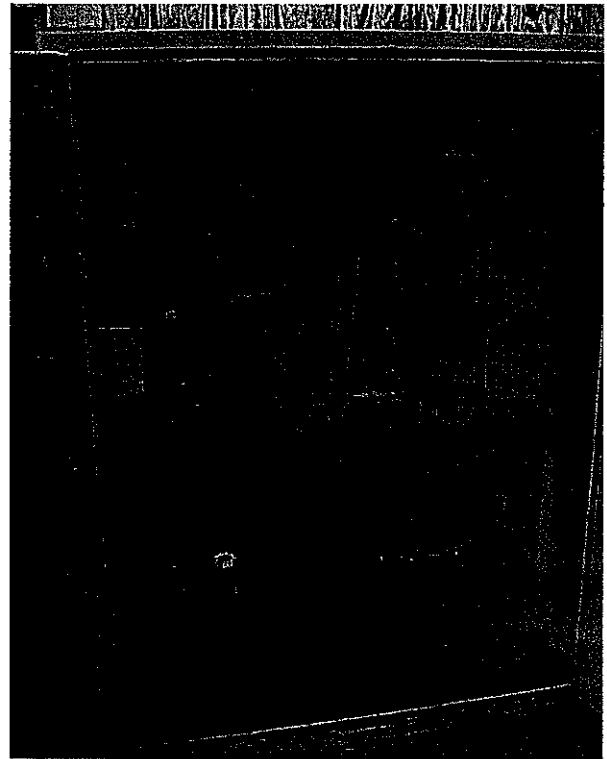
## Energy Transfer Station



Indirect (before)

building occupants. The system in Grassy Narrows does not use glycol or any other freeze protection agent. A direct substation, like the ones used in Grassy Narrows, use the district heating water itself to heat the house directly. The water is the heat transfer medium used in the baseboard radiators and furnaces that heat each building.

The original design for our substations called for an indirect design, but once installed, they were not able to perform according to the original design. The substations were not extracting as much heat from each litre of district heating water. This resulted in dramatically increased flows to affected homes. Since the supply flow from the central heating plant is not infinite, houses at the outer reaches of the system did not have enough of a pressure difference between the supply and return lines to induce a flow through the house heating system. This resulted in insufficient heat being supplied to some homes, and in a few extreme cases, lines freezing up.



Direct (after)

Our overall goal in making modifications here was to allow the customer buildings to function well with the amount of pressure that was available to them. We have also made some changes that maintain heating during a power failure. This has also proved helpful in the event that a customer has their electrical service discontinued. In many cases, we can maintain both heat and hot water service without any electrical service. The heating plant still has to have electrical service or the generator must be operating.

Much of the work we have done has been with the substations as well as the building heating systems. Some of the air heating coils used in the furnaces were not installed or specified in accordance to the original design. We have made a host of changes that result in each building performing much more like it should, so that sufficient pressure will be available to every building on the system.

## Distribution Network

The veins and arteries of the district heating system are the plastic pipes that transport hot water to and from each customer building. The transmission line itself is made of a plastic known as long-chain, cross-linked polyethylene or "PEX" piping. Several layers of closed-cell insulation surround the PEX piping. This insulation is special because it will not absorb water. This is then enclosed in a semi-rigid plastic casing to protect the piping and insulation. The piping is buried at a depth of 60 – 120 cm or 2 to 4 feet and connections between pipes are made at connection chambers allowing for easier periodic inspection as well as facilitating repairs in the event of a failure.

The diameter of the pipe is based on the heat load and the temperature difference that each of the customer buildings imposes on the district heating system. The temperature difference (sometimes called the "delta T") is the difference in temperature between the supply and return lines at any given point. If the heat load gets bigger, then the pipes will get bigger. If the temperature difference



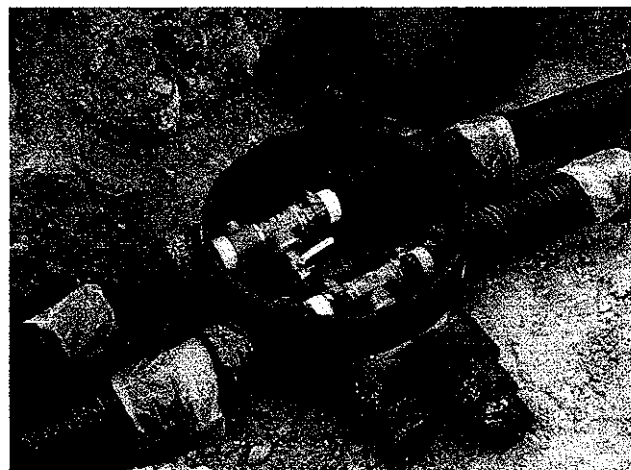
Prepared Trench Ready for Piping

increases, the pipes *decrease* in diameter. From extensive studies of the cost of the various components used in a district heating system, it has been determined that a delta T of 35 – 40 degrees Celsius is ideal for systems like the one in Grassy Narrows.

## Central Heating Plant

Arguably, the most complicated part of the district heating system is the central heating plant. It contains the wood-fired boiler and all of the components needed to supply it with wood. There are two oil-fired boilers, six large circulation pumps, six variable speed drives for the pumps, a diesel generator, a rotaphase phase converter for creating three-phase power from single phase power and two large expansion tanks for the distribution network. To top it all off, this building is also where the maintenance personnel do most of the plumbing fabrication, and some spare parts are stored here. It is a crowded, noisy, and hot work environment that is the heart of the district heating system.

Five major contractors worked for over a year to finish it, and in the end, there have been problems associated with the integration of the various systems in the plant. Components that should be communicating with each other do not. The engineer could have done this "systems integration" if he were still involved with the project at the time of commissioning, but he wasn't. Several small



Connection Chamber

problems got worse as the months dragged on. Most, if not all, of these problems were related to jobs that had not been completed when equipment was being installed and commissioned. We have completed most of these small jobs, and the plant now looks much as it should have before it was "started up".

### **Organisational Issues**

All of the staffing positions for the district heating utility were new positions. Most of the positions were staffed with very little (if any) training and education. While the staff has risen to the challenges placed before them, they were ill-equipped to deal with some situations.

The organisational model used to construct the district heating system was based on erroneous assumptions about what people would be willing and capable of doing. The model did not take into account the differences between it and the urban setting it was patterned after.

When problems came up, people were more concerned about assigning blame than they were about solving the problem. This is likely due to the lack of structure built into the organisational system as well as the fact that many of those involved in the system were doing things they had never done before. Many of the positions were very different from the type of work they had done before.

For the managers and staff involved in the district heating system today, their work has become something of a vocation. The dedication and devotion to their community and their work is a necessary component for a successful district heating utility. Any community that already operates their own utility will understand the level of responsibility that employees and Board Members are shouldered with.

### **Disaster**

After two difficult winters, the district heating system and its staff were bracing for a cold and difficult third Christmas. Measurements taken by NRCan staff indicated that the new buildings that had been connected that year were causing the

system to perform very poorly. The community was warned that a good cold snap might mean considerable difficulty for the system.

Unfortunately, NRCan had no real rapport with the community and they had little reason to believe our credentials.

After sending warnings and offers of help as late as December 18, 1998, I was not surprised when I received a panicked telephone call on January 4, 1999. There had been a freeze up and several customers were without heat. Worse yet, the weather was cold and the forecast was for colder temperatures.

Because we had anticipated problems, we were able to prepare for the trip up in less than 36 hours. Late on January 6, I arrived on-site and surveyed the damage. After spending two days examining the system and consulting with my colleagues at Community Energy Systems in Ottawa, we mapped out a plan of attack. By making changes to buildings that were close to the heating plant, we would make pressure available to buildings at the end of the system. Few in the community thought that we would be successful. After modifying the substations at three houses near the heating plant, 8 houses that were without heat and hot water began working again. Four other buildings showed an improvement in either heat or domestic hot water performance as well.

These successes helped us to gain the full support of the community and to formulate a plan to rehabilitate the district heating system. Over the course of the following eight months, I spent a total of over five months working and living in Grassy Narrows.

As well as acting as interim manager for the duration of the project, I co-ordinated (and sometimes gave) training programs, oversaw modifications to all parts of the district heating system, and fought with a variety of financial problems and scheduling difficulties.

While we were able to fix many of the technical problems, other problems lurk in the shadows. Organisational, staffing, and fuel supply problems

continue to be daily concerns. All in all, the community is still happy it decided to choose district heating over electrical transmission lines.

### **Accentuating the Positive**

With all of these problems, it may be hard to imagine another Aboriginal community examining the possibility of installing a similar system, but many are. While this presentation may not have been a very good sales tool for district heating so far, I'm not finished yet.

When all is said and done, there are several positive results from the implementation of district heating in Grassy Narrows:

Currently, the district heating utility employs four full-time and two part-time employees.

No house connected to the district heating system has ever burnt down and the rate of chimney and electrical fires has dropped substantially for the community as a whole.

Many community members have been trained in areas that have other uses (such as plumbing, electrical, and administration).

Over a million dollars that would have left the community has been redirected back into the local economy. Most of this money would have gone to the oil companies and Hydro One and it would most likely not be seen again.

There have been significant environmental benefits. To start with, 48 low-efficiency wood stoves have been retired. One highly efficient biomass boiler has replaced these units. The fuel used by the wood boiler has been mostly residual wood waste. This means that methane emissions have been traded for carbon dioxide, a less potent green house gas. There are also smaller benefits such as efficiency gains in the way the wood is collected and transported. Some have also argued that the displaced electricity is a positive environmental benefit as well.

### **Lessons Learned**

Through it all, we have learned several valuable lessons about starting and running a project like this. Some of these lessons include

- Simple, robust designs are more suitable than more complex or sophisticated designs.
- Get it in writing. Several direct problems have resulted from poorly written or non-existent contracts and written agreements. Both NRCan and I would be happy to provide advice and comments on terms of reference and contracts—especially if it helps us avoid future problems.
- Securing a sustainable supply of fuel (both wood and oil) is one of the most important components in maintaining service to all customers connected to the system.
- Utility must not become dependant on outside technical help. While other parts of the project may require a substantial amount of outside help, there must be community members who are willing and capable of performing all of the necessary roles.
- Small communication errors can result in large problems. A problem in communication is a problem in understanding, the scope of which cannot be assessed until there is understanding.
- The original design specifications must be adhered to during the construction phase.
- The designer or project engineer is not infallible and must be open to corrections.
- Project leadership and chain of responsibility must be strictly maintained.
- Project should never become dependant on the participation of any one person.
- Engineering solutions must always be based on proven practice.
- Failure of any of the primary systems should be viewed as a serious problem.

While it might not seem to be much of a challenge, securing and maintaining an adequate biomass fuel source is one of the major dilemmas of many biomass district heating utilities. Appropriate quality wood is always required. The design of the biomass boiler will be influenced by the available wood supply. Once installed, the biomass boiler

must get biomass that meets its specifications. Low-grade wood is preferred, as some forestry companies may be willing to pay to have many wood products disposed of properly.

A contract may be drawn up between logging companies and district heating companies that involves the "wood wastes" being disposed of by the biomass district heating utility. This is often the most clever and successful approach to acquiring fuel as opposed to buying wood fuel from the same logging company. There may be a significant cost associated with the disposal of many wood products due to environmental regulations. Most biomass district heating systems are readily able to consume these wood wastes in a method that is in compliance with the environmental regulations. If, for instance, the logging company agrees to place all wood wastes at the roadside of the cut in loose piles, the wood chipper can load the wood directly into a truck eliminating the need for a skidder and operator.

One of the main arguments in favour of biomass district energy relates to its role in increasing the self-reliance of the communities that it is implemented in. If all of the technical abilities required to advance and complete the project come from outside the community, there will be very little socio-economic benefit. It is necessary for training and education to be integral parts of the process before, during, and following construction to increase the community's technical capability.

No communication error should ever truly be seen as small. The design standards have to be identical throughout the system to ensure that it will operate as engineered under all circumstances. With one installation, a lack of understanding resulted in several buildings, and their substations, being designed to achieve a temperature difference of only 10°C when the design standard was 40°C. The building provided heat and hot water within tolerances most of the time, this was not the problem. The main problem is due to the fact that each of these "under performing" buildings requires much more district heating water than the piping system was designed for. This results in inadequate service for some customers during colder periods.

Although less significant in impact, it also results in increased electrical consumption for the circulating pumps. These and other problems were all because of a misunderstanding that could have been rectified in a few hours.

Changes to the original design must never be executed without the expressed written consent of the engineer responsible for the project. Changes to any part of the design specification, however small, must be authorised by the project engineer. Many elements of district heating design are not intuitive and require substantial background work to ascertain. Adherence to the original design not only insures the technical integrity of the system, but it also maintains the legal responsibility as set out in the detailed design study. Even switching manufacturers for an apparently identical part can result in crucial changes in the performance of the associated system.

If problems in performance or design are discovered, it is the responsibility of the project engineer to see that solutions are found and implemented. In one instance, sensors for a domestic hot water valve were not insulated and located in accordance to the specification. This resulted in many customers being put at significant risk of scalding. The project engineer is responsible for supervising construction and ensuring that the original design is adhered to. This responsibility cannot be abdicated or transferred.

The responsibility for the project should never lie with just one person. Thousands, if not millions, of dollars will be jeopardised if that one person leaves the organisation. Responsibility for the project must be spread over several areas to ascertain that the departure of a single person does not cripple the entire project. This is especially true when people from outside the community are involved. Persons from outside the community may be more likely to leave the project prior to completion.

Engineering solutions must always be based on proven practice and sound logical analysis—intuition is simply not enough. There have been specific instances where the solutions to problems

seem to contradict logic. For example, if a building with a baseboard radiator hydronic heating system is not receiving sufficient heat, the first response might be to increase the flow of water through the radiators. Under certain design conditions, however, this will reduce the amount of heat supplied to the building. All design solutions must be supported by sound engineering practice.

Failure of any of the primary systems should be viewed as a serious problem instead of waiting for the back-up systems to fail as well. Back-up systems should be viewed as "emergency" systems. Their use should only occur under extreme circumstances and every effort must be made to restore the primary systems to operation.

## **What Now?**

Communities have options when it comes to energy usage. The choices that any community makes are determined by the individual situation that describes that community. Biomass district heating has been used as a way of reducing the money that leaves communities. Properly applied, community energy systems can reduce the amount of money spent on energy as well as having many other environmental and social benefits.

I hope that this presentation has provided you all with a better understanding of the role of biomass district heating in Aboriginal communities. I hope that you are now ready to start asking some informed questions in your communities. If there is anything that I can do to help you answer some of these questions (or to ask better ones), please let me know and I will be glad to help.

# Natural Resources Canada's Sustainable Communities Initiative (SCI) Wahnapiatae First Nation (WFN)

Peter Recollet  
Lands and Resource Technician  
Wahnapiatae First Nation

## Background

- Signatory to the Robinson-Huron Treaty 1850
- Anishinabek Nation
- Reserve Base – 2 miles by 2 miles
- Membership 300
- INAC accepted specific claim for negotiation (Boundary Clarification)
- Diversified resource economic base (forestry – mining – tourism)

## Objectives

- Promote Environmental Protection
- Protect Native Sites
- Maximize opportunities for First Nation members in Resource Development, Environmental Review and Mitigation
- Develop a digital Traditional Knowledge Framework
- Native Values Digitized Map
- Wahnapiatae Watershed (Traditional Territory – 1500 square miles)

## Needs

WFN wishes

- to increase its ability to plan its future
- to make informed decisions on land use issues (forestry, mining, water extraction)
- to obtain best information available

## Issues

- Natural Resources
- Environment
- Social and Cultural data
- Economy
- Public Health
- Education
- Few Elders and Youth
- Lack of Infrastructure – roads, telecommunications, etc...

## WFN Commitments

- Identify important planning objectives
- Identify important decisions to be made by the whole community
- Pilot Project with SCI
- Community and leadership involvement for on-going guidance and evaluation
- Co-Management of Traditional Territory (Wahnapiatae Watershed)

## SCI Partnership

- Wahnapiatae First Nation
- SCI Project Office
- NRCan Minerals and Metals Sector
- Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
- City of Greater Sudbury
- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
- Forest Industry
- Minerals Industry



### Traditional Knowledge

- Produce a written record of knowledge from Elders and Community
- Provide a benchmark to plan future land use
- Create a tool used to protect environment
- Illustrate the importance of land to the community
- Educate the general public on Native Values
- Promote sharing of information for future generations
- Assist in determining opportunities in environmental, land and resource management
- Aid to all levels of Government in land use planning
- Confirm community's affinity, occupation, and use of watershed

### Digitized Data

- National Topographic Data Base (DXF and SHP format)
- Satellite Data
- Geographic Information System (Hardware and Software – Arcview 3.2)
- Forest Management Plan – digitized information
- Mining Claims
- Lakes, Rivers, Contours, etc..

### What is GIS?

- *Geographic* – displays information called “features” which are attached to a geographic location on earth.
- *Information* – uses information called “data” that is attached to a geographic location, including attributes of location.
- *System* – technology that integrates a variety of components such as hardware, software and procedures.

### Components of GIS

- Hardware
- Software
- Methods
- People
- Data

*An Operational GIS is achieved when all components are balanced.*

### Benefits for WFN

- Ability to evaluate information for a variety of planning opportunities (visual, flexible, etc...)
- Improved economic development potential with access to information
- More efficient asset and resource inventory management
- Improved access to information for analysis
- Uniformity of information for communication within the community and outside organizations
- Potential job creation with more effective information management systems
- Ability to track changes in political boundaries, populations, and other areas
- Increased self-sufficiency in terms of resource and information management
- Increased control over Traditional Territory through data management
- Community empowerment through increased technological capabilities
- Investment in people and training benefit in many ways
- Overall – increased effectiveness of existing resources and management practices

Benefits are long term and mature over time

$$\text{Effectiveness} = \frac{\text{Better Planning}}{\text{Enhanced Decision Making}}$$

Before a resource development project can commence within WFN's Traditional Territory, it will be necessary for the developer and the WFN representatives/leadership to enter into a project participation agreement that encompasses the following elements and basic principles:

- Assurance that the development will not pose a threat of irreparable environmental damage;
- Assurance that the development will not jeopardize, prejudice, or otherwise compromise WFN's Aboriginal, Treaty, or Constitutional rights and jurisdiction;
- Assurance that the project will provide more positive than negative social impacts on the WFN community and its people;

- Provision for the widest possible opportunity in education and direct employment and related training for the WFN community and its peoples, in connection with and respect to all phases of the the project;
- Provision for substantial equity participation by the WFN and its people in the total project;
- Provision for the widest possible development of WFN community business opportunities over which the resource developer and/or its affiliates may have control or influence;
- Provision for the resource developer to assist the WFN community to accomplish the objectives stated above by providing up to and including financial and managerial assistance and advice where deemed necessary.

**If resource developers and the WFN can reach agreements, embracing the points noted above, then we believe that the WFN community, the developers, and others connected to the resource project will enjoy equitable benefits from each resource development undertaken, and there will be business harmony within the WFN Traditional Territory.**

Signed by Chief and Council, April 28, 1999

# Natural Resources Canada's Sustainable Communities Initiative (SCI)

J.C. Henein  
Sustainable Development Coordinator  
Natural Resources Canada

## Objective

Build the capacity of Canada's Aboriginal, rural, coastal, and northern communities who wish to use computer-based geospatial information and the Internet to improve their ability to **plan and make decisions** towards a sustainable future.

## Principles of Operation

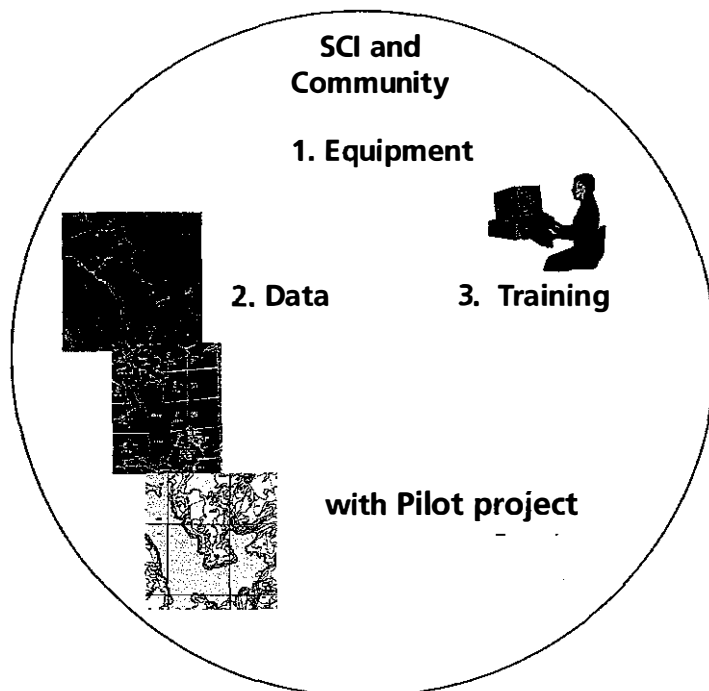
- Control by the communities
- Mentoring (support)
- Partnerships

## Community Profile

Strong Community Leadership support with vision and commitment

- Prepared to provide and fund day-to-day Project Manager
- Facing important planning or decision-making issues
- Willing to adopt Web/GIS: Trainee deployment plan
- Willing to consider the establishment of an Internet Community Access Program (CAP) site
- Representative of a significant group of communities
- Willing to share experience with other communities

## Specific elements of the SCI program



= **Land Management Unit**

(or equivalent)

↓  
The new capacity:

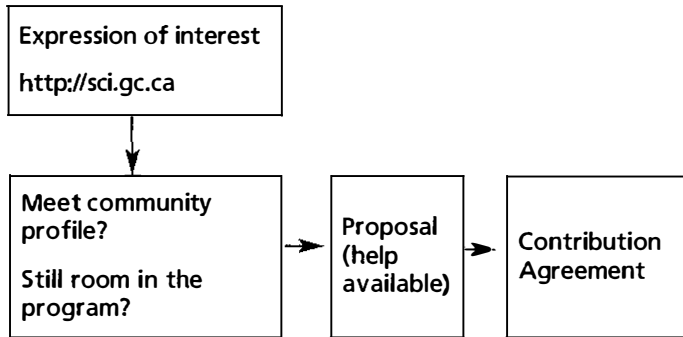
- Supports Vision
- Creates opportunities

## Rough number of communities

100 across Canada by 2005

On the average:  
8-10 communities per province or territory

## SCI – Access to the program



## Current Status: SCI Communities

(Active and planned as of Dec 2000; additions occur monthly)

### YUKON

Na-Cho Nyak Dun  
Central Yukon SCI

### NWT

Liidlii Kue  
Deh Cho Tribal C.  
Norman Wells

### NUNAVUT

Kugluktuk

### BC

Gitksan Nation  
Bowen Is.  
Quadra Is.  
Shuswap Tribal C.  
L'Heidli T'enneh

### ALBERTA

Okotoks  
Beaver County  
Blood Tribe  
Hinton

### SASKATCHEWAN

Montreal Lake  
Humboldt  
Swift Current

### MANITOBA

Hanover  
South Interlake

### QUEBEC

Manwan-Wemotaci  
La Baie  
Oujé-Bougoumou

### NEW BRUNSWICK

Eel Ground

### NOVA SCOTIA

Wagmatcook  
Sydney

### P.E.I.

Charlottetown and North Shore

### NEWFOUNDLAND

Clareville

## Example of Application

### Simplified Land Use Planning Process

Identify sensitive harvesting and cultural areas



Identify sensitive wildlife areas



Identify high timber potential areas



Identify high mineral potential areas



Identify high oil and gas potential



\* Overlay maps, make decisions and prepare land use plan



(Adapted from Exploratory Study by Liidlíi Kue FN)

### Social, Economic, and Demographic Factors

Identify job creation needs and skill levels



Identify job creation potential in natural resources sectors



Balance job creation goals between sectors to meet needs and economic diversification

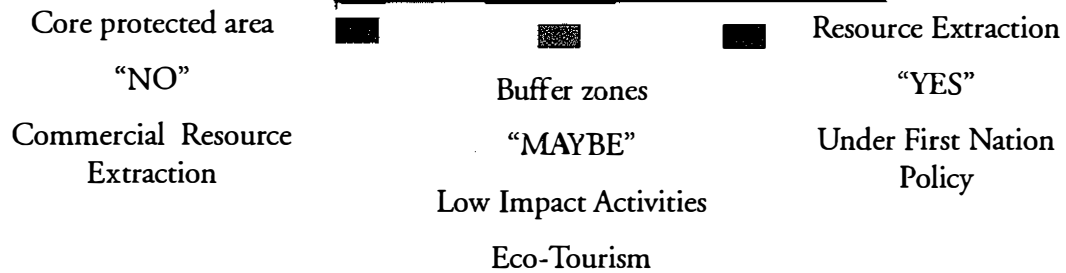
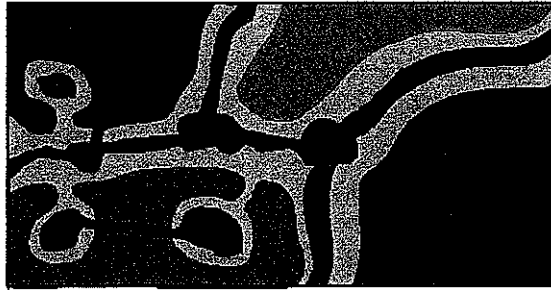


Integrate with land use zoning decisions to ensure respect for traditional uses if land is made available for job creation



(Adapted from Exploratory Study by Liidlíi Kue FN)

## Interim Land Withdrawal Concept



(Adapted from Exploratory Study by Liidlii Kue FN)

### Partnerships

Cooperation with partners is mostly taking place at the regional level, where the SCI communities are located, (and is often initiated by the community).

### Opportunities for Partnership

“SCI is open to partnerships agreeable to the community”

#### *Technical Partners*

- Equipment: Hardware, Software
- Basic training: Apprenticeship
- Methodology: Pilot project

#### *Economic Development Partners*

- Economic studies
- Community animation
- Sustainability issues

# Measuring a Community's Social and Economic Health

## Lessons Learned from the Prince Albert Model Forest

Rich Stedman and John Parkins  
Socio-Economic Research Network, Canadian Forest Service (SERN, CFS)

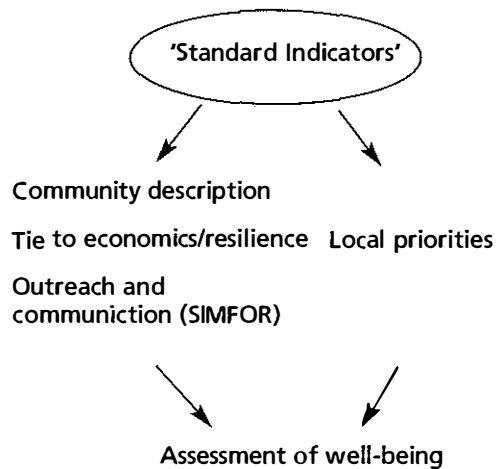
### Social indicators of sustainability

Any environmental, social, or economic value identified by society as crucial to achieving a future condition or desired state.

### Research on social indicators of sustainability

- Forests should sustain human communities
- The sustainability concept is complex:
  - 'Motherhood and apple pie'
  - Hides tradeoffs – whose interests?
  - Validity and reliability of indicators
  - Who chooses?

### CFS-SERN work on sustainability indicators



### 'Standard indicators' of community sustainability


- Examples:
  - Population, employment, poverty, education
- Advantages:
  - standard measures
  - easy to understand
  - data available: STATSCAN
  - comparable across and within communities
  - easy to communicate: SIMFOR.COM

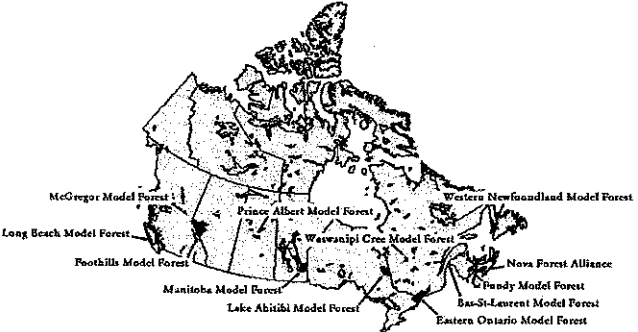
SIMFOR - Socio-economic Indicators for the Model Forest Network - Home

SIMFOR  
Socio-economic Indicators for the Model Forest Network

### Community Profile Downloads

CFS and SERN have compiled socio-economic indicator information for several census sub-divisions in each model forest, the model forest as a whole, and provincial and national averages into Adobe Portable Document File (PDF) downloads.

You'll need the Adobe Acrobat Reader to view these files (it's a free download! )



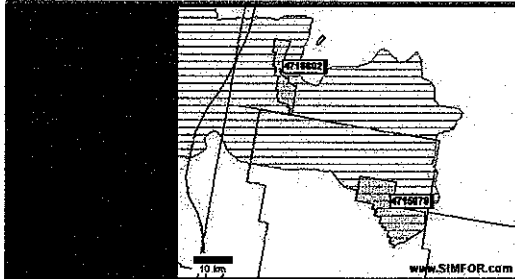
McGregor Model Forest, Prince Albert Model Forest, Western Newfoundland Model Forest, Long Beach Model Forest, Wawanipi Cree Model Forest, Nova Forest Alliance, Foothills Model Forest, Manitoba Model Forest, Paddy Model Forest, Bas-St-Laurent Model Forest, Lake Abitibi Model Forest, Eastern Ontario Model Forest

[Problems with the site?](#)

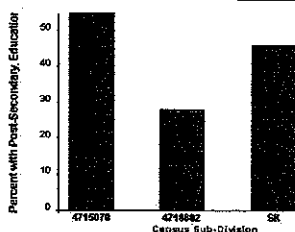
SIMFOR - Socio-economic Indicators for the Model Forest Network - Home

SIMFOR  
Socio-economic Indicators for the Model Forest Network

### Location comparison



Choose an Indicator (measure) to graph:



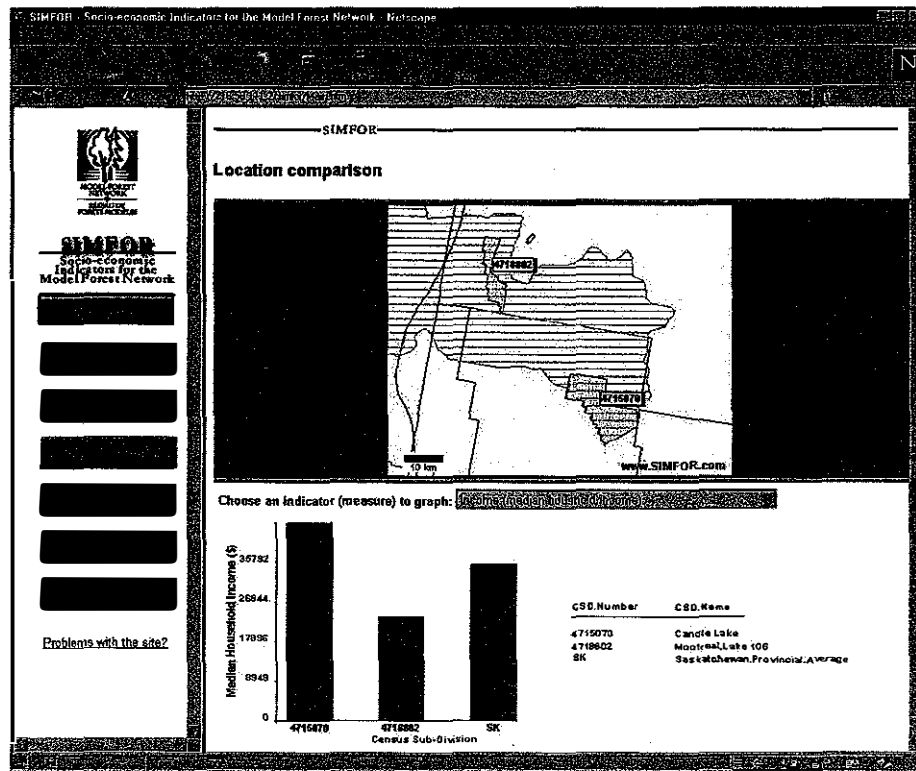
CSD Number	CSD Name
4715078	Candle Lake
4718802	Montreal, Lake 106
SK	Saskatchewan, Provincial Average

Percent with Post-Secondary Education

Census Sub-Division

[Problems with the site?](#)

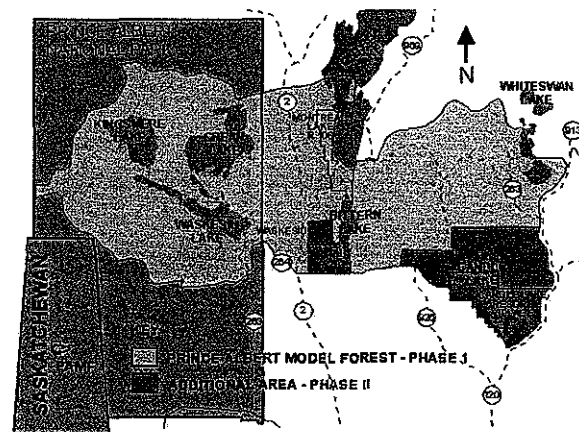




### Standard indicators: disadvantages

- Should we let numbers 'do our thinking' for us?
- Validity: numbers don't reflect community uniqueness
  - "one size" does not fit all
  - move towards typology of communities
  - traditional forest dependent
  - tourism or non-timber products
  - First Nations
- Do they relate to residents' assessments?
- Data not always available
  - small places, First Nations data often suppressed

### Study site communities



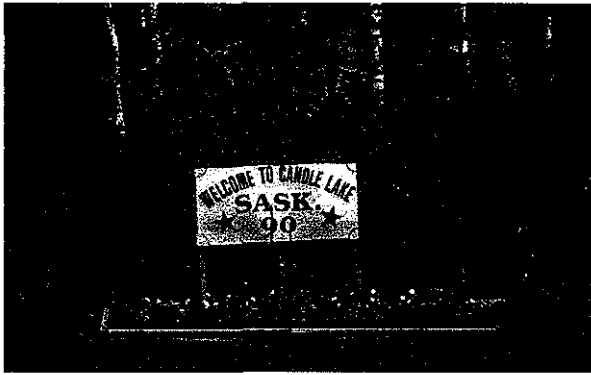
### Research in Prince Albert Model Forest

- Identify locally relevant indicators of community sustainability
- Assess their importance to the community
  - do priorities differ by type of community?
- Examine their linkage to subjective assessments of well-being

## Candle Lake

Resort community:

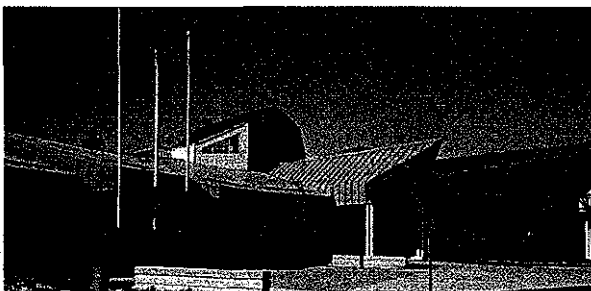
- seasonal residents and retirees
- older population
- low unemployment
- high education



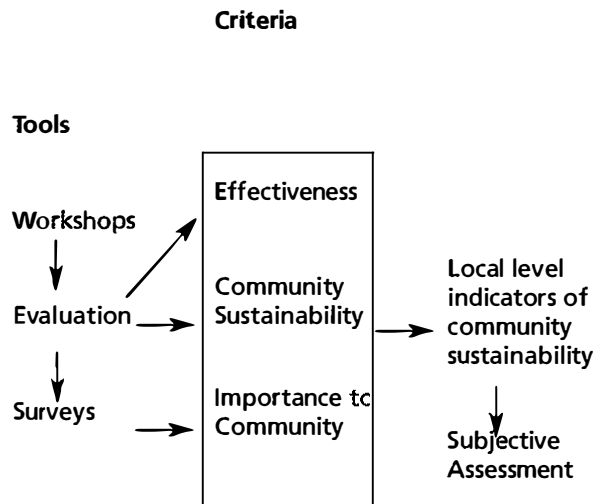
## Montreal Lake

First Nations community :

- year-round residents
- young population
- high unemployment
- low education



## Indicator Selection Process



## Effectiveness and Sustainability

Differentiating community sustainability from community development

### *Effectiveness*

- Available?
- Reliable?
- Cost effective?
- Comparable?

### *Sustainability*

- Natural resources?
- Equity?
- Integrative?
- Long-term?

## Community Surveys

### *Survey samples and response rates*

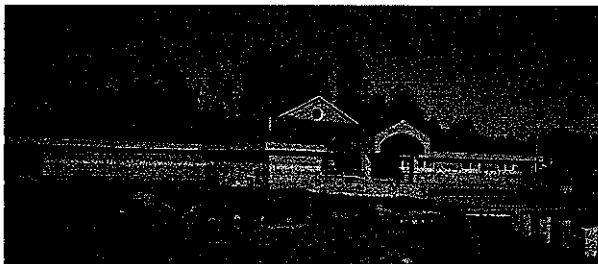
	Sample	Response Rate
<b>Candle Lake</b>		
• voters registry	36	81%
• land summary	19	79%
<b>Montreal Lake</b>		
• "snowball" sample	51	90%

## More about sampling in Montreal Lake

- Acceptance at the Band Office
  - Group meeting about the research
  - Mention Band leaders when asking for respondents
- Snowball rather than random sampling
  - Build on community networks and social relationships
- Drop-off, pick up method
  - can explain research face-to-face
- Representativeness of results?

## Making Assessments

- How important is each indicator (absolute and relative)
- Grouped indicators into similar categories
  - nature, services, economics, community harmony



## Candle Lake Priorities

- (1) Nature:  
minimize water pollution, peace and quiet
- (2) Services:  
equitable property taxes, service outlets
- (3) Community harmony:  
'family-oriented,' sense of belonging

Less Important:

Community involvement, economics

## Montreal Lake Priorities

- (1) Services:  
Housing, food, health, education
- (2) Community harmony  
Individual health, stable homes and families
- (3) Cree tradition  
Traditional knowledge, language, subsistence



## Community Satisfaction and Attachment

### Montreal Lake

- High satisfaction with social relationships
- Less satisfied with job opportunities, services, and overall community life
- High community attachment

### Candle Lake

- Low satisfaction with social relationships
- More satisfied with community life
- Low community attachment

## Conclusions

- Communities *differ*: use locally defined indicators
- Don't forget about standard indicators
- Monitor and compare
- Applicability to First Nations communities
  - as a 'type' of community?
  - missing data on standard indicators
  - reflect intangibles that produce strong attachment

# FireSmart: Fire-Proofing Your Community from Wildfire

## A Collaborative, Interdisciplinary, Multi-Agency Project

Brian Mottus

Research Technician, Canadian Forest Service, Edmonton, Alberta  
on behalf of the FireSmart Project team members  
(Rick Arthur, Hugh Boyd, Russell Dauk, Don Harrison, Kelvin Hirsch,  
Dave Noble, Brent Pedersen, Alan Westhaver, Len Wilton)

Canada has thousands of communities, recreational facilities and industrial developments scattered throughout its forests and rangelands. The intermingling of urban developments with flammable forests and grasslands has resulted in an increasing number of incidents in which people's lives are threatened or homes are destroyed by wildfires.

Reducing the risk from wildfire in wildland-urban interface areas is a complex issue involving a diverse but highly interconnected set of individuals and organizations. This includes, for example, property owners and residents, municipal and wildland fire protection personnel, other emergency services staff, resource managers, researchers, land-use planners, developers and building contractors, elected officials and other leaders. No single individual or organization has the knowledge, ability, or mandate to comprehensively address the wide spectrum of challenges and obstacles pertaining to fire in the wildland-urban interface.

Recognizing this reality, a group known as the Partners in Protection (PIP) came together. This association, based in Alberta, consists of professionals representing federal, provincial, and municipal agencies and departments responsible for resource management and research; urban, rural and forest fire protection; emergency services; and land-use planning and development.

For the last several years, collaborators in PIP have focussed their collective expertise and resources on the development of a "manual" that provides

residents in wildland-urban interface areas with knowledge, tools, and examples of how to reduce the risk from wildfire.

### Taking a close look at the book

*FireSmart: Protecting Your Community from Wildfire* is intended to empower individuals and organizations to increase public safety, decrease the potential for property losses, and reduce public and private expenditures for evacuations and fire suppression.

The material contained in *FireSmart* is based on science and experience but is written in a non-technical style aimed at a wide range of potential users including the general public.

The book has eight chapters under three themes (Assess the Situation, Resolve Existing Problems, and Avoid Future Problems) a set of currently available resources, and sample communication documents. More specifically, contents include discussion of assessment issues, gauging wildfire hazards, problem-solving, emergency measures, firefighter training, communication, public education, and land-use planning.

### Progress of the process

The need for a simple but scientifically-sound manual that would describe not only what to do about the interface fire problem but also how to solve it was originally raised by delegates at a Partners in Protection conference in 1994.

In 1996, PIP began to address this need by conducting focus sessions with key stakeholders. This resulted in a wide range of opinions as to the content and format of a potential manual and how best to meet the needs of the target audiences.

Formal development of the *FireSmart* book did not begin, however, until 1997 when essential seed money and significant in-kind support were provided by three main agencies (Alberta Environment – Land and Forest Service, Canadian Heritage – Parks Canada, and Natural Resources Canada – Canadian Forest Service) and served as a catalyst to move the project beyond the conceptualization stage.

The production of *FireSmart* was managed by a self-organizing, interdisciplinary group of 10 individuals from six organizations. Team members were voluntary participants with a wide range of backgrounds, knowledge, and experience.

Subject area specialists with expertise ranging from fire suppression and forest management to land-use planning and public education were incorporated into the team as required by hiring private contractors and consultants. External opinions on the technical content of the book were obtained through a peer review process.

Professional editorial, layout and design specialists were used to ensure the creation of a consistent, high-quality product.

In total, 20 people from 13 government, professional and private organizations and companies were directly involved in this project.

### **Managing a complex undertaking**

Although government agencies provided the initial funding and support, extensive sponsorship for the production and free-distribution of the book (5,000 copies) were obtained from the corporate sector and government agencies who were not PIP members.

Once formal development was initiated, the project team implemented a self-directed, systems-based management style. For example, a common vision and strategy was developed at the start of the project which gave each team member ownership of the

whole project and created an atmosphere of mutual responsibility for its successful completion.

The team worked collaboratively to establish the objectives for different aspects of the project, but each team member was given freedom to determine how best to achieve these general goals relative to their specific tasks. This allowed for innovation and creativity in the production process.

The team also implemented an adaptive management strategy that involved self-regulation through observation and monitoring. Rather than simply forcing strict compliance to the initial plan, this approach permitted rapid and smooth changes in the development process to address unforeseen problems and circumstances.

### **Success of strategy**

The benefits of the collaborative management approach used in this project are evident in three distinct ways.

First, a professional, high quality publication with widespread application has been produced. The book has met or exceeded the individual needs of the collaborating agencies, and demand for it has far surpassed expectations.

More than 5,000 copies were distributed across Canada between October 1999 and March 2000, and a second printing (5,000 more copies) as well as a CD version and web site have recently been completed. The Internet presence, [www.partnersinprotection.ab.ca](http://www.partnersinprotection.ab.ca), will allow for further national and international demands to be met.

Second, the enthusiasm and energy exhibited by the team has drawn in other agencies, businesses, and associations that want to be involved.

Third, the process used to develop the *FireSmart* book and the success of the product infused team members with individual and collective pride and satisfaction. This has resulted in many team members and their organizations renewing or increasing their commitment to the future activities of PIP.

## What's next?

In keeping with its self-organizing, systems-based philosophy, Partners in Protection is currently undergoing a collective reflection and visioning process.

The old and new members hope to build on the success of the *FireSmart* book, but realize that a major change may be required to reach the next level of success in reducing the risk from fire in the wildland-urban interface.

Any new projects will undoubtedly involve new team members (as PIP is proceeding to become incorporated as a national Canadian organization), but in all likelihood the same type of collaborative management procedures will be applied.

## Analyzing the effort

The production of *FireSmart: Protecting Your Community from Wildfire* has shown that it is possible to bring the ideas and resources of numerous government organizations, associations, and private corporations together to address a common, citizen-centered issue.

Moving into the next century, the complexity and interconnectedness of many societal issues will continue to increase, and this means that processes like those used to develop *FireSmart* must become the norm if solutions are to be developed in an effective and efficient manner.

For further information, contact

Partners in Protection, P.O. Box 45047, Lansdowne Postal Station, Edmonton, Alberta T6H 3S0; 780-435-7283 <http://www.partnersinprotection.ab.ca>

Collaborating agencies on the *FireSmart* Project include:

- Alberta Environment Land and Forest Service;
- Alberta Transportation and Utilities-Disaster Services;
- Canadian Institute of Planners-Alberta Association;
- Natural Resources Canada-Canadian Forest Service;
- Canadian Heritage-Parks Canada;
- Town of Canmore-Canmore Emergency Services

# The Internet

## What It Is and What It Can Do for Your Community

Ron Hamelin  
Community Access Program Manager  
Industry Canada

### First, what is the Internet?

A global inter-connection of computer networks

### What do I need to get on-line?

Computer, modem, connection, and an Internet Service Provider (ISP)

### Finding the information you want...

#### *Search Engines*

- Search Engines are like subject indexes to the Internet. They are capable of searching extensive databases of websites for the information you are requesting.

#### Different types of Search Engines include:

##### *Keyword Search Engines*

- Search Engines that allow you to build your own search query by entering key words and/or phrases.
- Some popular keyword Search Engines include
  - Altavista <http://www.altavista.ca>
  - Excite <http://www.excite.com>
  - Infoseek <http://www.infoseek.com>

##### *Subject Directories*

- Subject Directories organize web sites into general topics or broad categories.
- Some popular Subject Directories include
  - Yahoo <http://www.yahoo.com>
  - Google <http://www.google.com>

#### *Meta Search Engines*

- Search Engines that search the indexes of other Search Engines
- Some popular Meta Search Engines include
  - Metacrawler <http://www.metacrawler.com>
  - Hotbot <http://www.hotbot.lycos.com>
  - Dogpile <http://www.dogpile.com>

### Setting Up a Free Email Account

Many Internet sites allow you to set up free email accounts. Here is a short list of some of the more popular ones:

<a href="http://www.hotmail.com">www.hotmail.com</a>	<a href="http://mail.yahoo.com">http://mail.yahoo.com</a>
<a href="http://www.canada.com">www.canada.com</a>	<a href="http://www.metacrawler.com">www.metacrawler.com</a>
<a href="http://www.mailexcite.com">www.mailexcite.com</a>	plus many many more...

### What can I do on the Internet?

- “Surfing” the World Wide Web
- Sending and receiving E-mail
- There’s “virtually” no end to what you can do on-line
  - keep track of hockey scores
  - bank on-line
  - check plane schedules
  - view webcasts
  - check the weather
  - contact suppliers
  - receive newspapers online
  - do research
  - get song lyrics
  - take a course
  - access government information
  - play games
  - plan your next vacation
  - buy tickets to sporting events
  - stay in touch with family

## An Example of a Keyword Search Engine

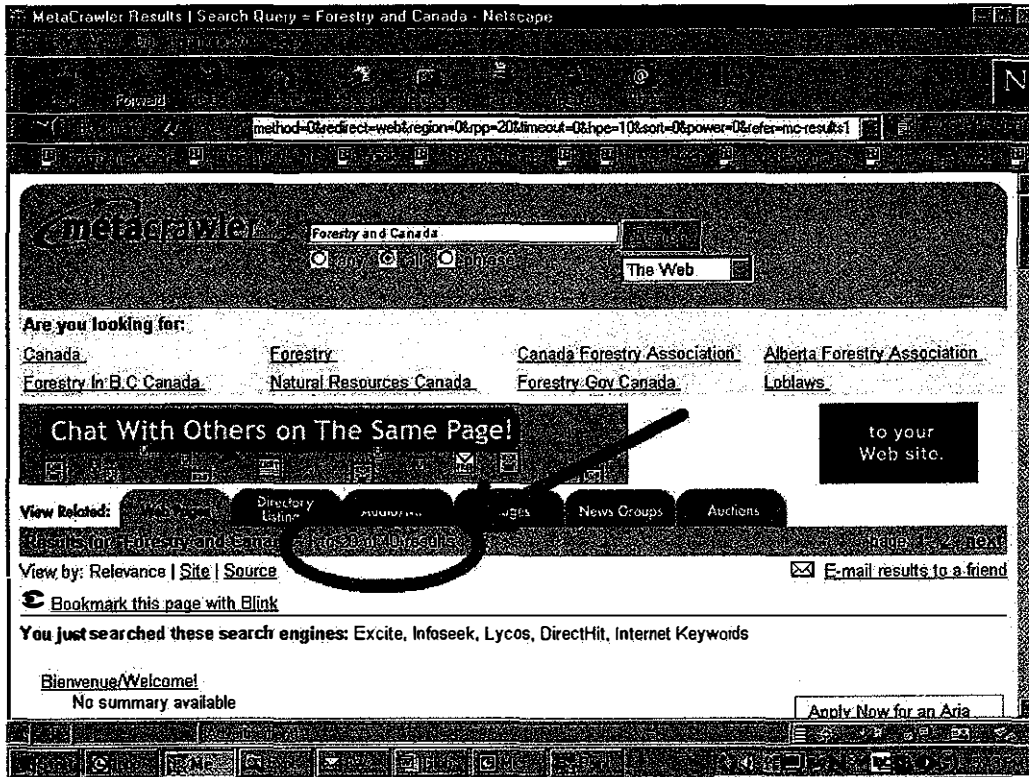
The screenshot shows the AltaVista Canada search engine interface. The search bar contains the query "forestry +canada". Below the search bar, there is a word cloud of related terms including "Float", "Annuity", "Systematic withdrawal plan", "Prospectus", "Volatility", "Board of Unsecured debt", "Hedge Market index", "Ex-dividend date", "Term insurance", "Debtenture", "Closed-end fund", "RRIF", and "No-load fund". A red arrow points from the word cloud to a "New" tab in the navigation bar. Below the navigation bar, a box indicates "4,551,858 pages found in the Canadian index." The first search result is titled "Canadian Forests - Canada, forestry, careers, jobs, forest products, value" and is described as "a comprehensive website on forestry and the forest products industry in Canada including career".

## An Example of a Subject Directory

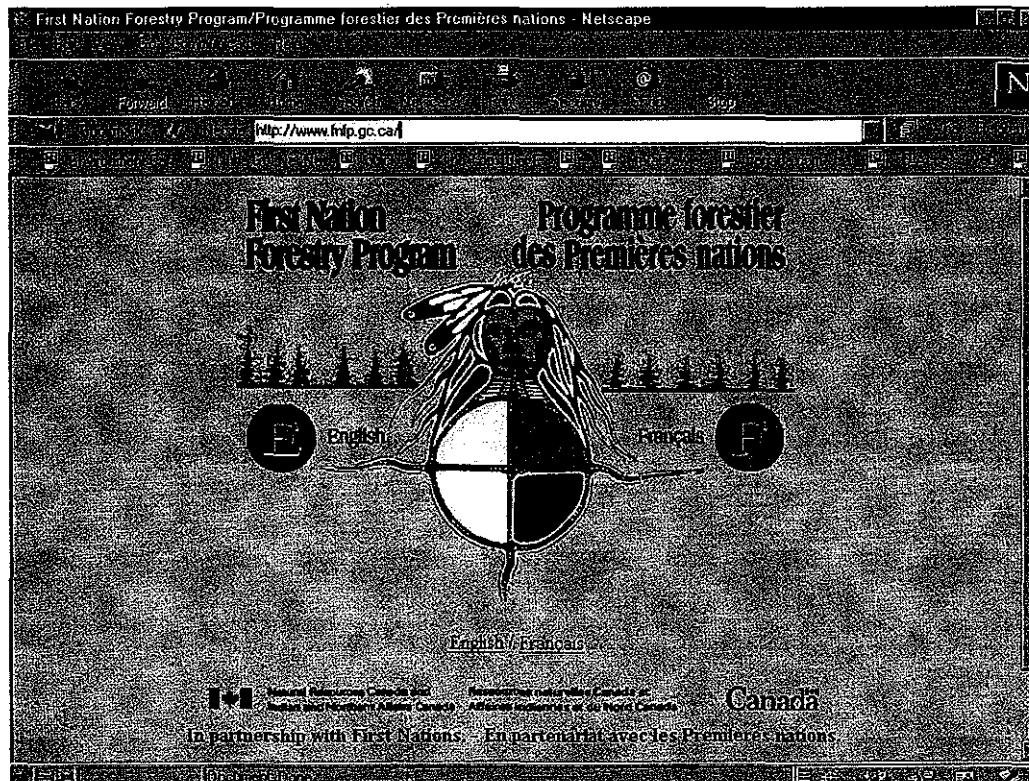
The screenshot shows the Google search engine interface. The search bar contains the query "forestry and Canada". Below the search bar, there is a note: "The 'AND' operator is unnecessary -- we include all search terms by default. [details]". The search results show "Results 1 - 10 of about 243,000" and "Search took 0.13 seconds". The first result is titled "Forestry Careers and Employment: Canadian Forests - Canada, ..." and is described as "Forestry Careers and Employment: Your Internet Gateway to Forestry and the Forest Products Industry in Canada, ...". The description includes "Canadian Forestry job opportunities" and "Category: Regional > North America > ... > Employment > Agriculture and Forestry". The URL is "www.canadian-forests.com/job.html - 12k - Cached - Similar pages".



## An Example of a Meta Search Engine



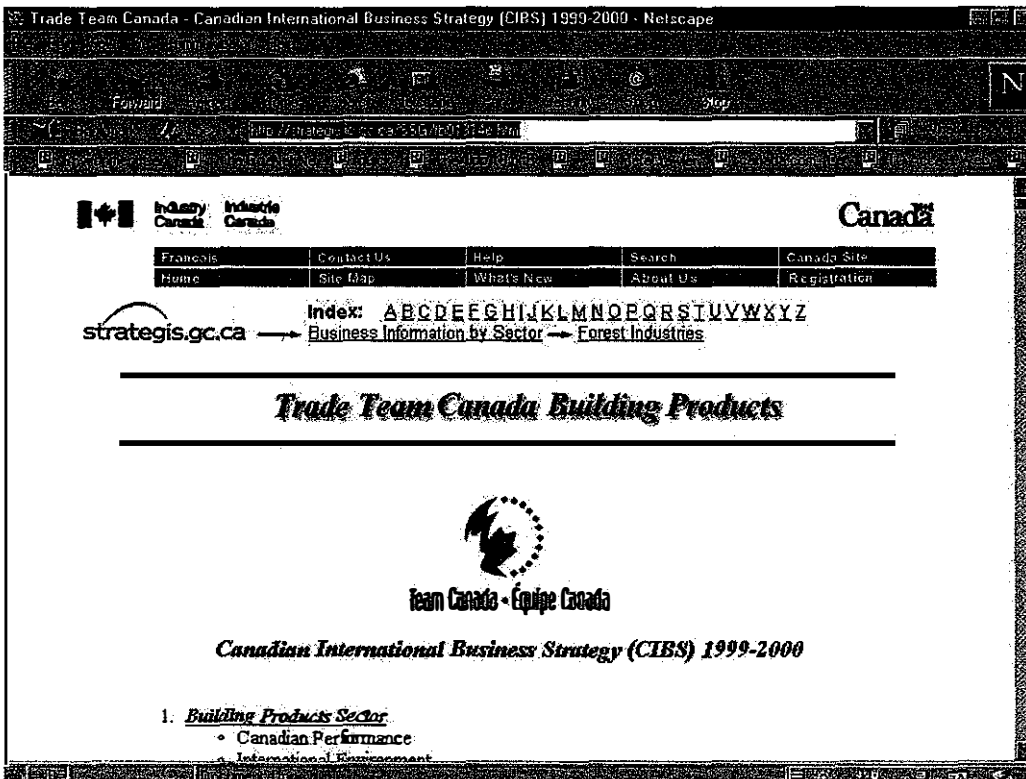
[www.fnfp.gc.ca](http://www.fnfp.gc.ca)



www.nrcan-rncan.gc.ca/cfs-scf



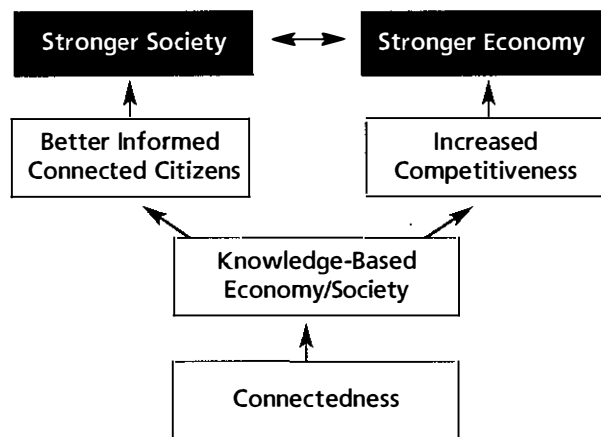
http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/SSG/fb01314e.html



## What can the Internet do?

The Internet can help rural communities by providing

- Access to distance education
- Convenience (banking, training, shopping, etc...)
- Access to distant markets
- Access to government information and services
- Access to information (media, health, new techniques, entertainment, weather, prices, etc...)
- The ability to stay in touch with your extended family and friends
- The opportunity to learn valuable IT skills



## Current Global Statistics

- World Population is around 6 billion
- Phones = 1 billion (700M wireline, 300M wireless) = 17% of world population
- Internet Users = 335 million = 5.6% of world population  
(335 million Users: North America 149M; Europe 92M; Asia 76M; Latin America 13M; Africa 3M; Middle East 2M. Source Vint Cerf)
- Dot coms = 15 million
- Internet traffic exceeded phone traffic in the USA in 1998

## Why Connect Canadians?

### Affordable Access for all Canadians

- First country in the world to connect all schools and libraries
- Approaching 250,000 computers delivered to schools
- Over 5000 Community Access Program (CAP) Sites
- 2,500 voluntary organizations connected

### Connectedness in Saskatchewan

CAP: 446 CAP Sites in 326 communities  
72 First Nations  
6 Metis  
12 Francophone

CFS: 9,900 computers delivered

VolNet: 333 participating organizations

### Tremendous Success

- 100% of schools connected
- 100% of libraries connected
- 250,000 computers to schools
- Up to 10,000 volunteer organizations
- CA\*net3: World's fastest Internet backbone
- Individuals (51%) and SMEs (65%) use the Internet
- Up to 10,000 CAP sites
- 12 Smart Communities



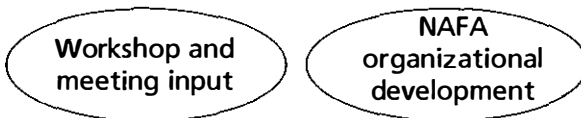
# The National Aboriginal Forestry Association Professional Development Program Moving into the 21st Century – Action Plan 2000-2005

Harry Bombay  
Executive Director  
National Aboriginal Forestry Association (NAFA)

## A Two-Pronged Strategy

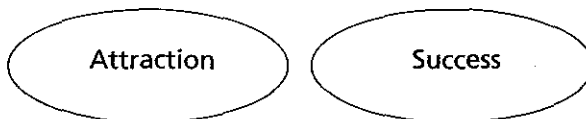
- Direction 1: Attract students to forestry
- <sup>a</sup> Direction 2: Improve success of forestry students and graduates

### Direction One: Attracting Students to Forestry



Action Plan:

Increase the number of Aboriginal RPFs



- Awareness
- Role Models
- Education and Curriculum
- Youth Forestry Experience
- Summer Employment
- Incentives
- Community Support
- Recruitment

- Encouraging success
- Student support
- Forestry school initiatives
- Funding
- Registered Professional Foresters
- Mentors
- Networks
- Community Support
- Professional Development

## Awareness

- Forestry as a source of wealth creation (social, cultural, and economic opportunities)
- Sustainable forest management and Aboriginal forest values: the compatibility

## Role Models

It can be done  
Forestry can support community goals

## Role Model program

- Expose youth to Aboriginal foresters
- Reconnect with the land, "Aboriginal Foresters for a Sustainable Future"

## Activities

- Posters and career fairs
- Participation of Aboriginal foresters in career fairs

## Education and Curriculum

- Highlight importance and relevance of forest management to Aboriginal communities

## Approach

- Rationalize curricula changes to educational institutions
- Develop curricula that focuses on Aboriginal issues, rights, treaties, values, traditional land use
- Broaden the scope of forestry curriculum to include Aboriginal forestry issues

## Activities

- Joint efforts with forestry schools, working groups
- Joint efforts with professional associations
- Communicate

### **Youth Forest Experiences/Summer Jobs**

Exposure to forestry

Changing the stereotype

#### **Approach**

- Encourage co-op programs, job shadowing, youth delegates to conferences
- Demonstrate value to community
- Junior ranger programs, science camps
- Land use traditions

#### **Activities**

- Program development through partnerships
- Program models, e.g., Bowater/NAFA 2000

### **Direction Two: Improving Success**

- Encouraging Success through Models, Access, and Programs
- Student Support Systems

#### **Encouraging Success through Models, Access, and Programs**

- Models of successful student support
- Access through bridging programs, co-op programs, special recruitment

#### **Approach**

- Joint work with forestry schools, educational authorities, community leadership
- Initiate working groups, link to awareness

#### **Activities**

- Workshops with forestry educators
- Study of best practices
- Initiate and implement

### **Student Support System**

- School support
- Educational funding
- Social
- Mentoring, tutoring
- Community support

#### **Approach**

- Identification of school intermediaries
- List of Aboriginal students in forestry, related fields
- Plan of educational support

#### **Activities**

- Joint work with forestry schools
- Workshops
- Identify programs for \$\$ support
- Link to professional associations
- Provide networking opportunities
- Professional development beyond university

### **The Goal**

By 2010.....

500 Aboriginal Registered Professional Foresters in Canada

# Conference Wrap-Up

Steve Price  
Natural Resources Canada  
Canadian Forest Service

Once again it's a pleasure to provide you with wrap-up comments on another successful conference. Our theme this year was of course "Capacity building, partnerships, business development and opportunities for youth." Before I go any further I should point out that this year's conference was a partnership effort between the Prince Albert Model Forest and the First Nation Forestry Program – two initiatives intended to help resource managers develop new skills and knowledge bases to better ensure the sustainable development of our natural resources.

At the start of the conference I provided you with an overview of the FNFP. This was followed by *Dan Welsh* providing an overview of the Model Forest Program, including the history, the goals and the unique nature of the Model Forest partnership.

*George Lafond* then talked to you about Aboriginal youth. In his presentation he talked about values and partnerships. Using his home as an example, he explained the evolution from "bush" to agriculture – from absolute "no" to "maybe yes". He talked about economic and spiritual considerations and about stealing from the future. He talked about inherent rights and the importance of identity and the need to remember where you come from – and of balance. And he reminded you that some decisions can take you further away from your traditions.

We then heard from *Jim Webb* on the subject of issues and challenges for Canada's Aboriginal communities. Jim talked about respect, equity, sustainable communities and the redistribution of resources to include Aboriginals.

*Jack Smyth* explained the importance of forestry to Canada and the need to train and educate more First Nation resource managers.

*Art Jacko* then looked at things from the perspective of the forest worker, explaining what is required but cautioning young entrepreneurs that they could face a dilemma involving values and traditions. *Steve Ginnish* followed with a presentation on life as a forest technician in which he utilized actual experiences from Atlantic Canada involving illegal harvesting and environmental damage assessment. *Peggy Smith* explained the role of the professional forester highlighting a cadre of First Nation foresters in Canada.

*Nelson Leon* from Shuswap FN then looked at the business management side of forestry. Nelson focused on networking, partnerships, meeting contract obligations, cash flow, going political when necessary, and closed by stating most emphatically that he enjoys what he does!

*Lennard Joe* from Grizzly-man Resources, Merrit, B.C., looked at things from the perspective of youth. He talked about identifying goals and getting there. He talked about getting people involved and about mentorship. He talked about globalization and the maintenance of tradition while at the same time understanding western science. And he talked about the need to understand the "Nintendo Generation".

Day two turned the spotlight on the Model Forest Program starting with *Gene Kimbley* talking about the Enhanced Aboriginal Initiative. Gene emphasized values, trust and the need to share the resource.

*Duane Hebert* provided you with an overview of the Prince Albert Model Forest and the role of Aboriginals in that Model Forest.

*Rene Baker* and *Daphne Sinclair* demonstrated an approach used at the Manitoba Model Forest to document traditional knowledge – bringing elders and youth together. *Wally Samuel* from Long Beach Model Forest talked about a unique approach to ensuring preservation of the First Nation cultural heritage. *George Kemp*, *Ernie Daniels* and *Bob Yatkowski* provided you with an overview of the new partnership between Tembec (Pine Falls) and fourteen First Nations in Manitoba.

We then heard from *Jack Lavallee* – a man with passion! Jack described the success story involving the Marcel Colomb Band and Black Sturgeon Logging. Of particular note were the unexpected benefits to the community including the Christmas Gift Fund, youth programs and Coats for Kids.

We then heard about another success story from right here in Saskatchewan. *Trevor Ives* talked about the Wapawekka Sawmill. Trevor focused on a number of things including the team environment, commitment, partnership, evolving opportunities, and the importance of mutual respect.

The morning wrapped up with *Brad Henry* addressing the subject of getting youth involved. Then at lunch yesterday we all had the opportunity to witness a momentous occasion for the Prince Albert Model Forest – the signing of their ground breaking Integrated Resource Management Plan.

In the afternoon we split into two workshops. In Workshop “A”, the presentations focused on education, training and employment in forestry. *Ken Scullion* focused on the training received by a forest worker. *Steve Hoyt* looked at forest technician training and *Gordon Prest* looked at the professional forester. *Bob Sutton* talked about “New Math and the 3 R’s revisited.” He focused on the new opportunities for Aboriginals in Saskatchewan and offered a few words of advice for young people pursuing education and employment in forestry - passion, patience, persistence and enthusiasm. *Joe*

*Anawati* provided an overview of NRCan S&T Internship Program and *Gerry Lapointe* brought you a perspective from the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association. *Jason Haviland* from HRDC then looked at the various phases of HRDC involvement with aboriginals in training and development programs.

Upstairs in Workshop “B”, *Howard Townsend*, with a lot of support from his colleagues, talked about the Woodland Cree experience in implementing forest management plans. *Steve Rigdon* talked about forest land management on reservations in the United States emphasizing the need for balance between economics and spirituality. *Peggy Smith* talked about tools for the forest manager and the afternoon closed with *Vicki Grant* focusing on services available to communities.

In Workshop “C”, the focus was economic development opportunities. *Gerry Ivanochko* amazed us all with a long list of non-timber forest products from our northern forests, stating that he was surprised at what people would buy. *Dave Buck* looked at the Northern Diversification Centre at Keewatin Community College. Dave gave you thirteen points to success including “don’t be afraid to fail”. Next we heard from *Herb Arcand* who provided an overview of Alexander Forest Services. *Hans Mattieu* talked about the N’Swakamok Forestry Corporation explaining the history, development, accomplishments and the challenges ahead. *Theron Johnson* – a man from Warm Springs, OR, USA in search of warmth – told us about the Intertribal Timber Council suggesting that this US-based organization could serve as a model for First Nations in Canada. *Mark Brooks* finished off the session with an overview of INAC programs.

In Workshop “D”, *Carl Chaboyer* talked about the use of forest biomass in aboriginal communities, explaining that as electricity rates rise bioenergy will become an attractive alternative in northern communities. *Jean Claude Henein* provided a presentation on measuring a community’s social well-being and health. *Brain Mottus* from the

Canadian Forest Service talked about "fireproofing" your community by reducing risk. *Ron Hamelin* then explained the Internet and identified what it can do for you.

During the final afternoon, we heard from *Harry Bombay* with an update on NAFA activities and priorities with a focus on professional development programs. *Vice-Chief Greg Ahenakew* then talked about the changing relationship between First Nations and provincial governments and the development of a partnership approach to resource management. *Chief Elmer Derrick* took us back twenty years to the monumental achievements of the past, while at the same time talking about the bright future as represented in our youth. He talked about the responsibility to pass down traditional knowledge and pointed out that partnership is bringing out the best in everybody.

*Theron Johnson* rounded out the afternoon sharing his experiences in working with the youth of his tribe to get them involved in natural resource management. The school forestry programs that Theron described are something to consider so that we too can have someone to take our place!

It has been another great conference. We've had an opportunity to share experiences and to learn from one another. We owe a vote of thanks to many: the hotel staff, our exhibitors, our lunch and coffee break sponsors, our fine moderators who kept us on schedule, and our speakers. Special thanks to the FNFP National Management Committee, the FNFP Management Committees from across Canada, the Prince Albert Model Forest and the Saskatoon Tribal Council. And in particular to you, the audience, for making all of the efforts worthwhile.



## Conference Speakers

**Ahenakew, Greg**

Vice Chief

Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations

**Anawati, Joe**

Marketing Officer, Canadian Forest Service, Ottawa

**Arcand, Herb**

Councilor, Alexander First Nation, Morinville, AB

**Barker, Rene**

Hollow Water First Nation

**Bombay, Harry**

Executive Director

National Aboriginal Forestry Association

**Buck, Dave**

NTFP Project Coordinator

Keewatin Community College

The Pas, Manitoba

**Cardinal, Joseph**

**Chaboyer, Carl**

Technical Advisor, Grassy Narrows First Nation

Natural Resources Canada

**Coon Come, Matthew**

National Chief, Assembly of First Nations

**Daniels, Ernie**

**Derrick, Elmer**

Chief, Fireweed Clan, Gitksan Nation, BC

**Eshkawkogan, Michael**

Wilwemikong Unceded First Nation

**Ginnish, Steve**

Miramichi, NB

**Grant, Vicki**

Legal Surveys, NRCan

**Hamelin, Ron**

Community Access Program Manager

Industry Canada

**Haviland, Jason**

Human Resource Development Canada

**Henein, Jean-Claude (J.C.)**

Sustainable Development Coordinator

Natural Resources Canada

**Henley, Dave**

Economic Development Programs Directorate

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

**Henry, Bradley**

Client Relations Officer, Canadian Forest Service

**Hieber, Duane**

Forestry Coordinator, Prince Albert Grant Council

**Hoyt, J. Stephen**

Director, Maritime Forest Ranger School

**Ivanochko, Gerry**

Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food

**Ives, Trevor**

General Manager

Peter Ballantyne Developments Ltd. Partnership

**Jacko, Art**

M'TIWA-KI Services

**Joe, Lennard**

Forestry Consultant,

Grizzly Man Resource Management

**Johnson, Theron**  
Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs  
Reservation of Oregon

**Kemp, George**  
Berens River First Nation

**Kimbley, Gene**  
President EcoDynamics Consulting Group  
International

**Lafond, George**  
Chief, Saskatoon Tribal Council

**Laliberte, Rick**  
Member of Parliament  
Churchill River (Saskatchewan) riding

**Lapointe, Gerry**  
Canadian Pulp and Paper Association

**Lavallee, Jack**  
Marcel Colomb First Nation

**Leon, Nelson**  
ThunDak Silviculture

**Matt, D. Fred**  
Chairman, Intertribal Timber Council

**Mottus, Brian**  
Research Technician, Canadian Forest Service

**Prest, Gordon**  
Coordinator of Forestry Programs for First Nations  
Students, University of British Columbia

**Price, Steve**  
Program Director, Canadian Forest Service

**Recollet, Peter**  
Lands and Resource Technician  
Wabnapitae First Nation

**Rigdon, Steve**  
Forester, Yakima Nation, Oregon

**Samuel, Wally**  
Ahousesat First Nation  
Long Beach Model Forest, Ucluelet, BC

**Scullion, Ken**  
Department of Environmental Studies  
Portage College

**Sinclair, Daphne**  
Hollow Water First Nation

**Smith, Peggy**  
Senior Advisor, National Aboriginal Forestry  
Association  
Faculty of Forestry and the Forest Environment  
Lakehead University

**Smyth, Jack**  
Chief, Forestry Development and Aboriginal Affairs  
Canadian Forest Service

**Stedman, Rich**  
Forest Sociologist, Canadian Forest Service

**Sutton, Bob**  
SIAST Woodland Campus

**Townsend, Howard**  
Gwich'in Tribal Council, NWT

**Webb, Jim**  
Little Red River Cree Nation, AB

**Welsh, Dan**  
Director, Programs Division, Canadian Forest  
Service

**Yatkowsky, Bob**  
Pine Falls Paper Co., Tembec

## Attendees

### Angus Abraham

Tribal Chiefs Ventures Inc.  
PO Box 248  
St. Paul, AB T0A 3A0  
Telephone: (780) 645-4288  
Facsimile: (780) 645-5850

### Kenny Adams

Dept. of Indian Affairs & Northern  
Development  
Economic Development Policy  
10 Wellington Street #1101  
Hull, QC K1A 0H4  
Telephone: (809) 994-6425  
Facsimile: (819) 997-7054

### Larry Ahenakew

Ahtahkakoop First Nation  
Post Secondary Department  
PO Box 190  
Shell Lake, SK S0J 2G0  
Telephone: (306) 468-2100  
Facsimile: (306) 468-2275

### Chief Barry Abenakew

Ahtahkakoop First Nation  
PO Box 190  
Shell Lake, SK S0J 2G0  
Telephone: (306) 468-2100  
Facsimile: (306) 468-2275

### John Alook

Alberta Pacific Forest Industries  
PO Box 8000  
Boyle, AB T0A 0M0  
Telephone: (780) 525-8000  
Facsimile: (780) 525-8097  
E-mail: alookjo@alpac.ca

### Bert Alook

Bigstone Cree Nation  
PO Box 960  
Desmarais, AB T0G 0T0

### Joseph Anawati

Canadian Forest Service  
580 Booth Street, 7th Floor  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0E4  
Telephone: (613) 947-8996  
Facsimile: (613) 947-9090  
E-mail: janawati@nrca.gc.ca

### Wally Andersen

The Government of Newfoundland  
Department of Government Services  
and Lands Office  
PO Box 8700  
St. John's, NF A1B 4J6  
Telephone: (709) 729-0990  
Facsimile: (709) 729-1082

### Per Andersen

Synergistics Institute (Canada)  
530, Phipps McKinnon Building  
10020 - 101A Avenue NW  
Edmonton, AB T5J 3G2  
Telephone: (780) 415-5543  
Facsimile: (780) 426-3459  
E-mail: per@synergistics-  
institute.ab.ca

### Bev Arcand

Alexander First Nation  
PO Box 3510  
Morinville, AB T8R 1S3  
Telephone: (780) 939-4757  
Facsimile: (780) 939-4795

### Councillor Herb Arcand

Alexander First Nation  
PO Box 3510  
Morinville, AB T8R 1S3  
Telephone: (780) 939-5887  
Facsimile: (780) 939-6166  
E-mail: alexfn@telusplanet.net

### Edward Arcand

Alexander First Nation  
PO Box 3510  
Morinville, AB T8R 1S3  
Telephone: (780) 939-4757  
Facsimile: (780) 4795

### Marielle Arsac

Translation Bureau  
Ottawa, ON

### Dean Assinewe

Lakehead University  
Faculty of Forestry & the Forest  
Environment  
955 Oliver Rd.  
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 5E1  
Telephone: (807) 684-0975  
Facsimile: (807) 343-8116  
E-mail: puffin@tbaytel.net

### Monte Auger

Tallcree First Nation  
PO Box 100  
Ft Vermilion, AB T0H 1N0  
Telephone: (780) 927-3727  
Facsimile: (780) 927-4375  
E-mail: monte@telusplanet.net

**Rod Badcock**

Alberta Pacific Forest Industries  
PO Box 8000  
Boyle, AB T0A 0M0  
Telephone: (780) 525-8000  
Facsimile: (780) 525-8097  
E-mail: badcocro@alpac.ca

**Tania Badger**

Kehewin Cree Nation  
PO Box 60  
Kehewin, AB T0A 1C0  
Telephone: (780) 826-3333  
Facsimile: (780) 826-2355  
E-mail: taniab@kehewin.ab.ca

**Sandra Ballantyne**

Woodland Cree Enterprises  
Incorporated  
PO Box 152  
Christopher Lake, SK S0J 0N0  
Telephone: (306) 982-3030  
Facsimile: (306) 982-4545

**Linda Ballantyne**

Grand Rapids First Nation  
PO Box 500  
Grand Rapids, MB R0C 1E0  
Telephone: (204) 639-2485  
Facsimile: (204) 639-2503

**Jason Ballantyne**

Montreal Lake Cree Nation  
General Delivery  
Montreal Lake, SK S0J 1Y0  
Telephone: (306) 663-5349  
Facsimile: (306) 663-5320

**Lori Baptiste**

Samson Cree Nation  
Bearhills Wildland Fire Teams  
PO Box 551  
Hobbema, AB T0C 1N0  
Telephone: (780) 585-0011  
Facsimile: (780) 585-3714

**Brad Baptiste**

Samson Cree Nation  
Box 551  
Hobbema, AB T0C 1N0  
Telephone: (780) 585-3393  
Facsimile: (780) 585-3053

**Armand Barbeau**

Cedar Lake Community Futures  
Development Corporation  
Box 569  
The Pas, MB R9A 1K8  
Telephone: (204) 627-5450  
Facsimile: (204) 627-5460  
E-mail: clcdc@mb.sympatico.ca

**Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations**

Agency Chief Tribal Council  
PO Box 327  
Spiritwood, SK S0J 2M0  
Telephone: (306) 883-3880  
Facsimile: (306) 883-3336  
E-mail: doug\_barks@hotmail.com

**Gordon Baron**

Taurus Enterprises  
#4 53420 Range Rd. 280  
Spruce Grove, AB T7X 3V6  
Telephone: (780) 963-7575  
Facsimile: (780) 963-1939

**George Beasley**

Moose Band Development  
Corporation  
PO Box 158  
Moose Factory, ON P0L 1W0  
Telephone: (705) 658-4335  
Facsimile: (705) 658-4802  
E-mail: mbdc@onlink.net

**Hector Beeds**

Pelican Lake First Nation  
PO Box 399  
Leoville, SK S0J 1N0  
Telephone: (306) 984-2313  
Facsimile: (306) 984-2029  
E-mail: chitek.band@sk.sympatico.ca

**Grant Bell**

Saskatchewan Indian Institute of  
Technologies  
PO Box 539  
La Ronge, SK S0J 3G0  
Telephone: (306) 425-5758  
Facsimile: (306) 425-3470  
E-mail: ifw.siiit@sk.sympatico.ca

**Alex Benitah**

Gwich'in Tribal Council  
Box 1509  
Inuvik, NT X0E 0T0  
Telephone: (867) 777-4869  
Facsimile: (867) 777-4538  
E-mail: abenitah@inuvik.net

**Gaetan Bergevin**

Human Resources Development  
Canada  
140 Promenade du Portage  
5th Floor  
Hull, QC K1A 0J9  
Telephone: (819) 953-9375  
Facsimile: (819) 953-7599  
E-mail: gaetan\_bergevin@hrdc-  
dhrc.gc.ca

**Doug Van Bibber**

Central Yukon Sustainable  
Communities  
PO Box 280  
Mayo, YT Y0B 1M0  
Telephone: (867) 996-2415  
Facsimile: (867) 996-2829  
E-mail: dvanbibber@hotmail.com

**David Bighead**

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada  
Saskatchewan Region  
2221 Cornwall Street  
Regina, SK S4P 4M2  
Telephone: (306) 780-6155  
Facsimile: (306) 780-5973  
E-mail: bigheadd@inac.gc.ca

**Brian Bionell**

Natural Resources Canada  
580 Booth Street 7th Flr  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0E4  
Telephone: (613) 947-9021  
Facsimile: (613) 992-5320  
E-mail: bbonnell@nrcan.gc.ca

**Garvin Bird**

Ahtahkalkoop First Nation #104  
Post Secondary Department  
PO Box 190  
Shell Lake, SK S0J 2G0  
Telephone: (306) 468-2100  
Facsimile: (306) 468-2275

**Charlie Black**  
Little Black River First Nation  
General Delivery  
O'Hanly, MB R0E 1K0  
Telephone: (204) 367-4411  
Facsimile: (204) 367-2000

**Armando Blair**  
Mosahiken Cree Nation  
General Delivery  
Moose Lake, MB R0B 0Y0  
Telephone: (204) 678-2113  
Facsimile: (204) 678-2502

**Sonny Blake**  
Gwich'in Tribal Council  
PO Box 1509  
Inuvik, NT X0E 0T0  
Telephone: (867) 777-4869  
Facsimile: (867) 777-4538  
E-mail: abenitah@inuvik.net

**Alex Blyan**  
Island Lake First Nation  
Big River Reserve

**Marcel Boisvert**  
Stihl Ltd.  
17946 - 106A Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5S 1V3  
Telephone: 1-800-572-4794  
Facsimile: 1-800-363-4943

**David Boivin**  
Conseil des Atikamekw de  
Wemotachi  
60 Otapi, C.P. 51  
Wemotaci, QC G0X 3R0  
Telephone: (819) 666-2455  
Facsimile: (819) 666-2512

**Harry Bombay**  
National Aboriginal Forestry  
Association  
875 Bank Street  
Ottawa, ON K1S 3W4  
Telephone: (613) 233-5563  
Facsimile: (613) 233-4329  
E-mail: nafa@web.ca

**Ryan Bone**  
Keeseekoowenin First Nation  
PO Box 253  
Elphinstone, MB R0J 0N0  
Telephone: (204) 625-5343

**Chris Bone**  
Keeseekoowenin First Nation  
PO Box 253  
Elphinstone, MB R0J 0N0  
Telephone: (204) 625-5343

**Harry Bone**  
Keeseekoowenin First Nation  
PO Box 253  
Elphinstone, MB R0J 0N0  
Telephone: (204) 625-5343

**Brian Bone**  
Keeseekoowenin First Nation  
PO Box 253  
Elphinstone, MB R0J 0N0  
Telephone: (204) 625-5343

**RoseMary Bonnetrouge**  
Incorporated Hamlet of Fort  
Providence  
General Delivery  
Ft Providence, NT X0E 0L0  
Telephone: (867) 699-3441  
Facsimile: (867) 699-3210  
E-mail: albertl@ssimicro.com

**Ronald Bonnetrouge**  
Evergreen Forestry Management Ltd.  
PO Box 3056  
Hay River, NT X0E 1G4  
Telephone: (867) 874-6544  
Facsimile: (867) 874-4628  
E-mail: evergrn@ssimicro.com

**Dan Boudreau**  
Macrolink Administration Ltd.  
Box 101, Station A  
Prince George, BC V2L 4R9  
Telephone: (250) 614-4414  
Facsimile: (250) 614-4415  
E-mail: danb@macrolink.bc.ca

**Howard Bouvier**  
Canoe Lake Co-Management  
General Delivery  
Cole Bay, SK S0M 0M0  
Telephone: (306) 829-4501  
Facsimile: (306) 829-4312

**Gerald Brahniuk**  
Natural Resources Canada  
Canadian Forest Service  
250-1288 Central Avenue  
Prince Albert, SK S6V 4V8  
Telephone: (306) 953-8549  
Facsimile: (306) 953-8649

**Michelle Brass**  
Ministry of Justice (Legal Services -  
Specific Claims)  
10 Wellington, 10th Floor  
Hull, QC K1A 0H8  
Telephone: (819) 994-1215  
Facsimile: (819) 953-7693  
E-mail: kdunham@lakesweb.com

**Marc Brooks**  
Indian & Northern Affairs Canada  
10 Wellington Street Room 1150  
Hull, QC K1A 0H4  
Telephone: (819) 997-8383  
Facsimile: (819) 994-0445  
E-mail: brooksm@inac.gc.ca

**Frank Brooks**  
Saskatchewan Dept. of Labour  
Occupational Health & Safety  
122 - 3rd Avenue North  
Saskatoon, SK S7K 2H6  
Telephone: (306) 933-5050  
Facsimile: (306) 933-7339

**Doug Brubacher**  
National Aboriginal Forestry  
Association  
875 Bank Street  
Ottawa, ON K1S 3W4  
Telephone: (613) 233-5563  
Facsimile: (613) 233-4329

**Dave Buck**  
Keewatin Community College  
PO Box 3000  
The Pas, MB R9A 1M7  
Telephone: (204) 627-8529  
Facsimile: (204) 627-8669  
E-mail: dbuck@Keewatincc.mb.ca

**Chief Phillip Buck**  
Mosakahiken Cree Nation  
General Delivery  
Moose Lake, MB R0B 0Y0  
Telephone: (204) 678-2113  
Facsimile: (204) 678-2502

**Cliff Buettner**  
Prince Albert Grand Council  
PO Box 2350  
Prince Albert, SK S6V 6Z1  
Telephone: (306) 953-7242  
Facsimile: (306) 953-710  
E-mail: cbuettner@pagc.sk.ca

**Dan Bulloch**  
Manitoba Foresetry Branch  
PO Box 700  
200 Saulteaux Crescent  
Winnipeg, MB R3J 3V3  
Telephone: 2049455618  
Facsimile: 2049482671

**Keith Burak**  
Keewatin Tribal Council  
102 - 83 Churchill Drive  
Thompson, MB R8N 0L6  
Telephone: (204) 677-2341  
Facsimile: (204) 677-3963  
E-mail: burak@mb.sympatico.ca

**Andrew Burbidge**  
Northlands College  
PO Box 400  
Creighton, SK S0P 0A0  
Telephone: (306) 688-8841  
Facsimile: (306) 688-7710

**Tommy Burnstick**  
Alexander First Nation  
PO Box 3510  
Morinville, AB T8R 1S3  
Telephone: (780) 939-4757  
Facsimile: (780) 939-4795

**Joe Burnstick**  
Alexander Forest Services  
PO Box 10  
Fort Assiniboine, AB T0G 1A0  
Telephone: (780) 584-3774  
Facsimile: (780) 584-3885  
E-mail: afsfort@telusplanet.net

**William Caisse**  
Saskatchewan Environment &  
Resource Management  
PO Box 154  
Ile a la Crosse, SK S0M 1C0  
Telephone: (306) 833-3220  
Facsimile: (306) 833-3228

**Oliver Cameron**  
Federation of Saskatchewan Indian  
Nations  
Asimakaniseekan Askiy Reserve  
Suite 200, 103 A Packham Avenue  
Saskatoon, SK S7N 4K4  
Telephone: (306) 956-6100  
Facsimile: (306) 244-7273

**Willis Campbell**  
Tron Power Inc.  
General Delivery  
Beauval, SK S0M 0G0  
Telephone: (306) 288-2047

**Shannon Campbell**  
Human Resources Development  
Canada  
1440 Canada Place  
Jasper Avenue NW  
Edmonton, AB T5J 4C1  
Telephone: (780) 495-6886  
Facsimile: (780) 495-4293  
E-mail: shannon.campbell@hrdc-  
drhc.gc.ca

**Elmer Campbell**  
Buffalo River Dene Nation  
General Delivery  
Dillon, SK S0M 0S0  
Telephone: (306) 828-2033  
Facsimile: (306) 282-2101

**Jerry Ron Campbell**  
Mosakahiken Swampy Cree Nation  
General Delivery  
Moose Lake, MB R0B 0Y0  
Telephone: (204) 678-2113  
Facsimile: (204) 678-2502

**Ron Canada**  
Prince Albert Grand Council  
Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation  
PO Box 2350  
Prince Albert, SK S6V 6Z1  
Telephone: (306) 632-2125  
Facsimile: (306) 632-2275

**Timothy Cant**  
FNFP - Council of Yukon First  
Nations  
11 Nisutlin Drive  
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 3S4  
Telephone: (867) 393-9246  
Facsimile: (867) 668-2475  
E-mail: tcant@cyfn.net

**Lyle G. Cardinal**  
Saddle Lake First Nation  
Human Resource Development  
Centre  
PO Box 100  
Saddle Lake, AB T0A 3T0  
Telephone: (780) 726-3829  
Facsimile: (780) 726-3083

**Joseph Cardinal**  
Woodland Cree First Nation  
General Delivery  
Cadotte Lake, AB T0H 0N0  
Telephone: (780) 629-3803  
Facsimile: (780) 629-3898

**Sandra Cardinal**  
Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries, Inc.  
PO Box 8000  
Boyle, AB T0A 0M0  
Telephone: (780) 525-8045  
Facsimile: (780) 525-8095  
E-mail: cardinsa@alpac.ca

**Elaine Carter**  
Frog Lake First Nation  
Careers Program  
General Delivery  
Frog Lake, AB T0A 1M0  
Telephone: (780) 943-2411  
Facsimile: (780) 943-2293

**Boyd Case**  
Director General  
Canadian Forest Service  
Northern Forestry Centre  
5320 122 Street  
Edmonton, AB T6H 3S5

**Chief Shirley Castel**  
Mathias Colomb Cree Nation  
General Delivery  
Pukatawagan, MB R0B 1G0  
Telephone: (204) 553-2089  
Facsimile: (204) 553-2419

**Nello Cataldo**  
Natural Resources Canada  
Canadian Forest Service  
506 W Burnside Rd  
Victoria, BC V8Z 1M5  
Telephone: (250) 363-6014  
Facsimile: (250) 363-0775  
E-mail: NCataldo@nrca.gc.ca

**Carl Chaboyer**  
Grassy Narrows First Nation  
General Delivery  
Grassy Narrows, ON P0X 1B0  
Telephone: (807) 952-1108  
Facsimile: (807) 925-2649  
E-mail: chaboyer@kenora.com

**Rodney Chalifoux**  
Driftpile First Nation  
PO Box 30  
Driftpile, AB T0G 0V0  
Telephone: (780) 355-3868  
Facsimile: (780) 355-3650

**Robert Chalifoux**  
Driftpile First Nation  
PO Box 30  
Driftpile, AB T0G 0V0  
Telephone: (780) 355-3868  
Facsimile: (780) 355-3650

**Fred Charles**  
Lac La Ronge Indian Band  
PO Box 480  
La Ronge, SK S0J 1L0  
Telephone: (306) 425-2183  
Facsimile: (306) 425-2590

**Keith Chaytor**  
Prince Albert Model Forest  
Association Inc.  
PO Box 2406  
Prince Albert, SK S6V 7G3  
Telephone: (306) 922-1956  
Facsimile: (306) 763-6456  
E-mail: k.chaytor@sk.sympatico.ca

**Paul Chief**  
Brokenhead Ojibway First Nation  
Manitoba Model Forest Inc.  
PO Box 6500  
Pine Falls, MB R0E 1M0  
Telephone: (204) 367-5232  
Facsimile: (204) 367-8897  
E-mail: bdube@mb.sympatico.ca

**Chief Jean-Guy Cimon**  
Madawaska Maliseet First Nation  
1771 Main Street  
Madawaska, NB E7C 1W9  
Telephone: (506) 739-9765  
Facsimile: (506) 735-0024  
E-mail: madmalcfs@hotmail.com

**Duane G. Clark**  
Yakama Nation/Yakama Tribal  
Council  
PO Box 151  
Toppenish, WA 98948  
Telephone: (509) 865-5121  
Facsimile: (509) 865-5745  
E-mail: dgclark@yakama.com

**Robin Clark**  
Robin B. Clark Inc.  
3431 West 21st Avenue  
Vancouver, BC V6S 1G8  
Telephone: (604) 737-1112  
Facsimile: (604) 737-4362  
E-mail: robin@rbc.bc.ca

**Jim Cochrane**  
Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries, Inc.  
PO Box 8000  
Boyle, AB T0A 0M0  
Telephone: (780) 525-8000  
Facsimile: (780) 525-8095  
E-mail: cochraji@alpac.ca

**Ken Colbert**  
Newfoundland Forest Service  
PO Box 3014, Stn. B  
Goose Bay, NF A0P 1E0  
Telephone: (709) 896-3405  
Facsimile: (709) 896-3747  
E-mail: KColbert@mail.gov.nf.ca

**Chief Andrew Colomb**  
Marcel Colomb First Nation

**John Colomb**  
Black Sturgeon Logging Company  
PO Box 1150  
Lynn Lake, MB R0B 0W0  
Telephone: (204) 356-2439  
Facsimile: (204) 356-2332

**Marcel Colomb**  
Black Sturgeon Logging Company  
PO Box 1150  
Lynn Lake, MB R0B 0W0  
Telephone: (204) 356-2439  
Facsimile: (204) 356-2332

**Joseph Colomb**  
Black Sturgeon Logging Company  
PO Box 1150  
Lynn Lake, MB R0B 0W0  
Telephone: (204) 356-2439  
Facsimile: (204) 356-2332

**Chief Bailey Colon**  
Oxford House First Nation  
General Delivery  
Oxford House, MB R0B 1C0  
Telephone: (204) 538-2244  
Facsimile: (204) 538-2220

**Curtis W. Colon**  
Canada/Manitoba Business Service  
Centre  
Box 2609, 250 - 240 Graham Ave.  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 4B3  
Telephone: (204) 984-1823  
Facsimile: (204) 983-3852  
E-mail: colon.curtis@cbsc.ic.gc.ca

**Louie Constant**  
Incorporated Hamlet of Fort  
Providence  
General Delivery  
Ft Providence, NT X0E 0L0  
Telephone: (867) 699-3441  
Facsimile: (867) 699-3210  
E-mail: albertl@ssimicro.com

**Victor Constant**  
Incorporated Hamlet of Fort  
Providence  
General Delivery  
Ft Providence, NT X0E 0L0  
Telephone: (867) 699-3441  
Facsimile: (867) 699-3210  
E-mail: albertl@ssimicro.com

**Alexandre Coo Coo**  
Conseil des Atikamekw de  
Wemotachi  
37 Rue Kenosi, C.P. 221  
Wemotaci, QC G0X 3R0  
Telephone: (819) 666-2455  
Facsimile: (819) 666-2512  
E-mail: acocoo@weniraci.com

**Chris Cook**  
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada  
1100 - 275 Portage Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB R3B 3A3  
Telephone: (204) 984-5535  
Facsimile: (204) 983-3629  
E-mail: adamsk@inac.gc.ca

**Hillary Cook**  
Kitsaki Management Limited  
Partnership  
PO Box 480  
La Ronge, SK S0J 1L0  
Telephone: (306) 425-2600  
Facsimile: (306) 425-2288  
E-mail: hillary.kdc@sk.sympatico.ca

**Chief Harry Cook**  
Lac La Ronge Indian Band  
PO Box 480  
La Ronge, SK S0J 1L0  
Telephone: (306) 425-2183  
Facsimile: (306) 425-2590

**Brian Cook**  
Cedar Lake Community Futures  
Development Corporation  
Box 569  
The Pas, MB R9A 1K8  
Telephone: (204) 678-2126  
Facsimile: (204) 627-5460

**Richard Cote**  
Service Canadien Des Forets  
580 Booth, bureau 8B1  
Ottawa, ON K1A 1G5  
Telephone: (613) 947-9094  
Facsimile: (613) 947-9038  
E-mail: rcote@nrcan.gc.ca

**Augustin Coulineur**  
General Delivery  
Canoe Narrows, SK S0M 0K0  
Telephone: (306) 829-4337

**Valerie Courtois**  
171, boul. Hebert Apt. 6  
Edmundston, NB E3V 4H2  
Telephone: (506) 737-5006  
E-mail: valerie-courlois@canada.com

**Roy Crawford**  
Alberta Pacific Forest Industries  
PO Box 8000  
Boyle, AB T0A 0M0  
Telephone: (780) 525-8000  
Facsimile: (780) 525-8097  
E-mail: crawforo@alpac.ca

**John Crocker**  
Canadian Forest Service  
580 Booth Street, 20th Floor  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0E4  
Telephone: (613) 992-3742  
Facsimile: (613) 947-5977  
E-mail: jcrock@nrcan.gc.ca

**Stephen Crocker**  
Northern Alberta Institute of  
Technology (NAIT)  
11762 - 106 Street, Suite 2000  
Edmonton, AB T5G 3H2  
Telephone: (780) 491-3986  
Facsimile: (780) 471-8993  
E-mail: scrocker@nait.ab.ca

**Leslie Crookedneck**  
Island Lake First Nation  
PO Box 460  
Loon Lake, SK S0M 1L0  
Telephone: (306) 837-2188  
Facsimile: (306) 837-2266

**Patrick Crozier**  
Indian and Northern Affairs  
PO Box 2760  
Yellowknife, NT X1A 1R6  
Telephone: 8676692624  
Facsimile: 8676692711  
E-mail: crozierp@inac.gc.ca

**Stephen C. Cuthbert**  
Deninu K'ue Development  
Corporation  
Post Office Box 1899  
Ft Resolution, NT X0E 0M0  
Telephone: (867) 394-5402  
Facsimile: (867) 394-5122  
Robyn Cyr  
CFDC of Howe Sound  
37760 - 2nd Avenue  
Box 2539  
Squamish, BC V0N 3G0  
Telephone: (604) 892-5467  
Facsimile: (604) 892-5227  
E-mail: cf-programs@mountain-  
inter.net

**Gaston Damecour**  
AGFOR INC.  
212, rue Queen Street, Suite 303  
Fredericton, NB E3B 1A8  
Telephone: (506) 462-0333  
Facsimile: (506) 462-0339  
E-mail: agforinc@agfor.nb.ca



**Ernie Daniels**  
Dauphin River First Nation  
c/o Annishinaabe Mino-Ayaawin Inc.  
401 - 286 Smith Street  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 1KY  
Telephone: (204) 957-5057  
Facsimile: (204) 957-2908

**Jason Daniels**  
Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council  
300 - 340 Assiniboine Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0Y1  
Telephone: (204) 988-5393  
Facsimile: (204) 947-5179  
E-mail: jdaniels@dotc.mb.ca

**Jacqueline Daniels**  
Dauphin River First Nation Forestry  
Program  
c/o Annishinaabe Mino-Ayaawin Inc.  
401 - 286 Smith Street  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 1KY  
Telephone: (204) 957-5057  
Facsimile: (204) 957-2908

**Richard David**  
Mohawk Council of Akwesasne  
Eastern Ontario Model Forest  
PO Box 579  
Cornwall, ON K6H 5T3  
Telephone: (613) 575-2377  
Facsimile: (613) 575-2073  
E-mail: rdavid@akwesasne

**Jeff Dawson**  
CFDC of Howe Sound  
37760 - 2nd Avenue  
Box 2539  
Squamish, BC V0N 3G0  
Telephone: (604) 892-5467  
Facsimile: (604) 892-5227  
E-mail: cf-gm@mountain-inter.net

**Joe De Franceschi**  
Natural Resources Canada  
Canadian Forest Service  
Northern Forestry Centre  
5320 122 Street  
Edmonton, AB T6H 3S5  
Telephone: 7804357270  
Facsimile: 7804357356  
E-mail: jdefranc@nrca.gc.ca

**Keith Deering**  
Dept. of Forest Resources & AgriFoods  
PO Box 159  
Cartwright, NF A0K 1V0  
Telephone: (709) 938-7362  
Facsimile: (709) 938-7399  
E-mail: kdeering@nf.aibn.com

**Mike Demyen**  
SIASST Woodland Campus  
Integrated Resource Management  
Program  
PO Box 3003  
Prince Albert, SK S6V 6G1  
Telephone: (306) 953-7011  
Facsimile: (306) 953-7099  
E-mail: demyen@siast.sk.ca

**Elmer Derrick**  
Gitksan Nation  
PO Box 229  
Hazelton, BC V0J 1Y0  
Telephone: (250) 635-5532  
Facsimile: (250) 635-2780

**Dean Desjarlais**  
Saskatchewan Northern Affairs  
PO Box 5000  
La Ronge, SK S0J 1L0  
Telephone: (306) 425-4293  
Facsimile: (306) 425-4267  
E-mail: dean.desjarlais@sna.gov.sk.ca

**Sharon Desjarlais**  
Prince Albert Model Forest  
Association Inc.  
PO Box 2406  
Prince Albert, SK S6V 7G3  
Telephone: (306) 763-2347  
Facsimile: (306) 763-6456  
E-mail: sharon.d@sk.sympatico. Ca

**Henry Desjarlais**  
Public Involvement & Aboriginal  
Affairs  
Saskatchewan Environment &  
Resource Management  
3211 Albert Street  
Regina, SK S4S 5W6  
Telephone: (306) 787-5318  
Facsimile: (306) 787-0024  
E-mail:  
henry.desjarlais.erm@govmail.gov.sk.ca

**Bill Dexter**  
British Columbia Ministry of Forests  
Aboriginal Affairs Branch  
3rd Floor, 610 Johnson Street  
Victoria, BC V8W 3E7  
Telephone: (250) 356-2016  
Facsimile: (250) 6076  
E-mail: Bill.Dexter@gems7.gov.bc.ca

**Mr Fred Didzena**  
Dene Tha' First Nation  
PO Box 120  
Chateh, AB T0H 0S0  
Telephone: (780) 321-3774  
Facsimile: (780) 321-3886  
E-mail: dene@telusplanet.net

**Gabriel Didzena**  
Dene Tha' First Nation  
PO Box 120  
Chateh, AB T0H 0S0  
Telephone: (780) 321-3774  
Facsimile: (780) 321-3886  
E-mail: dene@telusplanet.net

**Ernie Donnawell**  
The AGRI-FOOD EQUITY FUND  
Saskatchewan Agriculture & Food  
Rm. 202, 3085 Albert Street  
Regina, SK S4S 0B1  
Telephone: (306) 787-0838  
Facsimile: (306) 787-0852  
E-mail: edonnawell@agri.gov.sk.ca

**Ken Donnelly**  
Canadian Forest Service  
580 Booth Street, 20th Floor  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0E4  
Telephone: (613) 943-0592  
Facsimile: (613) 947-5977  
E-mail: kdonnell@nrca.gc.ca

**Alain Dubois**  
Natural Resources Canada  
1055, du P.E.P.S., C.P. 3800  
Sainte-Foy, QC G1V 4C7  
Telephone: (418) 648-7134  
Facsimile: (418) 648-2529  
E-mail: adubois@cfl.forestry.ca

**Hanson Dumas**

Mathias Colomb Cree Nation  
General Delivery  
Pukatawagan, MB R0B 1G0  
Telephone: (204) 553-2090  
Facsimile: (204) 553-2139

**Kira Dunham**

Dz'ilh K'az Kwa Development  
Corporation  
PO Box 1030  
Burns Lake, BC V0J 1E0  
Telephone: (250) 692-3110  
Facsimile: (250) 692-1483

**Percy Durocher**

Flying Dust First Nation  
8001 Flying Dust Reserve  
Meadow Lake, SK S9X 1T8  
Telephone: (306) 236-4437  
Facsimile: (306) 236-3373

**Joe Durocher**

Canoe Lake Development  
Corporation  
General Delivery  
Canoe Narrows, SK S0M 0K0  
Telephone: (306) 829-2135  
Facsimile: (306) 829-4555

**Richard Duval**

Macrolink Administration Ltd.  
Box 101, Station A  
Prince George, BC V2L 4R9  
Telephone: (250) 614-4414  
Facsimile: (250) 614-4415  
E-mail: rduval@macrolink.bc.ca

**Chief Clarence Easter**

Chemawawin Cree Nation  
PO Box 9  
Easterville, MB R0C 0V0  
Telephone: (204) 329-2161  
Facsimile: (204) 329-2017

**Tim Edwards**

Dauphin River - Lake Manitoba First  
Nations  
c/o 500 - 286 Smith Street  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 1K4  
Telephone: (204) 956-7413  
Facsimile: (204) 942-8840

**Les Erikson**

SIAST Woodland Campus  
PO Box 3003  
Prince Albert, SK S6V 6G1  
Telephone: (306) 953-7167  
Facsimile: (306) 953-4041  
E-mail: erikson@siast.sk.ca

**Robert Ermine**

Sturgeon Land First Nation  
Box 5, Site 12, R.R. 1  
Shellbrook, SK S0J 2E0  
Telephone: (306) 764-1872  
Facsimile: (306) 764-1877

**Chief Gerry Ermineskin**

Ermineskin Economic Development  
PO Box 219  
Hobbema, AB T0C 1N0  
Telephone: (780) 585-3779  
Facsimile: (780) 585-2006  
E-mail: econ\_dev@telusplanet.net

**Norm Fengstad**

Saskatchewan Dept. of Labour  
Occupational Health & Safety  
122 - 3rd Avenue North  
Saskatoon, SK S7K 2H6  
Telephone: (306) 933-5050  
Facsimile: (306) 933-7339

**William Ferland**

Grand Rapids First Nation  
PO Box 500  
Grand Rapids, MB R0C 1E0  
Telephone: (204) 639-2485  
Facsimile: (204) 639-2503

**Wayne Fernie**

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada  
PO Box 5500  
Prince Albert, SK S6V 7V6  
Telephone: (306) 953-8652  
Facsimile: (306) 953-8648  
E-mail: ferniew@inac.gc.ca

**Danielle Finne**

Translation Bureau  
Ottawa, ON

**Wilbert Firth**

Gwich'in Tribal Council  
PO Box 30  
Fort McPherson, NT X0E 0J0  
Telephone: (867) 952-2330  
Facsimile: (867) 952-2212  
E-mail: wfirth@internorth.com

**Paulette Flamond**

Symbols  
Site 15, Comp. 1, SS 2  
Stn. M  
Fort St. John, BC V1J 4M7  
Telephone: (250) 785-5207  
Facsimile: (250) 785-5213

**Bertram (Bill) Fontaine**

Treaty Land Entitlement Committee  
of Manitoba Inc.  
202 - 52 Donald Street  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 1L6  
Telephone: (204) 943-8532  
Facsimile: (204) 942-0248  
E-mail: billfon@hotmail.com

**Rachel Fontaine**

Mathias Colomb Cree Nation  
General Delivery  
Pukarawagan, MB R0B 1G0  
Telephone: (204) 553-2090  
Facsimile: (204) 553-2139

**Gary Football**

Dogrib Treaty 11 Council  
PO Box 24  
Rae-Edzo, NT X0E 0Y0  
Telephone: (867) 392-6381  
Facsimile: (867) 392-6389

**J. Dana Francis**

Big Cove Economic Development  
230 Big Cove Road  
Big Cover, NB E4W 2S5  
Telephone: (506) 523-4736  
Facsimile: (506) 523-8350  
E-mail: Forestry@economic-dev.com

**Ernest Gardiner**

Canoe Lake Co-Management  
General Delivery  
Cole Bay, SK S0M 0M0  
Telephone: (306) 829-4501  
Facsimile: (306) 829-4312

**Sam Gargan**  
Incorporated Hamlet of Fort  
Providence  
General Delivery  
Ft Providence, NT X0E 0L0  
Telephone: (867) 699-3441  
Facsimile: (867) 699-3210  
E-mail: albertl@ssimicro.com

**Frank Garr**  
Federation of Saskatchewan Indian  
Nations  
PO Box 205  
Beauval, SK S0M 0G0  
Telephone: (306) 396-2066  
Facsimile: (306) 477-4554

**Gina Gill**  
Selkirk First Nation  
PO Box 40  
Pelly Crossing, YT Y0B 1P0  
Telephone: (867) 537-3331  
Facsimile: (867) 537-3902  
E-mail: gillg@selkirkfn.com

**Stephen V. Ginnish**  
Eel Ground First Nation  
Community Development Centre  
40 Mic Mac Rd.  
Miramichi, NB E1V 4B1  
Telephone: (506) 627-4604  
Facsimile: (506) 627-4605  
E-mail: koonadoo@nb.net.nb.ca

**J.R. Giroux**  
Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta  
Environment  
18178 102 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5S 1S7  
Telephone: (780) 444-9366  
Facsimile: (780) 484-1465  
E-mail: jrgiroux@treaty8.org

**Jean Paul Gladu**  
National Aboriginal Forestry  
Association  
875 Bank Street  
Ottawa, ON K1S 3W4  
Telephone: (613) 233-5563  
Facsimile: (613) 233-4329  
E-mail: jpgladu@nafeforestry.org

**Adele Gordash**  
Enoch Cree Nation  
PO Box 29  
Enoch, AB T7X 3Y3  
Telephone: (780) 470-4505  
Facsimile: (780) 470-3380

**Ordean Goulet**  
Northlands College  
PO Box 400  
Creighton, SK S0P 0A0  
Telephone: (306) 688-8841  
Facsimile: (306) 688-7710

**Victoria Grant**  
Natural Resources - Legal Survey Div.  
605 - 9700 Jasper Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5J 4C3  
Telephone: (780) 495-2674  
E-mail: vgrant@nrca.gc.ca

**Rick Greet**  
Canadian Forest Service  
Great Lakes Forestry Centre  
1291 Queen St. East  
Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 5M7  
Telephone: (705) 759-5740  
Facsimile: (705) 759-5712  
E-mail: rgreet@nrca.gc.ca

**Brian Greyeyes**  
Federation of Saskatchewan Indian  
Nations (FSIN)  
8003 Flying Dust Reserve  
Meadow Lake, SK S9X 1T8  
Telephone: (306) 236-5654  
Facsimile: (306) 236-6301

**Isaac Halkett**  
Lac La Ronge Indian Band  
PO Box 480  
La Ronge, SK S0J 1L0  
Telephone: (306) 425-2183  
Facsimile: (306) 425-2590

**James Halkett**  
Lac La Ronge Indian Band  
PO Box 480  
La Ronge, SK S0J 1L0  
Telephone: (306) 425-2183  
Facsimile: (306) 425-2590

**Rob Harasymchuk**  
Aboriginal Human Resource  
Development Council of Canada  
322 Trent Court  
Saskatoon, SK S7H 4V5  
Telephone: (306) 374-6095

**Bob Hart**  
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada  
Suite 600, 1138 Melville Street  
Vancouver, BC V6E 4S3  
Telephone: (604) 666-6107  
Facsimile: (604) 666-2670  
E-mail: hartb@inac.gc.ca

**Jason Haviland**  
Human Resources Development  
Canada  
2045 Broad Street - 6th Floor  
Regina, SK S4P 2N6  
Telephone: (306) 780-7179  
Facsimile: (306) 780-7720  
E-mail: jason.haviland@hrdc-  
drhc.gc.ca

**Philip Head Sr.**  
Mosahiken Cree Nation  
General Delivery  
Moose Lake, MB R0B 0Y0  
Telephone: (204) 678-2113  
Facsimile: (204) 678-2502

**Marcel Head**  
Shoal Lake Cree Nation  
PO Box 51  
Pakwaw Lake, SK S0E 1G0  
Telephone: (306) 768-3551  
Facsimile: (306) 768-3486

**Donald Head**  
Swampy Cree Tribal Council  
PO Box 150  
The Pas, MB R9A 1K4  
Telephone: (204) 623-3423  
Facsimile: (204) 623-2882

**J.C. Henein**  
Natural Resources Canada  
601 Booth Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0E8  
Telephone: (613) 992-5158  
Facsimile: (613) 943-9278  
E-mail: henein@nrca.gc.ca

**Bradley Henry**  
Canadian Forest Service  
580 Booth Street, 7th Floor  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0E4  
Telephone: (613) 947-9045  
Facsimile: (613) 947-9090  
E-mail: bhenry@nrcan.gc.ca

**Mike Hickey**  
Hickey Construction Ltd.  
PO Box 126 Stn. B  
Happy Valley  
Goose Bay, NF A0P 1E0  
Telephone: (709) 896-3250  
Facsimile: (709) 896-9386  
E-mail: hiconltd@hvgb.net

**Duane Hiebert**  
Prince Albert Grand Council  
Box 2350  
Prince Albert, SK S6V 6Z1  
Telephone: 3069537242  
Facsimile: 3069221710  
E-mail: dhiebert@pagc.sk.ca

**Ben Hjermstad**  
Golder Associates Ltd. Forestry Dept.  
209 - 2121 Airport Drive  
Saskatoon, SK S7L 6W5  
Telephone: (306) 665-7989  
Facsimile: (306) 665-3342  
E-mail: ben-hjermstad@golder.com

**Arnold Hope**  
Liidlii Kue First Nation  
PO Box 469  
Fort Simpson, NT X0E 0N0  
Telephone: (867) 695-2253  
Facsimile: (867) 695-2005  
E-mail: exeo2.director@cancom.net

**Lesley Howes**  
First Nation Forestry Program  
Natural Resources Canada  
Canadian Forest Service  
580 Booth Street, 7th Floor  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0E4

**Steve Hoyt**  
Maritime Forest Ranger School  
1350 Regent Street  
Fredericton, NB E3C 2G6  
Telephone: (506) 458-0199  
Facsimile: (506) 458-0652  
E-mail: jsh@mfnb.ca

**Butch Iron**  
Canoe Lake Development  
Corporation  
General Delivery  
Canoe Narrows, SK S0M 0K0  
Telephone: (306) 829-2135  
Facsimile: (306) 829-4555

**Peter Iron**  
Canoe Lake Forest Products  
General Delivery  
Canoe Narrows, SK S0M 0K0  
Telephone: (306) 829-2088  
Facsimile: (306) 829-4555

**Max Iron**  
Canoe Lake Development  
Corporation  
General Delivery  
Canoe Narrows, SK S0M 0K0  
Telephone: (306) 829-2135  
Facsimile: (306) 829-4555

**August Iron**  
Canoe Lake Development  
Corporation  
General Delivery  
Canoe Narrows, SK S0M 0K0  
Telephone: (306) 829-2135  
Facsimile: (306) 829-4555

**Leon Iron**  
Canoe Lake Development Corp.  
General Delivery  
Canoe Narrows, SK S0M 0K0  
Telephone: (306) 829-2135  
Facsimile: (306) 829-4555

**Gordon Iron**  
Meadow Lake Tribal Council  
8003 Flying Dust Reserve  
Meadow Lake, SK S9X 1T8  
Telephone: (306) 236-5654  
Facsimile: (306) 236-6301  
E-mail: Gordon.Iron@mltc.net

**Judy Isenor**  
Northern Lakes College  
Career Services, Grouard Campus  
Bag 3000  
Grouard, AB T0G 1C0  
Telephone: (780) 751-3311  
Facsimile: (780) 751-3385

**Mariah Itsi**  
Dene Nation Regional Office  
PO Box 2338  
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P7  
Telephone: 8678734081  
Facsimile: 8679202254  
E-mail: denenationmi@ssimicro.com

**Gerry Ivanochko**  
Saskatchewan Agriculture & Food  
PO Box 5000  
La Ronge, SK S0J 1L0  
Telephone: (306) 425-4400  
Facsimile: (306) 425-4366  
E-mail: givanochko@agr.gov.sk.ca

**Trevor Ives**  
Peter Ballantyne Developments L.P.  
1612 Barton Drive  
Prince Albert, SK S6V 7W4  
Telephone: (306) 961-9915  
Facsimile: (306) 953-4419  
E-mail: pbdc@sk.sympatico.ca

**Phyllis Jack**  
Kejick PO  
Shoal Lake, ON P0X 1E0  
Telephone: (807) 733-2560  
E-mail: slri@voyageur.ca

**Art Jacko**  
M'TIWA-KI Services  
General Delivery  
172 Old Village Rd.  
Birch Island, ON P0P 1A0  
Telephone: (705) 285-4004  
Facsimile: (705) 285-4005  
E-mail: mtiwaki@cyberbeach.net

**Leo Jacobs**  
Alberta Pacific Forest Industries  
PO Box 8000  
Boyle, AB T0A 0M0  
Telephone: (780) 525-8000  
Facsimile: (780) 525-8097  
E-mail: pelicano@telusplanet.net

**Rick Janvier**  
Cold Lake First Nations  
PO Box 1769  
Cold Lake, AB T9M 1P4  
Telephone: (780) 594-7183  
Facsimile: (780) 594-3577  
E-mail: clfn\_hrd@telusplanet.net

**Vern Janvier**  
CP Services  
General Delivery  
Chard, AB P0P 1G0  
Telephone: (780) 714-8733  
Facsimile: (780) 791-4142  
E-mail: garthsanderson@hotmail.com

**Hal Jeske**  
Little Red River Cree Nation  
PO Box 1165  
High Level, AB T0H 1Z0  
Telephone: (780) 759-3929  
Facsimile: (780) 759-3932

**Lennard Joe**  
Grizzly-Man Resource Management  
PO Box 2128  
Merritt, BC V1K 1B8  
Telephone: (250) 315-0097  
Facsimile: (250) 315-0097  
E-mail: lennardj@mail.ocis-net

**Catherine Johnson**  
Micmacs of Gesgapegiag Band  
100 Blvd. Perron, C.P. 1280  
Maria, QC G0C 1Y0  
Telephone: (418) 759-3441  
Facsimile: (418) 759-5856  
E-mail: johnson@globetrotter.net

**Theron Johnson**  
Confederated Tribes of the Warm  
Springs Reservation of Oregon  
PO Box 1299  
Warm Springs, OR 97761  
Telephone: (541) 553-2416

**Terence Johnson**  
Kitsaki Management Ltd. Partnership  
PO Box 480  
La Ronge, SK S0J 1L0  
Telephone: (306) 425-2600  
Facsimile: (306) 425-2288  
E-mail: kitsaki@dlowest.com

**Kelly Johnston**  
Department of Indian and Northern  
Affairs Canada  
300 - 345 Main Street  
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 3B5  
Telephone: (867) 393-7913  
Facsimile: (867) 667-3136  
E-mail: johnstonK@inac.gc.ca

**Pat Johnstone**  
Mistawasis Band #103  
PO Box 250  
Leask, SK S0M 1M0  
Telephone: (306) 466-4800  
Facsimile: (306) 466-2299

**Alfred Jolly**  
Waswanipi Mishtuk Corporation  
Waswanipi Reserve (Quebec)  
17 Poplar Street  
Waswanipi, QC J0Y 3C0  
Telephone: (819) 753-2388  
Facsimile: (819) 753-2854

**Travis Jones**  
Canadian Forest Service  
Northern Forestry Centre  
5320 - 122 Street  
Edmonton, AB T6H 3S5  
Telephone: (780) 435-7362  
Facsimile: (780) 435-7359  
E-mail: tjones@nrcan.gc.ca

**Lamont Kabestra**  
Shoal Lake Band #40 Watershed  
Kejick PO  
Shoal Lake, ON P0X 1E0  
Telephone: (807) 733-2315  
Facsimile: (807) 733-3115  
E-mail: kabestra@voyageur.ca

**Jeremy Kayseas**  
General Delivery  
Scanterbury, MB R0E 1W0  
Telephone: (204) 766-2286

**George Kemp**  
Berens River First Nation  
666 St. James Street  
Unit C130  
Winnipeg, MB R3G 3J6  
Facsimile: 2049820698

**Mariella Key**  
**Gene Kimbley**  
Ecodynamics Consulting  
Telephone: (306) 953-8900

**Elder Sam Kinematayo**  
**Albert D. King**  
Manitoba Conservation  
Northwest Region  
PO Box 3550  
The Pas, MB R9A 1M4  
Telephone: (204) 627-8261  
Facsimile: (204) 623-5733  
E-mail: aking@nr.gov.mb.ca

**Dr. Cecil King**  
Saskatchewan Indian Federated  
College, Dean, Saskatoon Campus  
SIFC Saskatoon Campus  
710 Duke Street  
Saskatoon, SK S7K 0P8  
Telephone: (306) 931-1838  
Facsimile: (306) 665-0175  
E-mail: cking@sifc.edu

**Thor Knapp**  
Northern Alberta Institute of  
Technology  
Room V335, 11762 - 106 Street  
Edmonton, AB  
Telephone: (780) 471-8671  
E-mail: thork@nait.ab.ca

**Andrew Knockwood**  
Fort Folly First Nation  
PO Box 971  
Dorchester, NB E4K 3V5  
Telephone: (506) 379-3400  
Facsimile: (506) 379-3408  
E-mail: fffn@nbnnet.nb.ca

**Don Kolyshe**  
Okanagan University College  
PO Box 189  
Salmon Arm, BC V1E 4N3  
Telephone: (250) 804-8888  
Facsimile: (250) 804-8850  
E-mail: dkolyshe@okanagan.bc.ca

**Perry Kowal**  
Michael J. Watt Log School  
PO Box 356  
Dauphin, MB R6N 2V2  
Telephone: (204) 638-9879

**Terry Kreminiuk**  
Farm Credit Corporation  
1800 Hamilton Street  
PO Box 4320  
Regina, SK S4P 4L3  
Telephone: (306) 780-8671  
Facsimile: (306) 780-6704  
E-mail: terry.kreminiuk@fcc-sca.ca

**Vince Kuzdak**  
Pine Falls Paper Co. Ltd.  
PO Box 10  
Pine Falls, MB R0E 1M0  
Telephone: (204) 367-5271  
Facsimile: (204) 367-2442

**Richard LaBoucane**  
Weldwood of Canada Ltd.  
760 Switzer Drive  
Hinton, AB T2V 1V7  
Telephone: (780) 817-7710  
Facsimile: (780) 865-8165  
E-mail:  
ritchard\_laboucane@weldwood.com

**Wilfred LaFleur**  
Evergreen Forestry Management Ltd.  
PO Box 3056  
Hay River, NT X0E 1G4  
Telephone: (867) 874-6544  
Facsimile: (867) 874-4628  
E-mail: evergrn@ssimicro.com

**Tommy Lakusta**  
Golder Associates Ltd.  
209 - 2121 Airport Drive  
Saskatoon, SK S7L 6W5  
Telephone: (306) 665-7989  
Facsimile: (306) 665-3342  
E-mail: forester@golder.com

**Peter Laliberte**  
Cumberland House Cree Nation  
Box 220  
Cumberland House, SK S0E 0S0  
Telephone: (306) 888-2226  
Facsimile: (306) 888-2084

**Lawrence Lamouche**  
Woodland Cree First Nation #474  
General Delivery  
Cadotte Lake, AB T0H 0N0  
Telephone: (780) 629-3803  
Facsimile: (780) 629-3898

**Louis Lapatack**  
Saddle Lake Tribal Administration  
Human Resource Development  
Centre  
PO Box 100  
Saddle Lake, AB T0A 3T0  
Telephone: (780) 726-3829  
Facsimile: (780) 726-3083  
E-mail: slfnhdcc@telusplanet.net

**Chris LaPlante**  
Federation of Saskatchewan Indian  
Nations  
Lands & Resources  
Suite #200 - 103-A Packham Avenue  
Saskatoon, SK S7N 4K4  
Telephone: (306) 953-2433  
Facsimile: (306) 953-2360  
E-mail: laplante@derm.gov.sk.ca

**Gerry Lapointe**  
Canadian Pulp & Paper Association  
1155 Metcalfe Street  
Montreal, QC H3B 4T6  
Telephone: (514) 861-8826  
Facsimile: (514) 866-3035  
E-mail: glapointe@cppa.ca

**Gerry Laslo**  
Sunchild First Nation  
PO Box 747  
Rocky Mountain House, AB T0M  
1T0  
Telephone: (403) 989-3740  
Facsimile: (403) 989-2533

**Eric Lathlin**  
Shoal Lake Cree Nation  
To be covered by Prince Albert Grand  
Council  
PO Box 51  
Pakwaw Lake, SK S0E 1G0  
Telephone: (306) 768-2337  
Facsimile: (306) 768-3486

**Cheryl Lavallee**  
Black Sturgeon Logging/TOLKO  
Industries  
PO Box 150  
The Pas, MB R9A 1K6  
Telephone: (204) 623-3423  
Facsimile: (204) 623-2882

**Alice Lavallee**  
Woodland Cree Enterprises  
Incorporated  
PO Box 101  
Montreal Lake, SK S0J 1Y0  
Telephone: (306) 663-5100  
Facsimile: (306) 663-5499

**Jack Lavallee**  
Black Sturgeon Logging/TOLKO  
Industries  
PO Box 5200  
The Pas, MB R9A 1S1  
Telephone: (204) 623-8671  
Facsimile: (204) 623-4560

**Susan Lee**  
Faculty of Forestry  
University of Toronto  
2471 Cashmere Avenue  
Mississauga, ON L5B 2M7  
Telephone: (905) 566-4439  
E-mail: susan@webcity.ca

**Ken Legacy**  
218 N Brodie St. Apt. #3  
Thunder Bay, ON P7C 3C5  
Telephone: (807) 622-9555  
Facsimile: (807) 624-9043

**Brian Lemaigre**  
Clearwater River Dene Nation  
Bag Service #6  
La Loche, SK S0M 1G0  
Telephone: (306) 822-2021  
Facsimile: (306) 822-2212

**Nelson Leon**  
Thundak Silviculture  
PO Box 1515  
Chase, BC V0E 1M0  
Telephone: (250) 679-7689  
Facsimile: (250) 679-8779  
E-mail: nleon@uniserve.com

**Pam Lepine**  
Canoe Lake Co-Management  
General Delivery  
Cole Bay, SK S0M 0M0  
Telephone: (306) 829-4501  
Facsimile: (306) 829-4312

**S. Todd Lewis**  
Lakehead University  
141B Blucher Avenue  
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 4Y5  
Telephone: (807) 684-0967  
Facsimile: (807) 343-8116  
E-mail: stlewis@air.on.ca

**Marcel L'Heureux**  
Canoe Lake Development  
Corporation  
General Delivery  
Canoe Narrows, SK S0M 0K0  
Telephone: (306) 829-2135  
Facsimile: (306) 829-4555

**Dwayne L'Hirondelle**  
Woodland Cree First Nation #474  
General Delivery  
Cadotte Lake, AB T0H 0N0  
Telephone: (780) 629-3818  
Facsimile: (780) 629-2835

**Richard Lightning**  
Ermineskin Economic Development  
PO Box 219  
Hobbema, AB T0C 1N0  
Telephone: (780) 585-3779  
Facsimile: (780) 585-2006  
E-mail: econ\_dev@telusplanet.net

**Dave Linden**  
Weyerhaeuser Saskatchewan  
Forestlands  
PO Box 1720  
Prince Albert, SK S6V 5T3  
Telephone: (306) 953-5069  
Facsimile: (306) 953-0447  
E-mail:  
dave.linden@weyerhaeuser.com

**Ron Loughrey**  
Dept. of Natural Resource & Energy  
PO Box 6000  
Fredericton, NB EB3 5Y3  
Telephone: (506) 453-8726  
Facsimile: (506) 462-2095  
E-mail: Ron.Loughrey@gnb.ca

**Jim Ludwig**  
Post Secondary Education -  
Saskatchewan  
1288 Central Avenue  
Prince Albert, SK S6V 4V8  
Telephone: (306) 953-2744  
Facsimile: (306) 953-2763  
E-mail: Jim-Ludwig@sasked.gov.sk.ca

**Jack MacDonald**  
Department of Indian Affairs  
PO Box 160  
Amherst, NS B4H 3Z3  
Telephone: (902) 661-6222  
Facsimile: (902) 661-6237  
E-mail: macdoj@inac.gc.ca

**Eddy Makokis**  
Tribal Chiefs Ventures Inc.  
PO Box 248  
St. Paul, AB T0A 3A0  
Telephone: (780) 645-4288  
Facsimile: (780) 645-5850  
E-mail: trichief@telusplanet.net

**Carol Mardell**  
Natural Resources Canada  
Canadian Forest Service  
250-1288 Central Avenue  
Prince Albert, SK S6V 4V8  
Telephone: (306) 953-8548  
Facsimile: (306) 953-8649  
E-mail: cmardell@nrca.gc.ca

**Mike Marion**  
James Smith Cree Nation  
PO Box 1049  
Melfort, SK S0E 1A0  
Telephone: (306) 864-3636  
Facsimile: (306) 864-3336

**Tyrone Marsden**  
Kinonjeoshtegon First Nations  
c/o 500 - 286 Smirh Street  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 1K4  
Telephone: (204) 956-7413  
Facsimile: (204) 942-8840

**Hans Mattheu**  
N'swakamok Forestry Corporation  
c/o Wikwemikong Forestry/Fish &  
Wildlife  
PO Box 112  
Wikwemikong, ON P0P 2J0  
Telephone: (705) 859-3854  
Facsimile: (705) 859-3851  
E-mail: mikee.wiky.net

**Ronald A. Matthew**  
FNFP PTMC British Columbia  
PO Box 554  
Barriere, BC V0E 1E0  
Telephone: (250) 672-5199  
Facsimile: (250) 672-2497

**Jonathan Matthews**  
Saskatchewan Environment &  
Resource Management  
Economic Development Branch  
240, 2311 Albert Street  
Regina, SK S4S 5W6  
Telephone: (306) 787-5164  
Facsimile: (306) 798-4000  
E-mail: jonathan.matthews.erm@  
govmail.gov.sk.ca

**Peter Mayotte**  
Northlands College  
PO Box 509  
La Ronge, SK S0J 1L0  
Telephone: (306) 425-4309  
Facsimile: (306) 425-2696  
E-mail:  
mayotte.peter@northlandscollege.sk.ca

**Doug Mazur**  
Saskatchewan Environment &  
Resource Management  
Sustainable Lands Management Br.  
Room 520, 3211 Albert Street  
Regina, SK S4S 5W6  
Telephone: (306) 787-7024  
Facsimile: (306) 787-1349  
E-mail:  
doug.mazur.erm@govmail.gov.sk.ca

**Nathan McGillivray**  
Opaskwayak Cree Nation  
PO Box 2000  
The Pas, MB R9A 1L7  
Telephone: (204) 627-7193

**Ida McGillivray**  
Opaskwayak Cree Nation  
PO Box 1000  
The Pas, MB R9A 1L1  
Telephone: (204) 627-7130  
Facsimile: (204) 623-6236

**Marina McGregor**  
Ontario First Nations Forestry  
Alliance  
172 Old Village Road  
Birch Island, ON P0P 1A0  
Telephone: (705) 285-4004  
Facsimile: (705) 285-4005  
E-mail: mcgregor@cyberbeach.net

**Laurence McIntyre**  
English River First Nation  
General Delivery  
Patuanak, SK S0M 2H0  
Telephone: (306) 396-2066  
Facsimile: (306) 396-2155

**Mervin McIntyre**  
Tron Power Inc.  
General Delivery  
Beauval, SK S0M 0G0  
Telephone: (306) 288-4485

**Ray McKay**  
Kitsaki Management Limited  
Partnership  
Box 480  
La Ronge, SK S0J 1L0  
Telephone: (306) 425-2600  
Facsimile: (306) 425-2288

**Rebecca McKay**  
National Aboriginal Forestry  
Association  
875 Bank Street  
Ottawa, ON K1S 3W4  
Telephone: (613) 233-5563  
Facsimile: (613) 233-4329  
E-mail: rmckay@nafaforestry.org

**Gerald McKay**  
Grand Rapids First Nation  
PO Box 500  
Grand Rapids, MB R0C 1E0  
Telephone: (204) 639-2503  
Facsimile: (204) 947-5928

**Charlie W. McKay**  
Red Earth First Nation  
PO Box 109  
Red Earth, SK S0E 1K0  
Telephone: (306) 768-3640  
Facsimile: (306) 768-3440

**Hugh McKenzie**  
Temagami First Nation  
Bear Island PO  
Lake Temagami, ON P0H 1C0  
Telephone: (705) 237-8413  
Facsimile: (705) 237-8959  
E-mail: tfnforestry@onlink.net

**John McLeod**  
Missanabie Cree First Nation  
174B Hwy 17 East  
Garden River, ON P6A 6Z1  
Telephone: (705) 254-2702  
Facsimile: (705) 254-3292  
E-mail: jmcleod\_mcfn@hotmail.com

**Eric Menicoche**  
XAH NDAH Resources Ltd.  
PO Box 143  
Ft Simpson, NT X0E 0N0  
Telephone: (867) 695-3066  
Facsimile: (867) 695-3065

**Jerry Meninick**  
Yakama Tribal Council/Yakama  
Nation  
PO Box 151  
Toppenish, WA 98948  
Telephone: (509) 865-5121  
Facsimile: (509) 865-5528  
E-mail: jerry@yakama.com

**Mike Mercredi**  
Jim Brady Development Corporation  
106B - 708 La Ronge Avenue  
La Ronge, SK S0J 1L0  
Telephone: (306) 425-2507  
Facsimile: (306) 425-5455

**Tony Mercredi**  
Sustainable Forest Management  
Network  
University of Alberta  
14535 - 121 St. NW  
Edmonton, AB T5X 2S2  
Telephone: (780) 405-3996

**Stephen Meuse**  
St. Mary's First Nation  
237 Maliseet Drive  
Fredericton, NB E3A 2W1  
Telephone: (506) 459-2200  
Facsimile: (506) 452-2763

**Dale Miller**  
Saskatchewan Dept. of Labour  
Occupational Health & Safety  
122 - 3rd Avenue North  
Saskatoon, SK S7K 2H6  
Telephone: (306) 933-5050  
Facsimile: (306) 933-7339

**Yollanda Miller**  
Woodland Cree Enterprises  
Incorporated  
PO Box 419  
Air Ronge, SK S0J 3G0  
Telephone: (306) 425-4977  
Facsimile: (306) 425-3441

**Alec Mistikokat**  
Waterhen Lake First Nation  
PO Box 9  
Waterhen Lake, SK S0M 3B0  
Telephone: (306) 236-6717  
Facsimile: (306) 236-4866

**Chief Morris Monias**  
Tribal Chiefs Ventures Inc.  
PO Box 248  
St. Paul, AB T0A 3A0  
Telephone: (780) 645-4288  
Facsimile: (780) 645-5850

**Kim Montroy**  
Temagami First Nation  
Bear Island PO  
Lake Temagami, ON P0H 1C0  
Telephone: (705) 237-8413  
Facsimile: (705) 237-8959  
E-mail: tfnforestry@onlink.net



**Maria Moore**  
Swampy Cree Tribal Council  
PO Box 150  
The Pas, MB R9A 1K4  
Telephone: (204) 623-3423  
Facsimile: (204) 623-2882

**Todd Morin**  
Enoch Cree Nations  
Enoch Human Resource Dev.  
Training  
PO Box #29  
Enoch, AB T7X 3Y3  
Telephone: (780) 470-4505  
Facsimile: (780) 470-3476  
E-mail: EHRD@TelusPlanet.NET

**Yvonne Morin**  
Enoch Cree Nations  
Enoch Human Resource Dev.  
Training  
PO Box #29  
Enoch, AB T7X 3Y3  
Telephone: (780) 470-4505  
Facsimile: (780) 470-3476

**Neil Stuart Morin**  
Enoch Cree Nations  
Enoch Human Resource Dev.  
Training  
PO Box #29  
Enoch, AB T7X 3Y3  
Telephone: (780) 470-4505  
Facsimile: (780) 470-3380

**Robert Morriveau**  
Fort William First Nation  
90 Anemki Drive, Suite 200  
Thunder Bay, ON P7C 4Z2  
Telephone: (807) 623-9543  
Facsimile: (807) 623-5190

**Sacey Moskaluk**  
Canadian Forest Service  
Northern Forestry Centre  
5320 122 Street  
Edmonton, AB T6H 3S5  
Telephone: (780) 435-7274  
Facsimile: (780) 435-7356  
E-mail: smoskalu@nrcan.gc.ca

**Brian Mottus**  
Canadian Forest Service  
Northern Forestry Centre  
5320 - 122 Street  
Edmonton, AB T6H 3S5  
Telephone: (780) 435-7283  
Facsimile: (780) 435-7359  
E-mail: bmottus@nrcan.gc.ca

**Herb Mueller**  
Aboriginal Business Canada  
123 - 2nd Avenue S.  
Saskatoon, SK S7K 7E6  
Telephone: (306) 975-4408  
Facsimile: (306) 975-5339

**George Mullen**  
Pen-Tak-Tin Log Home Building  
School  
S-25A, C-O, R.R.1  
747 McMurray Rd.  
Kaleden, BC V0H 1K0  
Telephone: (250) 497-5885  
Facsimile: (250) 497-5885  
E-mail: jwhitley@telus-net

**Dan Murphy**  
Department Indian Affairs and  
Northern Development  
Government of Canada  
10 Wellington Street  
Hull, QC K1A 0H4  
Telephone: (819) 953-5972  
Facsimile: (819) 953-1885

**Tom Murray**  
Canadian Forest Service - Atlantic  
1350 Regent Street  
PO Box 4000  
Fredericton, NB E3B 5P7  
Telephone: (506) 452-3567  
Facsimile: (506) 452-3525  
E-mail: tmurray@nrcan.gc.ca

**Ott Naelapea**  
Prince Albert Model Forest  
Association Inc.  
PO Box 2406  
Prince Albert, SK S6V 7G3  
Telephone: (306) 763-2077  
Facsimile: (306) 763-6456  
E-mail: onaelapea@sk.sympatico.ca

**Seguro Ndabene**  
Nishi-Khon Forestry Service  
PO Box 284  
Rae-Edzo, NT X0E 0Y0  
Telephone: (867) 371-3075  
Facsimile: (867) 371-3070

**Gwyneth Nelin**  
Timberline Forestry Inventory  
Consultants  
315 - 10357 109th Street  
Edmonton, AB T5J 1N3  
Telephone: (780) 425-8826  
Facsimile: (780) 428-6782  
E-mail: gmn@timberline.ca

**Tom Nepetaypo**  
Keewatin Tribal Council  
102 - 83 Churchill Drive  
Thompson, MB R8N 0L6  
Telephone: (204) 677-2341  
Facsimile: (204) 677-4356

**Michael Newman**  
Natural Resources Canada  
Canadian Forest Service  
250-1288 Central Avenue  
Prince Albert, SK S6V 4V8  
Telephone: (306) 953-8546  
Facsimile: (306) 953-8649  
E-mail: mnewman@nrcan.gc.ca

**R.G. (Bob) Newstead**  
Canadian Forest Service  
Northern Forestry Centre  
5320 - 122 Street  
Edmonton, AB T6H 3S5  
Telephone: (780) 435-7265  
Facsimile: (780) 435-7359  
E-mail: bnewstea@nrcan.gc.ca

**Rick Nolan**  
Missanabie Cree First Nation  
174B Hwy 17 East  
Garden River, ON P6A 6Z1  
Telephone: (705) 254-2702  
Facsimile: (705) 254-3292  
E-mail: jmcleod\_mcfn@hotmail.com

**Wilf Nordick**  
Indian and Northern Affairs  
2221 Cornwall Street  
Regina, SK S4P 4M2  
Telephone: (306) 780-7249  
Facsimile: (204) 780-6128  
E-mail: nordickw@inac.gc.ca

**Ted Norris**  
Minister's Office  
580 Booth Street  
Ottawa, ON  
Telephone: (613) 996-7252

**Jimmy O'Chiese**  
Weldwood of Canada  
760 Switzer Drive  
Hinton, AB T2V 1V7  
Telephone: (780) 865-5673  
Facsimile: (780) 865-1756

**Lars Ohman**  
Windigo First Nations Council  
PO Box 299  
Sioux Lookout, ON P8T 1A3  
Telephone: (807) 737-1585  
Facsimile: (807) 737-3133  
E-mail: forestry@windigo.on.ca

**Rita Oigg**  
Kinonjeoshtegon First Nations  
c/o 500 - 286 Smith Street  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 1K4  
Telephone: (204) 956-7413  
Facsimile: (204) 942-8840

**Todd Olexson**  
Sustainable Lands Management  
Branch  
Saskatchewan Environment &  
Resource Management  
PO Box 3003  
Prince Albert, SK S6V 6G1  
Telephone: (306) 953-2586  
Facsimile: (306) 953-2684  
E-mail: olexson@derm.gov.sk.ca

**Stanley Oliver**  
Department of Government Services  
& Lands  
PO Box 8700, Confederation  
Building  
St. John's, NF A1B 4J6  
Telephone: (709) 729-6952  
Facsimile: (709) 729-4754  
E-mail: soliver@cable\_lab.net

**Shane Opekokew**  
Canoe Lake Forest Products  
General Delivery  
Canoe Narrows, SK S0M 0K0  
Telephone: (306) 829-5681  
Facsimile: (306) 829-4555

**Barry Opekokew**  
Canoe Lake First Nation  
General Delivery  
Canoe Narrows, SK S0M 0K0  
Telephone: (306) 829-2150  
Facsimile: (306) 829-2101

**Robert Opikokew**  
Canoe Lake First Nations  
General Delivery  
Canoe Narrows, SK S0M 0K0  
Telephone: (306) 829-2150  
Facsimile: (306) 829-2101

**Marilyn Opikokew**  
Canoe Lake Forest Products  
General Delivery  
Canoe Narrows, SK S0M 0K0  
Telephone: (306) 829-2135  
Facsimile: (306) 829-4555

**Mary Ann Opikokew**  
Canoe Lake Development  
Corporation  
General Delivery  
Canoe Narrows, SK S0M 0K0  
Telephone: (306) 829-2135  
Facsimile: (306) 829-4555

**Georgina Oudzi**  
Chief T'selihye School  
PO Box 129  
Ft Good Hope, NT X0E 0H0  
Telephone: (867) 598-2636  
Facsimile: (867) 598-2024

**Richard Paetzold**  
Tolko Industries  
PO Box 5200  
The Pas, MB R9A 1S1  
Telephone: (204) 623-8671  
Facsimile: (204) 623-4560

**Randy Paishk**  
Kejick PO  
Shoal Lake, ON P0X 1E0  
Telephone: (807) 733-2560

**Brian Panasiuk**  
Northern Lakes College  
Career Services, Grouard Campus  
Bag 3000  
Grouard, AB T0G 1C0  
Telephone: (780) 751-3311  
Facsimile: (780) 751-3385

**Todd Paqvin**  
Golder Associates Ltd.  
209 - 2121 Airport Drive  
Saskatoon, SK S7L 6W5  
Telephone: (306) 667-1171  
Facsimile: (306) 665-3342  
E-mail: tpaqvin@golder.com

**Reginald Parsons**  
Faculty of Forestry & Environmental  
Management  
University of NB  
131 Cambridge Crescent  
Fredericton, NB E3B 4P1  
Telephone: (506) 454-7767  
E-mail: reg&pam@brunnet.net

**Deliah Pasap**  
Montreal Lake Resource Environment  
General Delivery  
Montreal Lake, SK S0J 1Y0  
Telephone: (306) 663-5349  
Facsimile: (306) 663-5320  
E-mail: mlresenv@sk.sympatico.ca

**Tracy Paul**  
Temagami First Nation  
Bear Island PO  
Lake Temagami, ON P0H 1C0  
Telephone: (705) 237-8413  
Facsimile: (705) 237-8959  
E-mail: tfnforestry@onlink.net

**Jason Peacock**  
Enoch Cree Nations  
Enoch Human Resource Dev.  
Training  
PO Box #29  
Enoch, AB T7X 3Y3  
Telephone: (780) 470-4505  
Facsimile: (780) 470-3476

**Gwen Pearce**  
Kinishn Saulteaux Nation  
Labour Force Development  
Coordinator  
PO Box 2590  
Tisdale, SK S0E 1T0  
Telephone: (306) 878-8188  
Facsimile: (306) 873-5235  
E-mail: pearcegl@yahoo.com

**Leslie Pechawis**  
Mistawasis First Nation  
PO Box 250  
Leask, SK S0J 1M0  
Telephone: (306) 466-4800  
Facsimile: (306) 466-2299

**Melvin Peltier**  
Sault College of Applied Arts and  
Technology  
443 Northern Avenue, PO Box 60  
Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 5L3  
Telephone: (705) 759-2554  
Facsimile: (705) 759-0175  
E-mail: melvin.peltier@saultc.on.ca

**Rob Penner**  
Keewatin Community College  
PO Box 3000  
The Pas, MB R9A 1M7  
Telephone: (204) 627-8646  
Facsimile: (204) 623-4831  
E-mail: rpenner@keewatincc.mb.ca

**Candice Pete**  
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada  
Executive Terrace  
2221 Cornwall Street  
Regina, SK S4X 2S9  
Telephone: (306) 780-7061  
Facsimile: (306) 780-6540

**Millicent (Penny) Polchies**  
St. Mary's First Nation  
35 Dedham Street  
Fredericton, NB E3A 2V2  
Telephone: (506) 458-9511  
Facsimile: (506) 452-2763  
E-mail: gamepp@nbnet.nb.ca

**Guy Poncelet**  
Saskatchewan Indian Institute of  
Technologies  
100-103A Packham Avenue  
Saskatoon, SK S7N 4K4  
Telephone: (306) 244-4460  
Facsimile: (306) 244-0078  
E-mail: ponceletg@siit.sk.ca

**Ken Porter**  
Alexander Forest Services  
PO Box 10  
Fort Assiniboine, AB T0G 1A0  
Telephone: (780) 584-3774  
Facsimile: (780) 584-3885  
E-mail: afsfort@telusplanet.net

**Gordon Prest**  
Faculty of Forestry - UBC  
2424 Main Mall, Forest Sciences  
Centre  
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z4  
Telephone: (604) 822-0651  
Facsimile: (604) 822-8645  
E-mail: prest@interchange.ubc.ca

**Steve Price**  
Canadian Forest Service  
Northern Forestry Centre  
5320 - 122 Street  
Edmonton, AB T6H 3S5  
Telephone: (780) 435-7206  
Facsimile: (780) 435-7359  
E-mail: sprice@nrca.gc.ca

**Janet Pronovost**  
National Aboriginal Forestry  
Association  
875 Bank Street  
Ottawa, ON K1S 3W4  
Telephone: (613) 233-5563  
Facsimile: (613) 233-4329  
E-mail: nafa@web.ca

**Norma Pyle**  
142 Hood Street  
Hinton, AB T7V 1Z4  
Telephone: (780) 817-0655

**Walter Pylypchuk**  
Indian and Northern Affairs  
2221 Cornwall Street  
Regina, SK S4P 4M2  
Telephone: (306) 780-6421  
Facsimile: (306) 780-6540  
E-mail: pylypchukw@inac.gc.ca

**Fred Quewezance**  
Keeseekoose First Nation  
PO Box 1120  
Kamsack, SK S0A 1S0  
Telephone: (306) 542-2012  
Facsimile: (306) 542-2586

**Lloyd Quimond**  
Sagkeeng First Nation  
PO Box 246  
Pine Falls, MB R0E 1M0  
Telephone: (204) 367-9894

**Darren Rain**  
Paul Band Administration  
PO Box 89  
Duffield, AB T0E 0N0  
Telephone: (780) 892-2091  
Facsimile: (780) 892-3402

**Betty Rain**  
Paul Band Administration  
PO Box 89  
Duffield, AB T0E 0N0  
Telephone: (780) 892-2091  
Facsimile: (780) 892-3402

**Garry Raven**  
Hollow Water First Nation  
General Delivery  
Wanipigow, MB R0E 2E0  
Telephone: (204) 363-7278  
Facsimile: (204) 363-7418

**Robert Riley Raven**  
General Delivery  
Wanipigow, MB R0E 2E0  
Telephone: (204) 363-7377

**Peter Recollet**  
Wahnapiatae First Nation  
PO Box 1119  
Capreol, ON P0M 1H0  
Telephone: (705) 858-0610  
Facsimile: (705) 693-2179

**Randy Renauer**  
Dene Tha First Nation  
PO Box 120  
Chatch, AB T0H 0S0  
Telephone: (780) 321-3774  
Facsimile: (780) 321-3886

**Lorne Renouf**  
SIAST Woodland Campus  
Instructor (Forestry)  
PO Box 3003  
Prince Albert, SK S6V 6G1  
Telephone: (306) 953-7011  
Facsimile: (306) 953-7099  
E-mail: renouf@siast.sk.ca

**Steven J. Rigdon**  
Yakama Nation  
Forest Development  
PO Box 151  
Toppenish, WA 98948  
Telephone: (509) 874-2141/  
Facsimile: (509) 865-2002  
E-mail: wsrs@yakama.com

**M. Barbara Riley**  
Prince Albert Model Forest  
PO Box 2406  
Prince Albert, SK S6V 7G3  
Telephone: (306) 763-5527  
Facsimile: (306) 763-6456  
E-mail: b.riley@sk.sympatico.ca

**Al Rivard**  
Jim Brady Development Corporation  
Box 1647  
La Ronge, SK S0J 1L0  
Telephone: (306) 425-3961  
Facsimile: (306) 425-5282

**Nadine Roach**  
Batchewana First Nation  
236 Frontenac Street  
Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 5K9  
Telephone: (705) 759-0914  
Facsimile: (705) 759-9171

**William Roberts**  
Woodland Cree Enterprises  
Incorporated  
PO Box 419  
Air Ronge, SK S0J 3G0  
Telephone: (306) 425-4977  
Facsimile: (306) 425-3441

**Tim Robinson**  
Fort Folly First Nation  
PO Box 971  
Dorchester, NB E4K 3V5  
Telephone: (506) 379-3400  
Facsimile: (506) 379-3408  
E-mail: fffn@nbnet.nb.ca

**Pat Rogers**  
Millar Western Forest Products Ltd.  
5004 52 Street  
Whitecourt, AB T7S 1N2  
Telephone: (780) 778-2221  
Facsimile: (780) 778-4631  
E-mail: progers@millarwestern.com

**Moses Ross**  
Manto Sipi Cree Nation  
God's River Cree Nation  
God's River, MB R0B 0N0  
Telephone: (204) 366-2011  
Facsimile: (204) 366-2282

**Irene Roy**  
Prince Albert Model Forest  
Association  
PO Box 2406  
Prince Albert, SK S6V 7G3  
Telephone: (306) 922-1944  
Facsimile: (306) 763-6456  
E-mail: irene.roy@sk.sympatico.ca

**Jonathon Saddleback**  
Samson Cree Nation  
PO Box 159  
Hobbema, AB T0C 1N0  
Telephone: (780) 585-0011  
Facsimile: (780) 585-3714

**Raymond Saint-Laurent**  
Translation Bureau  
Ottawa, ON

**Judy Samoil**  
Canadian Forest Service  
Northern Forestry Centre  
5320 - 122 Street  
Edmonton, AB T6H 3S5  
Telephone: (780) 435-7233  
Facsimile: (780) 435-7359  
E-mail: jsamoil@nrcan.gc.ca

**Wally Samuel**  
Long Beach Model Forest  
62 -10325 Lakeshore Road  
Port Alberni, BC V9Y 8G9  
Telephone: (250) 724-5290  
Facsimile: (250) 724-5298  
E-mail: wally@telus.net

**Ida Sanderson**  
Kitsaki Management Limited  
Partnership  
PO Box 480  
La Ronge, SK S0J 1L0  
Telephone: (306) 425-2600  
Facsimile: (306) 425-2288  
E-mail: ida.kdc@sk.sympatico.ca

**Glen Sanderson**  
Pine Falls Paper Co. Ltd.  
PO Box 10  
Pine Falls, MB R0E 1M0  
Telephone: (204) 367-5320  
Facsimile: (204) 367-2442

**Henry Sanderson**  
Lac La Ronge Indian Band  
Box 480  
La Ronge, SK S0J 1L0  
Telephone: (306) 425-2183  
Facsimile: (306) 425-2590

**Garth Sanderson**  
James Smith Cree Nation  
PO Box 1059  
Melfort, SK S0E 1A0  
Telephone: (306) 864-3636  
Facsimile: (306) 864-3336

**Wilson Sasakamoose**  
Ahtahkakoop First Nation  
Post Secondary Department  
PO Box 190  
Shell Lake, SK S0J 2G0  
Telephone: (306) 468-2100  
Facsimile: (306) 468-2275

**Keith Sayers**  
Mississauga First Nation  
PO Box 1299  
Blind River, MB P0R 1B0  
Telephone: (705) 356-1621  
Facsimile: (705) 356-1740

**Ronald A. Scanlan**  
C.E.S.O. Aboriginal Services  
1000 - 191 Lombardo Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB R3B 0X1  
Telephone: (888) 949-0177  
Facsimile: (204)942-1647  
E-mail: rscanlan@ceso-saco.com

**John G. Scott**  
Agency Chief Forestry Ltd.  
PO Box 623  
Spiritwood, SK S0J 2M0  
Telephone: (306) 883-2519

**Ron Scott**  
Keewatin Community College  
PO Box 3000  
The Pas, MB R9A 1M7  
Telephone: (204) 627-8529  
Facsimile: (204) 627-8669

**Ken Scullion**  
Portage College  
PO Box 417  
Lac La Biche, AB T0A 2C0  
Telephone: (780) 623-5644  
Facsimile: (780) 623-5592  
E-mail: ken.scullion@portagec.ab.ca

**Francis Seamont**  
Tembec Inc.  
PO Box 5000  
Temiscaming, QC J0Z 3R0  
Telephone: (819) 627-4746  
Facsimile: (819) 627-4753  
E-mail: fseamont@tembec.ca

**Kevin Shakakeesic**  
Cat Lake Economic Development  
Corporation  
PO Box 72  
Cat Lake, ON P0V 1J0  
Telephone: (807) 347-2500  
Facsimile: (807) 347-2300

**Daryl Simmonds**  
Rep/Congress of Aboriginal Peoples  
867 St. Laurant Blvd.  
Ottawa, ON  
Telephone: (613) 747-6022  
Facsimile: (613) 747-8834

**Bruce Simms**  
Saskatchewan Opportunities  
Corporation  
PO Box 1781  
La Ronge, SK S0J 1L0  
Telephone: (306) 425-6600  
Facsimile: (306) 425-6601  
E-mail: bruce.simms@soc.sk.ca

**Mary Simon**  
Mohawk Council of Kanesatake  
681 Ste. Philomene  
Kanesatake, QC J0N 1E0  
Telephone: (450) 479-8373  
Facsimile: (450) 479-8249  
E-mail: council@netc.net

**Richard Simonson**  
Eel River Bar First Nation  
11 Main Street, Unit 201  
Eel River Bar First Nation, NB E8C 1A1  
Telephone: (506) 684-6277  
Facsimile: (506) 684-6282  
E-mail: vbooz@nbnet.nb.ca

**Carline Simpson**  
Canadian Forest Service - Atlantic  
PO Box 4000  
1350 Regent Street  
Fredericton, NB E3B 5P7  
Telephone: (506) 452-3542  
Facsimile: (506) 452-3525  
E-mail: csimpson@nrcan.gc.ca

**Daphne Sinclair**  
Hollow Water First Nations  
General Delivery  
Wanipigow PO, MB R0E 2E0  
Telephone: (204) 363-7278  
Facsimile: (204) 363-7418

**Sophie D Sliwa**  
Natural Resources Canada  
Sustainable Communities Initiative  
601 Booth Street, Room 514  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0E8  
Telephone: (613) 996-1397  
Facsimile: (613) 943-9278  
E-mail: sslwiwa@nrcan.gc.ca

**Marlene Smale**  
Saskatchewan Labour  
Prevention Services Branch  
8th Floor, 122 - 3rd Avenue North  
Saskatoon, SK S7K 2H6  
Telephone: (306) 933-7980  
Facsimile: (306) 933-5444  
E-mail: msmale@lab.gov.sk.ca

**JoAnn Smith**  
Mistik Management Ltd.  
PO Bag 9060  
Meadow Lake, SK S9X 1V7  
Telephone: (306) 236-4431  
Facsimile: (306) 236-4426  
E-mail: joann.smith@mistik.sk.ca

**Peggy Smith**  
Faculty of Forestry & The Forest  
Environment  
Lakehead University  
955 Oliver Road  
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 5E1  
Telephone: (807) 343-8672  
Facsimile: (807) 343-8116  
E-mail: peggy.smith@lakeheadu.ca

**Chief John M. Smith**  
Kwakiutl Laich Kwil Tach Nations  
Treaty Society  
1441 Old Island Highway  
Campbell River, BC V9W 2E4  
Telephone: (250) 287-9460  
Facsimile: (250) 287-9469  
E-mail: klntssoc@island.net

**J. Burton Smokeyday**  
Kinistin Salteaux Nation  
PO Box 2590  
Tisdale, SK S0E 1T0  
Telephone: (306) 878-8188  
Facsimile: (306) 873-5235  
E-mail: jbsmokeyday@sk.sympatico.ca

**Jack Smyth**  
Natural Resources Canada  
Canadian Forest Service  
580 Booth Street 7th Floor  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0E4  
Telephone: 6139477380  
Facsimile: 6139477399  
E-mail: jsmyth@nrncan.gc.ca

**Alfred Sock**  
Big Cove First Nation  
373 Big Cove Road  
Big Cove, NB E4W 2S5  
Telephone: (506) 523-8200  
Facsimile: (506) 523-8350  
E-mail: director@bigcoveeconomic-dev.com

**Al Solheim**  
Kitsaki Management Ltd. Partnership  
PO Box 480  
La Ronge, SK S0J 1L0  
Telephone: (306) 425-2600  
Facsimile: (306) 425-2288  
E-mail: kitsaki@dlowest.com

**Leonard Solonas**  
McLeod Lake Indian Band  
General Delivery  
McLeod Lake, BC V0J 2G0  
Telephone: (250) 750-4415  
Facsimile: (250) 750-4424

**S.R. Charmaine Soosay**  
Samson Cree Nation  
PO Box 159  
Hobbema, AB T0C 1N0  
Telephone: 1-800-661-2579  
Facsimile: (780) 585-3355

**Murray Stagg**  
Dauphin River First Nations  
c/o 500 - 286 Smith Street  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 1K4  
Telephone: (204) 956-7413  
Facsimile: (204) 942-8840

**Richard Stedman**  
Canadian Forest Service  
Northern Forestry Centre  
5320 - 122 Street  
Edmonton, AB T6H 3S5  
Telephone: (780) 435-7281  
Facsimile: (780) 435-7359  
E-mail: rstedman@nrncan.gc.ca

**W. Graham Stephens**  
Golder Associates Ltd.  
209 - 2121 Airport Drive  
Saskatoon, SK S7L 6W5  
Telephone: (306) 665-7989  
Facsimile: (306) 665-3342  
E-mail: forester@golder.com

**Brian Stethem**  
Government of Canada Rural  
Exhibits Program  
930 Carling Avenue, Rm. 123A  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0C7  
Telephone: (613) 759-7899  
Facsimile: (613) 759-6514  
E-mail: stethemb@em.agr.ca

**Marc Stevenson**  
Sustainable Forest Management  
Network  
G-208 Biological Sciences  
University of Alberta  
Edmonton, AB  
Telephone: (780) 492-2476  
Facsimile: (780) 492-8160

**Mark Storie**  
Foothills Model Forest  
1176 Switzer Drive  
PO Box 6330  
Hinton, AB T7V 1X6  
Telephone: (780) 865-8332  
Facsimile: (780) 865-8331  
E-mail: mark.storie@gov.ab.ca

**Francis Strawberry**  
O'Chiese First Nation  
PO Box 1570  
Rocky Mtn. House, AB T0M 1T0  
Telephone: (403) 989-3473  
Facsimile: (403) 989-3795

**Myrna Strawberry**  
O'Chiese Band Administration  
PO Box 1570  
Rocky Mtn House, AB T0M 1T0  
Telephone: (403) 989-3943  
Facsimile: (403) 989-3795

**Craig Swan**  
Interlake Reserves Tribal Council Inc.

**Glenn Tait**  
Swan Lake First Nations  
PO Box 386  
Swan Lake, MB R0G 2S0  
Telephone: (204) 836-2101  
Facsimile: (204) 836-2255

**Jim Taylor**  
Western Newfoundland Model Forest  
PO Box 68  
Cornerbrook, NF A2H 6C3  
Telephone: (709) 637-7300  
Facsimile: (709) 634-0255  
E-mail: jtaylor@wnmf.com

**Marlene Tcho**  
Tron Power Inc.  
General Delivery  
Patuanak, SK S0M 2H0

**Claire Thie**  
Natural Resources Canada  
First Nation Forestry Program  
580 Booth Street  
Ottawa, ON

**Calvin Thomas**  
Agency Chiefs Forestry  
PO Box 132  
Leoville, SK S0J 1N0  
Telephone: (306) 984-2129

**Remeo Thomas**  
Agency Chiefs Forestry  
PO Box 132  
Leoville, SK S0J 1N0  
Telephone: (306) 984-2313  
Facsimile: (306) 984-2029

**Chief Margie Thompson**  
Mohawk Council of Akwesasne  
PO Box 579  
Cornwall, ON K6H 5T3  
Telephone: (613) 575-2348  
Facsimile: (613) 575-2073

**Andrew Thompson**  
Advanced Safety Management  
8850 - 60th Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T6E 6A6  
Telephone: (780) 465-4120  
Facsimile: (780) 465-9443  
E-mail: andrew@advancedsafety.net

**Peter Todd**  
Indian and Northern Affairs  
630 Canada Place  
9700 Jasper Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5J 4G2  
Telephone: (780) 495-2873  
Facsimile: (780) 495-3779  
E-mail: toddp@inac.gc.ca

**Richard Tourand**  
Alberta Pacific Forest Industries  
PO Box 8000  
Boyle, AB T0A 0M0  
Telephone: (780) 525-8000  
Facsimile: (780) 525-8097

**Howard Townsend**  
Gwich'in Tribal Council  
PO Box 1509  
Inuvik, NT X0E 0T0  
Telephone: (867) 952-2330  
Facsimile: (867) 952-2212

**Myrle Traverse**  
Interlake Reserves Tribal Council  
Telephone: (204) 946-1869

**Nicol Tremblay**  
Affaires Indiennes et du Nord Canada  
Complexe Jacques Cartier  
320, rue Saint-Joseph Est Bureau 400  
Quebec, QC G1K 9J2  
Telephone: (418) 648-7552  
Facsimile: (418) 648-3930  
E-mail: tremblayni@inac.gc.ca

**John Turner**  
Moose Cree First Nation  
PO Box 190  
Moose Factory, ON P0I 1W0  
Telephone: (705) 658-4619  
Facsimile: (705) 658-4734

**Frank Turner**  
Swampy Cree Tribal Council  
PO Box 150  
The Pas, MB R9A 1K4  
Telephone: (204) 623-3423  
Facsimile: (204) 623-2882

**Pearl Vandall**  
Ahtahkakoop First Nation  
Post Secondary Department  
PO Box 190  
Shell Lake, SK S0J 2G0  
Telephone: (306) 468-2100  
Facsimile: (306) 468-2275

**Alexis Vanderheyden**  
Garden River First Nation  
7 Shingwauk Street  
Garden River, ON P6A 6Z8  
Telephone: (705) 946-6300  
Facsimile: (705) 945-1415  
E-mail: grfn@soonet.ca

**Gloria Villeneuve**  
Dene Nation  
Box 2338  
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P7  
Telephone: (867) 873-4081  
Facsimile: (867) 920-2254  
E-mail: dene-nation@ssimicro.com

**Mike Waldram**  
Manitoba Model Forest  
PO Box 6500  
Pine Falls, MB R0E 1M0  
Telephone: (204) 367-5232  
Facsimile: (204) 367-8897  
E-mail: mikewald@mb.sympatico.ca

**Robert Walker**  
Chemawawin Cree Nation  
PO Box 9  
Easterville, MB R0C 0V0  
Telephone: (204) 329-2161  
Facsimile: (204) 329-2017

**Mike Walton**  
Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc.  
PO Box 8000  
Boyle, AB T0A 0M0  
Telephone: (780) 525-8008  
Facsimile: (780) 525-8423  
E-mail: waltonmi@alpac.ca

**Leroy Ward**  
Enoch Cree Nations  
Enoch Human Resource Dev.  
Training  
PO Box #29  
Enoch, AB T7X 3Y3  
Telephone: (780) 470-4505  
Facsimile: (780) 470-3476

**Blanche Warrington**  
Teslin Tlingit Council  
PO Box 133  
Teslin, YT Y0A 1B0  
Telephone: (867) 390-2532  
Facsimile: (867) 390-2116  
E-mail: blanche.warrington@  
ttc-teslin.com

**Michael J. Watt**  
Michael J. Watt School of Log  
Building  
PO Box 356  
Dauphin, MB R6N 2V2  
Telephone: (204) 638-8734

**Jim Webb**  
Little Red River Cree Nation  
PO Box 1165  
High Level, AB T0H 1Z0  
Telephone: (250) 788-6136  
Facsimile: (780) 759-3780

**Gerry Weinstein**  
Kitsaki Management Limited  
Partnership  
PO Box 8235  
Main Post Office  
Saskatoon, SK S7K 6C5  
Telephone: (306) 668-7646

**Jason Wensley**  
Tron Power Inc.  
General Delivery  
Beauval, SK S0M 0G0  
Telephone: (306) 288-2047

**Vivian West**  
Canoe Lake Co-Management  
Genetal Delivery  
Cole Bay, SK S0M 0M0  
Telephone: (306) 829-4501  
Facsimile: (306) 829-4312

**Lorne West**  
Natural Resources Canada  
Canadian Forest Service  
Northern Forestry Centre  
5320 122 Street  
Edmonton, AB T6H 3S5  
Telephone: (780) 435-7279  
Facsimile: (780) 435-7356  
E-mail: lwest@nrcan.gc.ca

**Maureen Whelan**  
Natural Resources Canada  
580 Booth Street 7th Flr  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0E4  
Telephone: (613) 947-9048  
Facsimile: (613) 992-5390  
E-mail: mawhelan@nrcan.gc.ca

**Dennis Whitebird**  
Assembly Manitoba Chiefs  
200 - 260 St. Mary Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0M6

**Cedric Whitford**  
O'Chiese Band Administration  
PO Box 2015  
Rocky Mtn House, AB T0M 1T0  
Telephone: (403) 989-2421  
Facsimile: (403) 989-3795  
E-mail: woytiukv@inac.gc.ca

**Carol Wildcat**  
Ermineskin Band  
Facsimile: (780) 585-2006

**Al Willcocks**  
Saskatchewan Environment &  
Resource Management  
Forest Ecosystems Branch  
PO Box 3003  
Prince Albert, SK S6V 6G1  
Telephone: (306) 953-2225  
Facsimile: (306) 953-2360

**Sherman William**  
Woodland Cree First Nation #474  
General Delivery  
Cadotte Lake, AB T0H 0N0  
Telephone: (780) 629-3803  
Facsimile: (780) 629-3898  
E-mail: slfnhdc@telusplanet.net

**Evelyn Willier**  
Sucker Creek First Nation  
Box 65  
Enilda, AB T0G 0W0  
Telephone: (780) 523-4426  
Facsimile: (780) 523-3111

**Paul Willms**  
Nicola Valley Institute of Technology  
Natural Resource Technology  
PO Box 399  
Merritt, BC V1K 1J4  
Telephone: (250) 378-3327  
Facsimile: (250) 378-3333  
E-mail: pwillms@nvit.bc.ca

**Melodie Wilton**  
Grande Prairie Regional College  
10726 - 106 Avenue  
Grande Prairie, AB T8V 4C4  
Telephone: (780) 539-2975  
Facsimile: (780) 539-2722  
E-mail: wilton@gprc.ca

**Axel Winter**  
Alberta Pacific Forest Industries  
PO Box 8000  
Boyle, AB T0A 0M0  
Telephone: (780) 525-8000  
Facsimile: (780) 525-8097  
E-mail: winterax@alpac.ca

**Jock Witkowski**  
Human Resources Development  
Canada  
260-1288 Central Avenue  
Saskatoon, SK S6V 4V8  
Telephone: (306) 953-8430  
Facsimile: (306) 953-8593  
E-mail: jock.witkowski@hrdc-  
drhc.gc.ca

**Jerry Wolchuk**  
Indian and Northern Affairs  
2221 Cornwall Street  
Regina, SK S4P 4M2  
Telephone: (306) 780-8457  
Facsimile: (306) 780-6128  
E-mail: wolchukj@inac.gc.ca

**Camelia Wolverine**  
Tron Power Inc.  
General Delivery  
Patuanak, SK S0M 2H0  
Telephone: (306) 396-2066

**Vanessa Woytiuk**  
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada  
Saskatchewan Region  
2221 Cornwall Street  
Regina, SK S4P 4M2  
Telephone: (306) 780-3231  
Facsimile: (306) 780-5973

**Peter Wyse**  
Department Indian Affairs and  
Northern Development  
10 Wellington Street  
Hull, QC K1G 6Z1  
Telephone: (819) 997-9276  
Facsimile: (819) 953-3323  
E-mail: wysep@inac.gc.ca

**Bob Yatkowsky**  
Pine Falls Paper Co. / Tembec  
PO Box 10  
(Hwy 11 & Mill Rd)  
Pine Falls, MB R0A 1M0  
Telephone: 2043675225  
Facsimile: 2043672442

**Trish Yatkowsky**  
Pine Falls Paper Co. Ltd.  
PO Box 10  
Pine Falls, MB R0E 1M0  
Telephone: (204) 367-5225  
Facsimile: (204) 367-2442

**Leonard Young**  
Bigstone Cree Nation  
PO Box 960  
Desmarais, AB T0G 0T0