

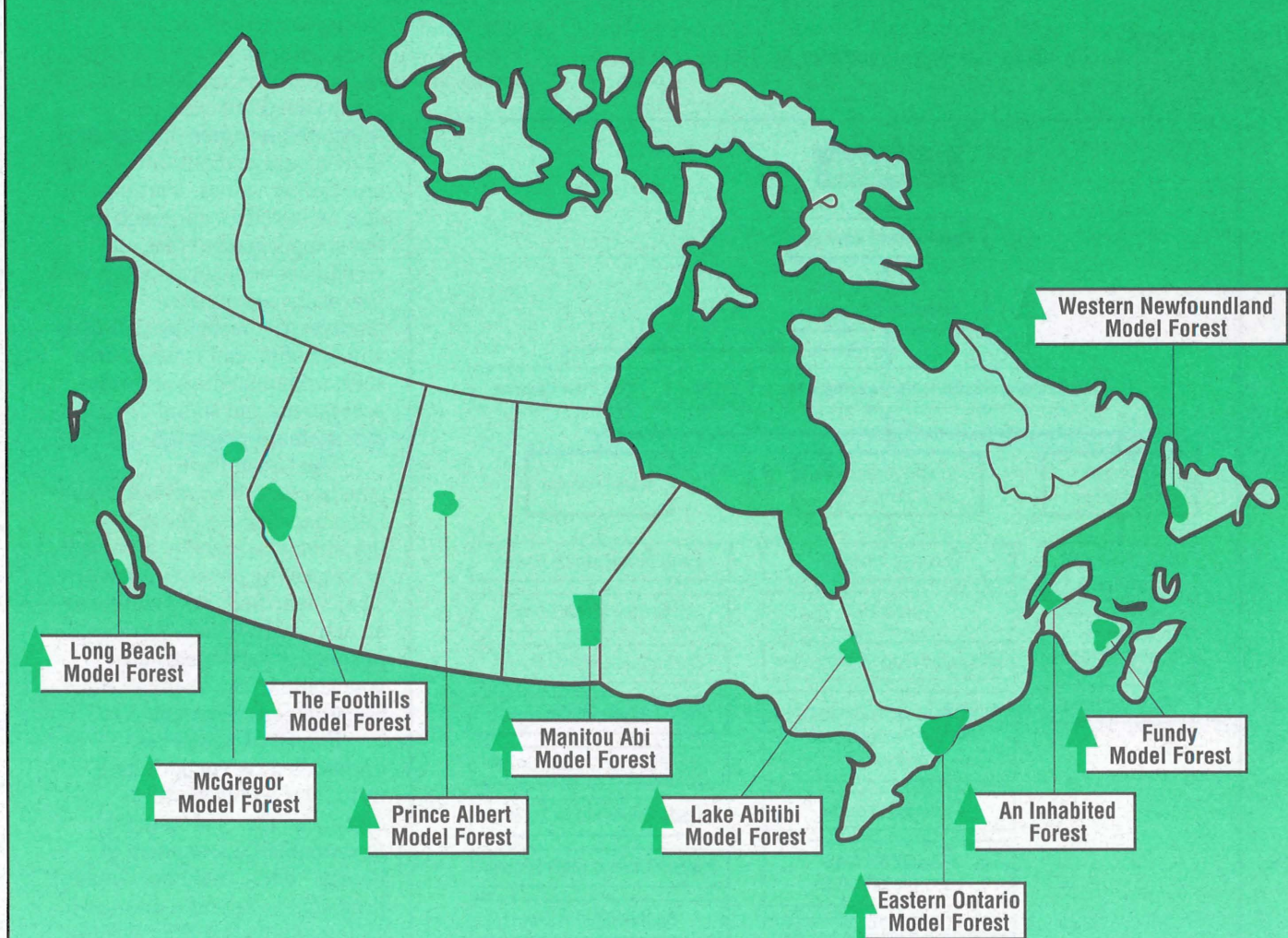


October 1992

# INFORMATION FORESTRY

## Pacific & Yukon Region

### Canada's Model Forest Network



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# Green Plan—What is it?

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## Green Plan—What is it?

Green Plan is a \$3 billion, six-year, comprehensive environmental action plan developed by the federal government to protect the health of Canada’s environment. The Green Plan was based on an extensive consultation process, involving close to 10,000 Canadians through a series of public meetings and workshops across the country. Eight strategic areas of the environment are addressed in the Green Plan. One of these is to promote the “sustainable use of Canada’s renewable resources,” which includes forestry.

## Green Plan—Who’s Responsible?

Although Environment Canada is the lead federal department responsible for Green Plan, virtually every department of the government

of Canada is actively involved in fulfilling the objectives of the plan. All across the country provincial and territorial governments, universities, industry, communities, associations and other groups have joined hands with the federal government in pursuing the goals of Green Plan. Individual Canadians are also playing an important role through their participation in Green Plan projects. Who is responsible for Green Plan? You are.

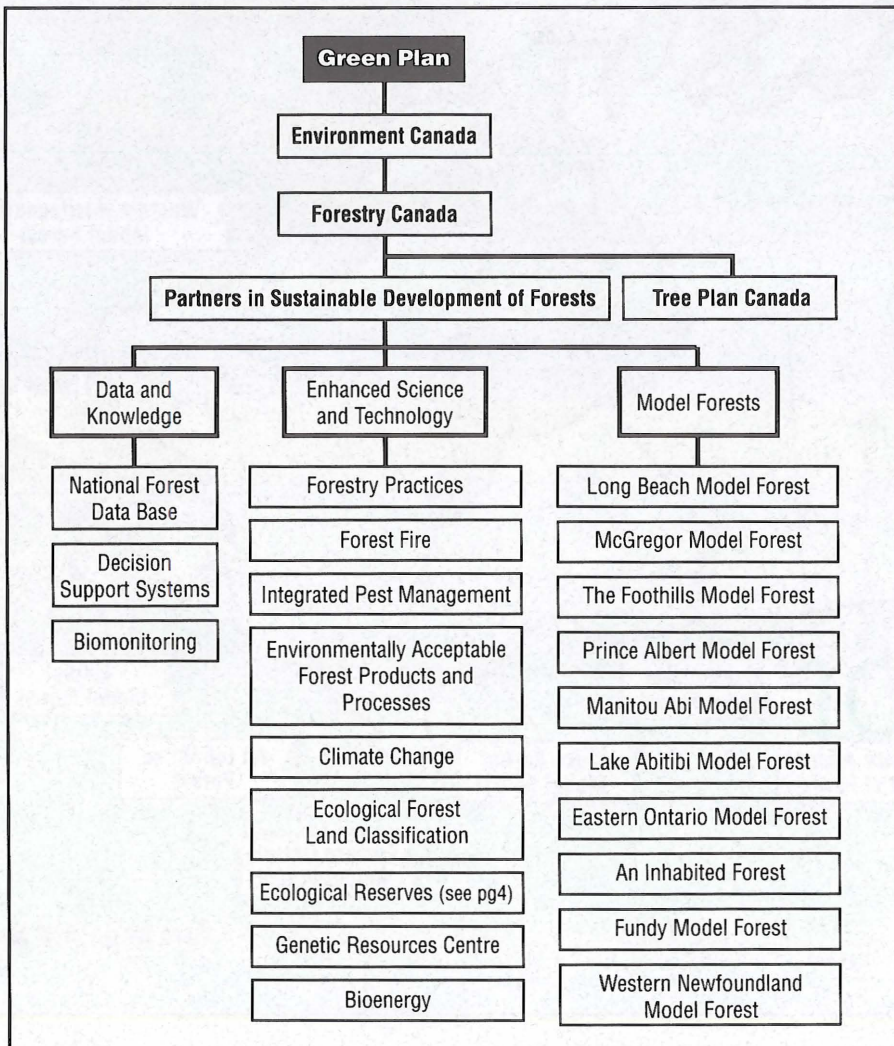
## Forestry Canada and Green Plan

Forestry Canada is one of several federal government departments working to make Green Plan a reality. During the Green Plan consultations, Canadians across the country emphasized the importance of Canada’s forests, expressing concern over the state of forests and how they are managed. They

emphasized the need for integrated resource management that recognizes both timber and non-timber values. Participants also favoured an approach to forest management that recognizes ecological factors and processes, encourages biodiversity, recognizes all costs and benefits, and is based on a solid understanding of forest ecosystems and sound management practices.

The Green Plan consultations also revealed that Canadians have a desire to become more actively involved in improving the environment. They identified tree planting as an activity in which they could personally participate and contribute to the health of the Canadian environment.

Forestry Canada has undertaken two major forest initiatives to answer these demands. The “Partners for Sustainable Development of Forests” and “Tree Plan Canada” programs represent a promise to all Canadians that their wishes for a healthy forest environment will be met.



# Partners in Sustainable Development of Forests

**F**orestry Canada has committed \$100 million over six years towards achieving the objectives of the program.

The "Partners in Sustainable Development of Forests" program is the first of two Forestry Canada Green Plan programs. The program is intended to shift management of Canada's forests from sustained yield to sustainable development. This means changing the emphasis from strictly timber production to a more holistic ecologically-oriented approach. Essential to this new approach is the preservation and protection of diverse ecosystems—the soil, plants, animals, insects and fungi—while maintaining the productivity.

The "Partners" program contains three initiatives designed to make sustainable development a reality: expanded knowledge and data, enhanced science and technology, and the development of a network of model forests.

Forestry Canada has committed \$100 million over six years towards achieving the objectives of the program. The money will be divided among the three components of the program; the largest share will be used to build the network of model forests.

## 1. DATA AND KNOWLEDGE

The first component of the Partners in Sustainable Development of Forests Program will bring together existing provincial data into a comprehensive national forestry database, improve Canada's forest health surveillance systems and create decision-support systems. These will form the basis of a public information program on forests and forestry issues. Communicating the principles and procedures for attaining sustainable development is fundamental to the success of the Partners in Sustainable Development of Forests Program.

This component focuses on three major areas and goals:

**NATIONAL FOREST DATA BASE.** Enlist the federal, provincial and territorial governments, under the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (CCFM), to establish a national, comprehensive database.

**DECISION SUPPORT SYSTEMS.** Develop systems that integrate geographical information, remote sensing and computer-based expert programs to help support forest management planning programs which take into account all values.

**BIOMONITORING.** Expand and intensify Canada's forest-health monitoring system, to improve our ability to assess the effects of pollutants and other hazards on the health of forests.

## 2. ENHANCED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The second component of the Partners Program, Enhanced Science and Technology, is an integrated series of scientific initiatives designed to accelerate and expand forestry research and lead to the development of new

environmentally sound forestry techniques and strategies. Nine specific research areas have been identified. Working groups formed to coordinate the research are comprised of representatives from Forestry Canada, provincial governments, and universities. A National Coordinator from Forestry Canada will lead each of the groups.

The nine areas and their goals are:

**FORESTRY PRACTICES.** Find ways to reduce the environmental impact of timber harvesting, silviculture, and pest control.

National coordinator: Paul Addison, Ontario Region  
Regional collaborator: Bob Dobbs

**FOREST FIRE.** Produce new fire-management information systems and models to reduce the loss of forests to wild fires.

National coordinator: Dennis Dubé, Northwest Region  
Regional collaborator: Peter Fuglem, British Columbia Forest Service

**INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM).** Devise biological alternatives to chemical pesticides to help control insects, diseases, and competing vegetation.

National coordinator: Errol Caldwell, Forest Pest Management Institute  
Regional collaborator: Dave Winston

**ENVIRONMENTALLY ACCEPTABLE FOREST PRODUCTS AND PROCESSES.**

Conceive new techniques, technology and biological systems to more efficiently harvest timber, increase levels of recycling and reduce pulp-mill pollution and energy consumption.

National coordinator: Richard Glandon, Forestry Canada Headquarters  
Regional collaborator: Bill Wilson

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and procedures  
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**CLIMATE CHANGE.** Examine the Canadian forests' role in buffering the atmosphere, the carbon balance and the impact of acid rain, and study global warming's potential effect on our forests.

National coordinator: Mike Apps, Northwest Region

Regional collaborator: Ross Benton

**ECOLOGICAL FOREST LAND**

**CLASSIFICATION.** Study the forested ecosystems of Canada to strengthen our understanding of these systems.

National coordinator: Richard Sims, Ontario Region

Regional collaborator: Ed Oswald

**ECOLOGICAL RESERVES.** Support the selection and protection of conservation areas representative of all major forest ecosystems.

National coordinator: Doug Pollard, Pacific & Yukon Region

**GENETIC RESOURCES CENTRE.** Establish a national centre to ensure the conservation of plant and insect genetic materials.

National coordinator: Gordon Murray, Petawawa National Forestry Institute

Regional collaborator: George Edwards

**BIOENERGY.** Develop the potential of alternate fuels, such as woody biomass, and develop user guidelines.

National coordinator: Jim Richardson, Forestry Canada Headquarters

Regional collaborator: Dave Winston

## Ecological Reserves

If asked, most people would describe an ecological reserve as an area set aside to protect rare species, provide sanctuary for wildlife, or preserve a unique landscape. Few people would describe an ecological reserve as an asset to forestry. Yet the fact is, the preservation of naturally-evolved forest ecosystems plays a paramount role in sustainable forest management.

"The role protected areas play in forestry is appreciated neither by the public nor by the decision makers of the world," says PFC's Dr. Doug Pollard, National Coordinator of Forestry Canada's Ecological Reserves Project. "One of the biggest challenges we face in our project is to make people aware of the value of the knowledge we can glean from natural ecosystems and how that knowledge can be used to manage our resources wisely and successfully."

Ecological reserves ensure the long-term protection of intact plant and animal communities and provide environmental baselines to compare the

impact of human interventions on forest ecosystems. The communities that comprise an ecosystem are highly complex - continually interacting with one another and with the environment. Valuable data can be gathered by observing the interaction and the responses of these communities to disturbances such as climate change, ozone depletion and pollution. The

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*"A science of land health needs, first of all, a base-datum of normality, a picture of how healthy land maintains itself as an organism"*

*-Aldo Leopold 1941*

information can be used to gauge the effects those disturbances will have on less resilient or disturbed ecosystems. The wide range of genetic resources contained within reserves offer unique opportunities for research relating to operational forestry. Reserves also provide an important reservoir of fauna and flora for colonization of changing environments.

In their campaign to create awareness, Pollard's group proposes the establishment of a 'model' ecological

reserve in, or adjacent to, each of Canada's Model Forests. The 'model' reserves will provide opportunities for research and encourage the Model Forest partners to incorporate the results of the research in their forestry activities. "We're looking forward to a time when all forest managers routinely include ecological reserves in their plans," says Pollard.

The Ecological Reserves Project addresses one of the highest priorities of Forestry Canada's Green Plan "Partners in Sustainable Development of Forests" program. Its central goal is to ensure that all of Canada's major forest ecosystems are represented in a continental network of ecological reserves scheduled for completion by the year 2000. Project members are working closely with the Canadian Council on Ecological Areas (CCEA) and other agencies to identify and select examples of forest ecosystems to be included in the network. Forestry Canada will also provide forest-related information on each ecological reserve to be included in Environment Canada's National Conservation Area Data Base.

# Model forests prepare to begin

**M**odel Forests are defined as large, productive, working forests, representative of the major forest regions across Canada, that will function as living laboratories for the most advanced scientific methods, techniques, and forest resource management practices.

One of the largest "applied research" programs ever undertaken in forestry is poised to begin this month as the partnership committees representing a national network of 10 proposed Model Forests finalize their agreements with Forestry Canada.

Since federal Forestry Minister Frank Oberle announced the locations of the proposed Model Forests last May, negotiations have been underway with each Model Forest Partnership to convert the proposed organization and activities into a formal agreement between the federal government and the Model Forest Partnerships. This involves agreeing on the actual cash flow for the Model Forest, specifying what activities will be funded under the program, and identifying the administrative structure for management of and accountability for the federal dollars.

PFC's Wayne Coombs is a member of the negotiating committee. "All the shareholders see Model Forests as a 'win-win' situation," he says. "We're all excited about the opportunities Model Forests open up for shared planning and decision making. We're close to achieving consensus and there's a spirit of enthusiasm at the negotiating table."

Through the Green Plan Partners in Sustainable Development of Forests Program, Forestry Canada will contribute up to \$60 million over six years to the Model Forests program. Funds will be used only to promote, develop, and implement new methods of sustainable and integrated forest management.

Funds will not be used to subsidize current forest management expenditures. Under the guidelines, the maximum federal contribution in any one year may not exceed \$1.5 million per forest.

Model Forests are defined as large, productive, working forests, representative of the major forest regions across Canada, that will function as living laboratories for the most advanced scientific methods, techniques, and forest resource management practices. The forests will be managed for a variety of values such as wildlife, biodiversity, watersheds, and fisheries in addition to the traditional value of fibre supply. This holistic approach to forest management will ensure that the use of the forest today does not damage prospects for its use by future generations.

Model Forests are managed by partnership committees representing a wide range of interests including industry, community, government, native groups, and environmental organizations. This is a new method of management and decision-making for many of the parties involved. The partnerships encourage groups with divergent views concerning forest development and management to resolve their differences through negotiations and systematic approaches to conflict resolution.

"The key to the success of the program lies in the ability of the partnership committees to work toward a common goal of sustainable forests for Canada," says Coombs.

## *National Advisory Committee on Model Forests*

**T**he National Advisory Committee on Model Forests evaluated fifty model forest proposals in their search for ten that would best reflect the ecological diversity of the country.

The Advisory Committee was chaired by Art May, President of Memorial University, former Deputy Minister of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and President of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC).

Committee members were Gordon Baskerville, Faculty of Forestry, University of New Brunswick; André Lafond, Professor Emeritus, Laval University; Jean-Guy

Whiteduck, Chief, River Desert Band, Algonquin Nation; David Neave, Executive Director, Wildlife Habitat Canada; John Houghton, National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy; Bruce Dancik, Chair, Department of Forest Science, University of Alberta; Jack Toovey, Chair, Forest Research Advisory Committee; Les Reed, Professor, Faculty of Forestry, University of British Columbia; Yvan Hardy (Ex-Officio), Assistant Deputy Minister, Operations, Forestry Canada; and Dave Brand (Secretary), Director, Environment, Forestry Canada.

# B.C.'s model forests

*The model forest management objectives recognize the needs of all forest users and will lead to true integrated resource management. The newest forest management techniques as well as the latest concepts in consensus management will be incorporated into this model forest.*

## McGREGOR MODEL FOREST

The proposed McGregor Model Forest is located in the Montane and Subalpine Forest Regions of North-Central British Columbia. The land base of the Model Forest is Tree Farm License 30, and covers 180 767 hectares. Of this area, 180 036 hectares are provincial Crown land, and 731 hectares is privately owned by the licensee, Northwood Pulp and Paper.

The city of Prince George lies about 25 km southwest of the Model Forest area. Access to the area is well developed, with 211 km of main roads and 1300 km of branch and other access roads. All roads are open to the public. While timber management is the primary focus of the Tree Farm Licence operations, other resource uses such as cross country skiing, hiking, wildlife viewing, hunting and fishing are integrated into the planning of the Tree Farm Licence.

The McGregor Model Forest Partnership committee includes school districts, universities, labour, industry, research organizations, local government, federal and provincial departments and agencies, and environmental interest groups.

The McGregor Model Forest Program will develop the systems, technologies, knowledge base and processes to enhance integrated

resource management and achieve the sustainable development of the forests and its many resources.



McGregor

## LONG BEACH MODEL FOREST

The 400 000 hectare area proposed as the Long Beach Model Forest is found within the Regional District of Alberni-Clayoquot on the west coast of Vancouver Island. This area is the heart of Canada's coastal rainforest and encompasses Meares Island, a well-known example of the west coast rainforest ecosystem. The model forest area, with its



Long Beach

majestic scenery of coastal shores, forests and mountains, is also home to major forest-based industries as well as mining and fishing activities that are important to the local lifestyles and economy. Now, as demand for these diverse resource values increases, a balance between sustaining natural old growth forests and economic activities must be found. Much thought, skill and cooperation are therefore required to sustain these values and to enable them to coexist.

The Long Beach Model Forest Partnership committee will demonstrate sustainable development within the Long Beach Model Forest by using the timber resource while taking into account the requirements of the other non-timber values. The committee includes representatives from local community groups, labour, industry, native groups, federal and provincial departments and agencies, and environmental interest groups.

The model forest management objectives recognize the needs of all forest users and will lead to true integrated resource management. The newest forest management techniques as well as the latest concepts in consensus management will be incorporated into this model forest. New forest practices will be tested and adapted for use throughout the model forest area. Public education and training of interest groups, industry, other resource agencies and forest managers will be conducted using the most advanced technologies available.

# Promise of tree-planting program

**P**ouring government money into a program does not ensure its success no matter how lofty the aims, I believe a financial commitment as well as an active participatory commitment on the part of concerned communities will ensure success."

"Planting trees is a positive action - something you can do that can really make a difference," says Randy Butcher, Forestry Canada co-ordinator of Tree Plan Canada in Victoria.

Under the umbrella of Tree Plan Canada, the federally-funded National Community Tree Foundation will oversee distribution of \$55 million across Canada to promote tree-planting in cities, towns, and rural areas. It's this initiative that has Butcher excited.

"Amid controversy and concern for our forests and our environment, I see this as a way for people - ordinary people like you and I - to proactively make a difference, not only to beautify our communities but to attack air pollution, to conserve energy and reduce global warming," he says.

A large ambition, but Butcher is enthusiastically undaunted by the task ahead. He is spending his time encouraging community groups, businesses and individuals to plan tree-planting projects.

"I'm inviting proposals for tree-planting projects from throughout the province," he says. "We can offer technical information to help develop these projects and then I forward the project application to the Foundation for funding approval."

The Foundation is looking for private donations to complement the federal money earmarked for the initiative. Butcher is also looking for donations - in the form of seedlings and expertise. He believes the financial commitment of communities and businesses will go far to make this a successful effort in improving the environment and in giving people the opportunity to participate in a positive way.

"Pouring government money into a program does not ensure its success no matter how lofty the aims," he says. "I believe a financial commitment as well as an active

participatory commitment on the part of concerned communities will ensure success."

Success, he explains, will be evident in the numbers of trees planted (325 million across Canada in the next six years are projected) but will be measured over the long term in the natural value of trees to the environment.

Trees reduce pollution by cleaning particles out of the air, producing oxygen and helping to cool and circulate the air. Trees conserve energy by the shelter they provide. They absorb carbon dioxide helping to remedy the Greenhouse Effect. Trees stop erosion by blocking the wind and holding the soil and softening the impact of heavy rainfall. They provide habitat for wildlife, sheltering and feeding many species of animals and birds and add value to homes and recreational areas.

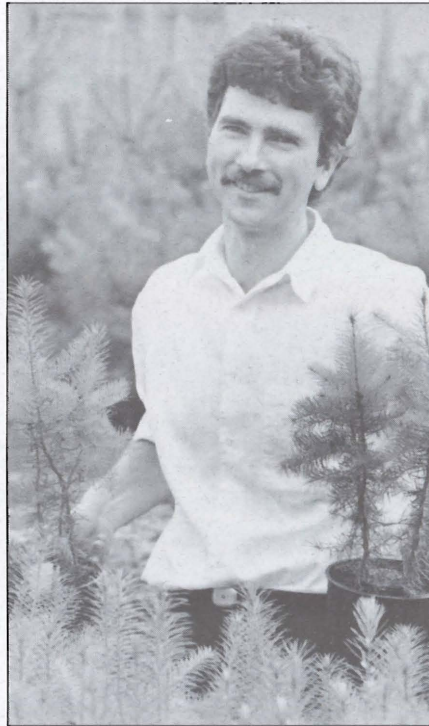
Though a tree-planting project may be aimed at beautifying a community, Butcher says projects planned for watershed protection, reclamation of waste sites, abandoned lands and habitat enhancement should also look to this program for support.

"I'd like to urge people to really take a look at their immediate environment, their community," he adds. "Find those areas where a tree-

planting project would solve a problem or remedy a potential problem."

The next step is to contact Randy Butcher at Forestry Canada (604-363-6034) for help in developing your proposal and for other information.

"Each of us can make a difference," he says. "And planting trees makes a difference not only today but for generations to come."



**Randy Butcher, Forestry Canada co-ordinator of Tree Plan Canada.**

## INFORMATION FORESTRY

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