



A joint Natural Resources Canada and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada program.

April 2005

CMFN–FNFP host “Aboriginal perspectives on how to measure good forest management” workshop

Over 80 forestry managers, land owners, and government officials got together on March 8–9, 2005 in Winnipeg to learn more about ways to include Aboriginal values in sustainable forest management.

Through presentations and discussions, participants learned more about Forest Indicators, Monitoring, Management Plans, and Forest Certification — all from the Aboriginal perspective. Also, a number of First Nations from across Canada shared their experiences with each of these tools.

As well as being a source of great information, the workshop presented some excellent entertainment from the Walking Wolf dancers and drummers.

Mike Newman, with the First Nations Forestry Program (FNFP) in Saskatchewan, summed up the workshop this way: “Great speakers, good attendance, fantastic food, and the entertainment was the best I’ve seen in 20 years!”

For more information or for workshop proceedings, please contact Wendy Vasbinder, Canadian Model Forest Network Secretariat, Canadian Forest Service, by calling 613.996.0759; e-mail: wvasbind@nrcan.gc.ca.

FNFP’s regional conference attracts participants from across Canada

The First Nations Forestry Program held a regional conference, *Youth, Partnerships, and Careers in Forestry*, in Winnipeg from March 16 to 18, 2005. The conference was coordinated and co-hosted by the Black River First Nation, and involved participants of all ages from First Nation communities from as far away as New Brunswick and the Yukon Territory.

Black River First Nation Chief Frank Abraham and Grand Chief Chris Henderson opened the conference with an emphasis on sustainability, a return to the old ways of traditional First Nations culture, and a message to industry and government to continue to work with First Nations. Grand Chief Henderson discussed the conference’s theme — youth and opportunities. He stressed that First Nations everywhere need to reclaim their work ethic, to take pride in doing any kind of job, and to regain their belief in self-sufficiency.

A highlight of the conference was Rebecca McKay’s presentation. Rebecca works with the Province of Manitoba — Conservation, Sustainable Forestry Unit. She talked about the opportunities a university education in forestry has opened for her. Don Clarke, Education and Special Projects Director with the Black River Woodlands Department, described his community’s drive to create forestry training courses for their youth. Their goal is to create a Grade 12 diploma program right in their community.

Presentations showcasing partnerships between First Nation communities and forestry companies included the development of the Black River First Nation’s sawmill operation in their community. The Black River First Nation worked with Tembec Inc., Wiens Custom Sawing, and Bayridge Lumber and Forest Products Inc. to create ten staff positions, as well as future employment and training opportunities, and community pride in their accomplishments.

For more information about the FNFP’s Regional Conference, contact Jack Johnson or Barbara Katic, Black River First Nation. Phone 204.367.4411; e-mail: jackjohnson@black-river.ca or barbkatic@black-river.ca. You can also contact Adam Wellstead, Canadian Forest Service, Northern Forestry Centre, by calling 780.435.7390; e-mail awellste@nrcan.gc.ca.



Eel Ground (Natuaganek) First Nation — Moving toward certification

"The forest has many values for the people of Eel Ground — economically, culturally, spiritually, and historically. We've got to balance all of these factors in a sustainable way. Our reserve sits near some large forest industry operations ... and we need to ensure that our resources are managed properly," says Steve Ginnish. Steve, who is Mi'kmaq, is a Forestry Planner at Eel Ground First Nation.

The forest was hurting from 40 years of uncontrolled harvesting just outside the City of Miramichi, on the north shore of New Brunswick.

As early as 1989, they developed a sustainable forestry plan that looked at community needs, and the balance between the protection and cultivation of all natural resources on their lands.

These days, forestry in Eel Ground brings in around \$2.7 million a year. During the busy season, up to 85 jobs are created.

Since the creation of the First Nations Forestry Program in 1996, the FNFP has supported Eel Ground First Nation in putting their management plan into action. "The Program was our seed source. It opened the door to funds, partnerships, networks, and new business ventures," explains Steve.

Now, Eel Ground is taking its final steps towards certification by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). FSC certification creates a marketing advantage for Eel Ground's business. "We're working to improve the standards and industry participation of Aboriginal-owned forestry development," says Steve. "The effort we put in now will pay off for many years to come."

For more information about Eel Ground First Nation's certification experience, contact Steve Ginnish, Eel Ground (Natuaganek) First Nation, by calling 506.627.4604; e-mail koonadoo@nbnet.nb.ca. You can also contact Tom Murray, Atlantic Forestry Centre, Canadian Forest Service. Phone: 506.452.3567 or email: tmurray@nrcan.gc.ca.

Upcoming Events

. **Westwind Forest Stewardship Inc. — Your Forest—Your Choice Conference Series.** Theme: *Under the Canopy — Exploring Non-timber Forest Products*, April 19 to 21, 2005, Deerhurst Resort, Huntsville, Ontario. Pre-conference Workshop: *Traditions, Communities and Enterprise*, Wahta Mohawks Community, Bala, Ontario. For more information and registration, contact Maxine Davidson @ 705.746.6832 (ext. 29) or e-mail: bmdavidson@zeuter.com. See: www.westwindforest.ca.

. **CAN — USA Forest and Industrial Equipment Expo 2005** — Workshops and Field Tours + Logging Equipment Displays and Demonstration Sites, May 6 and 7, 2005, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. Call Glenn 866.754.9334 (Toll Free in Canada) or e-mail tradex@onlink.net for details. See: www.woodtech.net.

. **Summit 2005 — The future of the global forest and paper industry.** Two separate but complementary conferences, June 1 to 3, 2005, Vancouver, British Columbia. For more information about Pricewaterhouse Coopers' 18th Annual Global Forest and Paper Industry Conference (June 1), contact Pricewaterhouse Coopers @ 604.806.7090 or e-mail forestandpaper@ca.pwc.com. Program information about *Vision 2015: The Global Forest & Paper Industry's Coming Decade* (June 2–3) is available by contacting the Forest Products Association of Canada (FPAC) @ 604.775.7300 or e-mail info@globalforestpapersummit.com. See: www.globalforestpapersummit.com.

Did You Know?

In 2004–05, the First Nations Forestry Program supported 177 projects with a total value of \$14.3 million. First Nations and their partners contributed an additional \$10.2 million toward project costs. This supported 37 conferences and training sessions, 25 forest management plans, and the development of 11 business plans.

Visit www.fnfp.gc.ca for more information about the program.

This bulletin is available in teletype format for the hearing impaired. TTY 613.996.4397.