

Forest Communities Program

Helping communities meet the transition challenges of a changing forest sector



Canada's forest-based communities are facing significant challenges as a consequence of forest industry restructuring and transformation, an ageing population, changing markets, stiff international competition and major natural disturbances, such as wildland fire and insect infestation.

These challenges require innovative responses. The Forest Communities Program (FCP) was initiated in 2007 to assist community-based partnerships to develop and share knowledge, strategies and tools to adjust to forest sector transition and to take advantage of emerging forest-based opportunities.

Program Objectives

- ▶ Develop new forest-based economic opportunities
- ▶ Facilitate capacity building and engagement of communities
- ▶ Promote and share integrated, multisectoral approaches to forest management
- ▶ Share best practices and information with forest communities across Canada and around the world

About the FCP

The FCP is a \$25-million, 5-year program that funds 11 sites across Canada. The FCP community partnerships are located in defined geographic areas at a regional scale, and include a mix of urban, rural and Aboriginal communities. Typically, these community partnerships are diverse, with participants drawn from community groups, industry, Aboriginal organizations, various levels of government, land-owners, and research and educational institutions.

Some current projects include:

- Research on community applications of bioenergy
- Valuation of ecological goods and services, including water, recreation and biodiversity
- Community approaches to integrated land management
- Strategies for community adaptation to climate change
- Business models for non-timber forest product initiatives
- Youth engagement in forest-based career opportunities

These are just a few of the many FCP-supported projects aimed at increasing the economic and environmental sustainability of forest-based communities. The FCP also pursues its program objectives through initiation and support of national projects with not-for-profit groups, such as the Canadian Model Forest Network. (www.modelforest.net)

Forest Communities Program Sites

- 1 Clayoquot Forest Communities www.ecotrust.ca/clayoquot/fcp
- 2 Resources North Association www.resourcesnorth.org
- 3 Prince Albert Model Forest www.pamodelforest.sk.ca
- 4 Manitoba Model Forest www.manitobamodelforest.net
- 5 Northeast Superior Forest Community www.nsfca.ca
- 6 Eastern Ontario Model Forest www.eomf.on.ca
- 7 Le Bourdon Project www.nouveau.ca/projetlebourdon.aspx
- 8 Lac-Saint-Jean Model Forest www.foretmodeledulacsaintjean.ca
- 9 Fundy Model Forest www.fundymodelforest.net
- 10 Nova Forest Alliance www.novaforestalliance.com
- 11 Model Forest of Newfoundland & Labrador www.mfnl.ca



Eleven community-based partnerships from across Canada were selected through a competitive process to participate in the FCP.

▶ For more information about the Forest Communities Program, contact:

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