



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

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*FNFP e-news takes a look at three different approaches to training for skills development in First Nation communities located in eastern, central, and western Canada.*

### Achieving Excellence in Aboriginal Ecotourism — Workshop

The new Metepenagiag Outdoor Adventure Lodge was an ideal setting for the *Atlantic Aboriginal Ecotourism Workshop* at Metepenagiag First Nation (formerly Red Bank First Nation) in New Brunswick, on March 17-18, 2005. Metepenagiag First Nation is 24 kilometres northeast of Miramichi City, on the Little Southwest Miramichi River.

The First Nations Forestry Program, in partnership with the New Brunswick Department of Tourism and Parks, and the New Brunswick Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat, organised the workshop. MacLeod Farley & Associates facilitated the workshop for 20 participants from the four Atlantic provinces.

This was the first workshop held in the province under the theme *Achieving Excellence in Aboriginal Ecotourism*. Its goal was to give First Nation communities additional tools to increase success in ecotourism development in Atlantic Canada.

Through Rick MacLeod's leadership, the delegates learned more about achieving excellence in Aboriginal ecotourism by discussing what excellence means, assessing the potential for Aboriginal ecotourism development in the region, and reviewing best practices. From there, the group put together a practical guide that participants were able to take back to their communities.

Contact Tom Murray, Canadian Forest Service, Atlantic Forestry Centre for more information about the Atlantic Aboriginal Ecotourism Workshop. Phone: 506.452.3567 or e-mail: [tmurray@nrcan.gc.ca](mailto:tmurray@nrcan.gc.ca).

### Students can't get enough of the First Nation Forestry Youth Employment Program

In 2000, the Fort William First Nation, working with Bowater Forest Products Inc., started the First Nations Ranger Program in the Thunder Bay area. Outland Reforestation Inc., from their Thunder Bay Operations office, has delivered the program since the beginning with goals that still ring true today:

"We want the kids to have the opportunity to work, make new friends, and have fun," says Dave Bradley of Outland Reforestation. "It's also important that we make Aboriginal youth aware of the post-secondary school opportunities [by building] their knowledge and awareness of sustainable natural resources, and helping them develop employable skills, workplace ethics, and entrepreneurial skills."

These goals have been accomplished over a few summers under the program's new name, *First Nation Forestry Youth Employment Program*, with forest industry companies and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources offering silvicultural employment opportunities. This practical experience encourages many youth to come back as crew leaders-in-training. Graduate youth are also enrolling in post-secondary institutions for further education in forestry and related disciplines.

With the support of the FNFP, the Ontario Government, forest industry partners including Bowater, Weyerhaeuser Canada, and Tembec Inc., along with the Confederation College Forestry Centre, three camps were created in northern Ontario in 2004.

Last year, 50 Aboriginal youth from 23 communities participated, and 96 per cent completed the program. Twenty former participants have found full-time employment. The students believe sharing the program is the way to go. A first-year student said it best: "I would love to return to this program next year. I want my nieces to come to this program. I want everyone to join!"

For more information, contact Dave Bradley by calling 807.345.3534; e-mail: [dbradley@outland.ca](mailto:dbradley@outland.ca). You can also contact Rick Greet, Canadian Forest Service, Great Lakes Forestry Centre. Phone 705.541.5592; e-mail: [rgreet@nrcan.gc.ca](mailto:rgreet@nrcan.gc.ca).



## From School-to-Work — Thanks to Meadow Lake Tribal Council's leadership

About 200 kilometres north of North Battleford in north-central Saskatchewan, the Meadow Lake Tribal Council's (MLTC) territory is home to 10,000 band members.

The MLTC is seen nationally as a leader in economic development and program delivery. One of their program successes is the summer *School-to-Work Program*. It is in its fifth year and has become an effective way for local youth to access community employment.

Each year, *School-to-Work* accepts one student from each MLTC community. The communities are:

Flying Dust First Nation	Buffalo River Dene Nation
Birch Narrows Dene Nation	Canoe Lake Cree Nation
Waterhen Lake First Nation	Clearwater River Dene Nation
Makwa Sahgaiehcan First Nation	English River First Nation
Island Lake First Nation	

The First Nations Forestry Program has supported the *School-to-Work Program* through financial contributions totalling \$292,000 over the last five years.

"Our Elders have seen our land go through many changes," says Mervin McIntyre, an MLTC Employment Services Officer. "It's very important that they sit in with our students and talk about how things were done in their day. Our goal is to teach forestry concepts in a way that includes the traditional point of view. Our Elders are teaching what they have learned from our Cree and Dene ancestors. They learn to respect the trees for more than just our own uses."

The success of the program's graduates is due to their participation in traditional teachings by community Elders along with industry training. Mistik Management Ltd., a forestry company partly owned by the MLTC, host student field trips as another aspect of the training. The students benefit from the experience gained working on the Meadow Lake Tribal Council's forest lands.

Since 2001, 45 students in Grades 10 through 12 have enrolled in the six-week summer program. All participants come away with a good start toward developing a promising forestry career.

For more information, contact Mervin McIntyre by calling 306.236.5654; e-mail [mervin.mcintyre@mltc.net](mailto:mervin.mcintyre@mltc.net). You can also contact Mike Newman, Canadian Forest Service, Saskatchewan Liaison Office, by calling 306.953.8546; e-mail: [mnewman@nrcan.gc.ca](mailto:mnewman@nrcan.gc.ca).

## New Studies and Reports

*Relationships between First Nations and the Forest Industry: The Legal and Policy Context*. A report by the Institute on Governance ([www.iog.ca](http://www.iog.ca)) for the First Nations Forestry Program, the National Aboriginal Forestry Association, and the Forest Products Association of Canada (March 2005). The study examines the effect legal and policy environments in the provinces and territories have on First Nations – forest industry relationships. More than 75 interviews with officials from First Nations, the forest industry, and both levels of government generated 23 conclusions and recommendations. Electronic copies of the report's *Executive Summary* and information about obtaining the full report are available on the First Nations Forestry Program's website. See: [www.fnfp.gc.ca](http://www.fnfp.gc.ca).

*Creating Wealth and Employment in Aboriginal Communities*. A report by Stelios Loizides and Wanda Wuttunee, Governance and Corporate Social Responsibility, Conference Board of Canada (April 2005). This study looks at how 10 Aboriginal communities have established unique community-owned business enterprises. Six key factors are identified as contributing to the success of each enterprise. An electronic copy of the report can be downloaded from the Conference Board of Canada's e-Library. See: [www.conferenceboard.ca](http://www.conferenceboard.ca).

## Upcoming Events

. **International Symposium on Non-Timber Forest Products, Community Economic Development and Forest Conservation**. The symposium will be coordinated with a trade show and networking conference, directed at local and regional NTFP businesses, August 25 to 27, 2005. Hosted by the Centre for Non-Timber Resources at Royal Roads University, Victoria, BC. For more information, e-mail [ntfp@royalroads.ca](mailto:ntfp@royalroads.ca). See: [www.royalroads.ca/cntr](http://www.royalroads.ca/cntr).

## Did You Know?

Since 1996, the FNFP has supported over 1,700 forestry projects in over 460 First Nation communities across Canada. Visit [www.fnfp.gc.ca](http://www.fnfp.gc.ca) for more information about the program.

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