



Forest Communities Program Newsletter

Issue #1, Fall 2008

We are excited to present the Forest Communities Program's first newsletter, profiling some of the events and projects that have occurred since the program got underway in fall 2007.

The Forest Communities Program (FCP) is a \$25-million, five-year program that funds 11 forest community organizations across Canada, as well as national projects. 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, landowners, research groups and educational institutions. The FCP assists forest community organizations in developing and sharing new knowledge, practices and strategies to meet the challenges of forest sector transition and to develop new, forest-based economic opportunities.

If you have questions about any of the articles in this issue, please contact the FCP Secretariat at fcp-pcf@nrcan.gc.ca. If you want to know more, please visit us online at <http://cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/index/fcpgm>.

FCP Site News

The **Model Forest of Newfoundland and Labrador (MFNL)** has recently been invited to participate in Agriculture and Agrifood Canada's "Rural Team Newfoundland and Labrador" that will help to develop a Rural Partnership Development Program in the region. Along these same lines, the final stages of setting up two Local Community Networks, with coordinators, are well underway. MFNL is also developing a marketing strategy with help from the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency and the Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Innovation, Trade and Rural Development. Funding proposals have also been jointly developed involving FCP sites in Atlantic Canada.

The **Manitoba Model Forest (MMF)** is receiving \$100,000 in funding from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) for an eco-cultural tourism project between the MMF and the Reventazón Model Forest. This project supports the on-going ethno-cultural and ecological initiatives of the indigenous Cabecar communities of the Nairí-Awarí Reserve in Costa Rica. Urbano Chaves, a representative of Nairí-Awarí was in Canada in June to work with the MMF and the Brokenhead Ojibway Nation on the project.

Mr. Chaves, along with 170 delegates from over 30 countries also attended the International Model Forest Global Forum in late June in Hinton, AB. Discussions



Urbano Chaves hiking in Jasper National Park



at the Global Forum cemented existing international collaboration, as well as led to the development of a new relationship between the **Lac-Saint-Jean Model Forest** and Cameroonian Model Forests.

The **Eastern Ontario Model Forest (EOMF)** has recently received close to \$190,000 from the Ontario Species at Risk Stewardship Fund for species at risk outreach work, environmental land classification inventories, habitat monitoring and herpetofaunal atlas development. This fund was designed to support the commitment to a stewardship approach to Ontario's new Endangered Species Act, 2007. Environment Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program also supplied approximately \$35,000 for the herpetofaunal atlas, which will work to document all amphibians and reptiles in eastern Ontario while cooperating with landowners to encourage stewardship activities.

Opening of the Pasiwin Cultural Heritage Site

On July 16, 2008 Member of Parliament Rob Clark of Desnethé-Missinippi-Churchill River officially opened the Pasiwin Cultural Heritage Site. Located in the southeast corner of Prince Albert National Park, the heritage site is built on the site of a decommissioned buffalo enclosure, which successfully rehabilitated a local plains bison population in the 1930's. The park is now home to a wild and growing population of over 250 head. In fact, the name Pasiwin, meaning *to successfully escape or elude danger* in Cree, was inspired by the rehabilitation of the threatened plains bison and was given by a local elder. First Nations in the region traditionally relied on the bison for food, shelter, tools and clothing.

The area will provide its grounds for activities such as powwows and an Aboriginal cultural youth camp while preserving its sacred sites and archaeological integrity. As described by Mr. Clark, the Pasiwin Cultural Heritage Site is "an excellent example of enhancing community relations, providing employment, economic opportunities and involvement in Aboriginal heritage presentation." The site is the result of five years of planning and development facilitated by the **Prince Albert Model Forest** and will function to build relationships between First Nations, Métis and Parks Canada.



Pasiwin Cultural Heritage Site opening Day



Forest Communities Conference 2009

The Forest Communities Program, in partnership with other organizations, is developing plans for a national conference on *Trends and Opportunities for Sustainable Forest-Based Communities*, to be held in British Columbia in spring 2009.

This national event will attract community-level representatives and stakeholders on the frontlines of the widespread downturn and transition in the forest sector. Participants will exchange information on current challenges and innovative strategies in forest-based communities, gather ideas and feedback on potential national projects and initiatives, and develop new linkages to help forest-based communities adapt to forest sector transition.

Stay tuned to the next issue of the FCP Newsletter for more information about this event.

FCP Site Announcements

Over the past year, many FCP sites have held events announcing their funding as part of the five-year, \$25 million funding commitment for the Forest Communities Program.

The announcements began on December 11, 2007, in Kemptville, ON where Leeds-Grenville MP Gord Brown congratulated the **Eastern Ontario Model Forest (EOMF)** on its participation in the FCP, and also announced funding through the Eastern Ontario Development Fund. Currently the EOMF is developing an Eco-Industrial Park that will help foster a vibrant and sustainable forest-based economy in eastern Ontario.

Announcements continued in Mont-Laurier on March 4, 2008 by Lotbinière—Chutes-de-la-Chaudière MP Jacques Gourde for the **Le Bourdon Project**, which has as its principal goal to integrate recreational opportunities and tenures with forest harvesting.

The month of April saw three additional announcements, starting with the **Northeast Superior Forest Community** in Chapleau, Ontario, on April 2, 2008, where Rod Smith of the CFS's Great Lakes Forestry Centre congratulated the group on behalf of then Minister of Natural Resources Gary Lunn. Next was the **Lac-Saint-Jean Model Forest** on April 23 with Roberval-Lac-Saint-Jean MP Denis Lebel. The **Model Forest of Newfoundland & Labrador** launch event in Humber Valley, NL, on April 24 was held in the presence of Senator Ethel Cochrane, a life-long educator and sixteen year member of the Senate from Lourdes, NL.

Announcements continued in the month of May with then Natural Resources Minister Gary Lunn inaugurating the **Clayoquot Forest Community** partnership in Tofino, BC. This partnership between Ecotrust Canada and the Nuu-chah-nulth Nations aims to develop a diverse forest sector in an area that has suffered from unemployment as high as 70% in remote areas. Despite these hardships there is much hope for the future, with Minister Lunn noting "an infectious enthusiasm by all the participants".



The **Fundy Model Forest** was congratulated on participation in the FCP during its AGM on June 23 in Nackawic, NB by Bruce Pendrel of the CFS's Atlantic Forestry Centre on behalf of Minister Lunn. June also saw Provencher MP Vic Toews announce funding for the **Manitoba Model Forest** on June 26 in Lac du Bonnet, MB.

On July 9 Prince George-Peace River MP Jay Hill was in Prince George with MP Dick Harris, to celebrate the newly formed **Resources North Association**, which brings together the McGregor Model Forest and the Integrated Resource Management Partnership of Northern British Columbia.



Resources North Association Funding Event

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