



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

**November 2005**

## **Atlantic Forestry Centre Dedicates First Nations Corridor**

Over the past 15 years, the Canadian Forest Service - Atlantic Forestry Centre (CFS-AFC) has forged a strong working relationship with Atlantic Canada's First Nations communities through the First Nations Forestry Program and the Aboriginal Skills Employment Program (ASEP). Several First Nations people work at the Atlantic Forestry Centre, and many more have been employed by the CFS as summer students over the years. To showcase this relationship, AFC has dedicated a corridor in the Forestry Centre to First Nations.

The new First Nations Corridor is prominently located on the first floor of the building close to the reception area. It will serve as a unique display for such events as open houses and tours of the building. Murals and panels depict a large airborne eagle, a wolf, the names of all Atlantic First Nations communities, and artifacts from the beginnings of the ASEP program. Also featured are exhibits highlighting Aboriginal crafts, photography, and the use of non-timber forest products.

The First Nations Corridor demonstrates the AFC's commitment to working with First Nations and to building a more welcoming environment for First Nations employees and visitors.

For more information please contact Tom Murray, Atlantic Forestry Centre, by calling (506) 452-3567, or email: [tmurray@nrcan.gc.ca](mailto:tmurray@nrcan.gc.ca)

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## **Dynamic Seminar on Forestry Certification**

On September 27th and 28th, 2005, the Seminar on Certification of Forestry Practices for Aboriginal Forestry Organizations was held in Quebec City. This seminar was made possible by a partnership between the First Nations Forestry Program (CFS, INAC), the Forestry Innovation Partnership (FERIC, FORINTEK, CFS) and the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Sustainable Development Institute.

Over 40 participants working for 24 Aboriginal organizations active in the forest industry were given the opportunity to learn about the various certification processes used in sustainable forest management in Canada. Thanks to their active participation in six workshops, they were also able to work through each of the steps for implementing an environmental management system in compliance with the ISO-14001 standard relevant to Aboriginal forestry management.

The participants will return to their communities enriched by the experience. Each was provided with course material, including a guide on how to implement the ISO Standard certification process. This tool kit will enable the participants to make presentations in their own communities, assess and respond to requests from industry, and introduce clients to local certification processes. In turn, their communities can begin to plan and direct their operations toward ISO certification of their organization and land management. Workshop participants were highly satisfied with both the relevance of the subject matter and the training approach using on-the-ground experience.

For further information please contact Alain Dubois, Laurentian Forestry Centre, by calling (418) 648-7134, or email: [alain.dubois@nrcan.gc.ca](mailto:alain.dubois@nrcan.gc.ca)

## Regional Workshop hosted by FNEP

On September 21st and 22nd, the Canadian Forest Service, Northern Forestry Centre, hosted a regional Forestry and Science for Aboriginal Youth workshop, in Edmonton, Alberta. The purpose of the event was to share the experiences of different organizations delivering youth-based initiatives in Aboriginal communities, and to discuss the potential for collaboration among these organizations in the future.

Thirty-two people took part in the facilitated workshop, including representatives from: First Nations; federal and provincial governments; industry; the Manitoba, Prince Albert, and Foothills Model Forests; and other organizations with experience in Aboriginal youth issues. Speakers from several provinces outlined initiatives in their jurisdiction undertaken for Aboriginal youth, with emphasis both on their successes and the challenges ahead. During breakout sessions, participants focused on the challenge of developing the needed skills in young Aboriginals and how to meet this challenge. At the conclusion of the workshop, participants expressed an interest in working together toward developing a seamless approach to “growing” an Aboriginal work force in natural resources management.

For more information, please contact Lorne West, Northern Forestry Centre, by calling (780) 435-7279, or email: [lw@nrcan.gc.ca](mailto:lw@nrcan.gc.ca)

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## Upcoming Events...

*Westwind Conference series “Your Forest – Your Choice”*, 13th conference, April 19 and 20, 2006 at Deerhurst Resort near Huntsville, Ontario. Theme: Forest Treasures – Overlooked Tree Species, the ecology, management, uses and wildlife connections of hemlock, black cherry, white birch and more. Technical sessions will focus on hemlock responses to silvicultural treatments and irregular shelter-wood management while concurrent, more general, sessions will help landowners and others learn more about the lesser-known forest tree species. You can visit the website at <http://www.westwindforest.ca/conference13/english/index.php> or contact Maxine Davidson at (705) 746-6832; email: [maxinedavidson@westwindforest.ca](mailto:maxinedavidson@westwindforest.ca)

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## Did you know?

Across Canada, First Nations people are helping to improve the quality of life in their communities by participating in the First Nations Forestry Program. You can read about how well many First Nations Communities are doing with their forestry projects in the new publication “*In partnership with First Nations: First Nations Forestry Program Success Stories.*” For your free copy, call Joanne Pugin at (613) 992-5874, or email: [jpugin@nrcan.gc.ca](mailto:jpugin@nrcan.gc.ca). You can also download the PDF version by visiting the Canadian Forest Service bookstore at: <http://bookstore.cfs.nrcan.gc.ca>