



Social Sciences and Humanities  
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en  
sciences humaines du Canada

Canada

## THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

Department of Environmental Studies & Sciences  
Centre for Forest Interdisciplinary Research

June 25 & 26, 2014  
Winnipeg, Manitoba



# Community Forests Canada

## Bridging Practice, Research & Advocacy

### A Workshop & Symposium Report

Compiled by Ryan Bullock and Julia Lawler

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The workshop and symposium were primarily supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and The University of Winnipeg. Several other partners also made important cash and in-kind contributions, including:

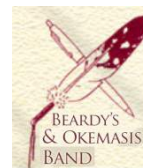
---

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Beardy's and Okemasis First Nation                 | Northern Ontario Sustainable Communities Partnership     |
| British Columbia Community Forest Association      | Nova Forest Alliance                                     |
| Brock Environmental Sustainability Research Centre | The University of Winnipeg Forestry Students Association |
| Canadian Institute of Forestry                     | University of Manitoba                                   |
| Conservation Council of New Brunswick              | Université de Montréal                                   |
| Lakehead University                                | University of Saskatchewan                               |
| Laurentian University                              | University of Toronto                                    |
| Manitoba Model Forest                              | Wabaseemoong Independent Nations                         |
| Northeast Superior Regional Chiefs' Forum          | Wilfrid Laurier University (Brantford)                   |
| NORDIK Institute                                   |  |

---



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**WINNIPEG**  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
STUDIES & SCIENCES



# **COMMUNITY FORESTS CANADA**

## **BRIDGING PRACTICE, RESEARCH & ADVOCACY**

### **A Workshop & Symposium Report**

**Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, June 25<sup>th</sup> & June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

Citation—

Bullock, R., and Lawler, J. 2014. Community Forests Canada: Bridging Practice, Research and Advocacy. A Symposium and Workshop Report. Centre for Forest Interdisciplinary Research & Department of Environmental Studies and Sciences, The University of Winnipeg. Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. 34pp.

Photo Credits: Ryan Bullock, Giuliana Casimirri, and Alan Diduck

For a paper copy of this report please contact [r.bullock@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:r.bullock@uwinnipeg.ca)

## Table of Contents

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....</b>  | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>1.0 COMMUNITY FORESTS CANADA .....</b>                             | <b>6</b>  |
| 1.1 The Joint Workshop & Symposium .....                              | 7         |
| 1.2 Planning Committee .....  | 8         |
| <b>2.0 DAY 1: AUTHORS' WORKSHOP .....</b>                             | <b>9</b>  |
| 2.1 Project Goals .....   | 9         |
| 2.2 Activities .....  | 10        |
| <b>3.0 DAY 2: COMMUNITY FORESTS CANADA SYMPOSIUM .....</b>            | <b>12</b> |
| 3.1 Symposium Goals .....   | 12        |
| 3.2 Speaker Profiles .....  | 13        |
| 3.3 Sessions & Presentations .....                                    | 16        |
| 3.3.1 Cross-Canada Policy Updates Panel .....                         | 18        |
| 3.3.2 Practice, Research & Advocacy for Community Forestry .....      | 20        |
| 3.3.3 Lessons for Collaborative Networking .....                      | 22        |
| 3.3.4 Defining the Community Forests Canada Network .....             | 23        |
| 3.4 Displays .....  | 25        |
| 3.4.1 Anthropology Exhibit: The Sinnock Site .....                    | 25        |
| 3.4.2 Archival Exhibits .....   | 26        |
| 3.4.3 Research Poster Display .....                                   | 28        |
| 3.5 Attendees & Volunteers .....                                      | 31        |
| <b>4.0 PRIORITIES &amp; ACTIONS .....</b>                             | <b>32</b> |
| 4.1 Building a National Network for Community Forests in Canada ..... | 32        |
| <b>APPENDIX A – RECORD OF SYMPOSIUM PARTICIPANTS .....</b>            | <b>34</b> |

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to share experiences and observations from the Community Forests Canada joint workshop-symposium hosted by the Centre for Forest Interdisciplinary Research and Department of Environmental Studies and Sciences at The University of Winnipeg on June 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The new national network, Community Forests Canada, is committed to research, policy development, and advocacy for community forest initiatives. Stakeholders including researchers, Aboriginal representatives, government officials, local advocates, industry representatives, and students came together to exchange experiences and resources of significance to forest communities, industries, and ecosystems.

The workshop on Day 1 was dedicated to the development of a co-edited book, *Bridging Practice, Research, and Advocacy for Communities and Forests in Canada*. Authors shared an opportunity to review and analyze content, research, and overarching project themes. Through this full day of discussion authors refined and synthesized lessons, experiences and resources relevant to community forestry and necessary for linking practice, research, and advocacy.

The symposium on Day 2 shared insights from day one as well as experiences, knowledge and issues brought by additional invited speakers and participants, such as Manitoba Model Forest and Wabaseemoong Independent Nations. The result was the creation of a learning forum where forest and community stakeholders as well as other interested individuals and groups explored, networked, and shared their experiences and perspectives. The event was covered, along with related issues, via an advanced interview with CBC Radio Winnipeg (French). In addition, a key portion of the symposium was broadcast nationwide online to members of the Canadian Institute of Forestry. An artifact exhibit, archival photograph displays, and academic research posters enhanced the symposium. These displays set the day's discussions against a historical backdrop, reminding participants of the rich history of people and forests in Manitoba and the ongoing relationships among forests, community cultures and economies today.

Several main observations emerged at the end of Day 2. 1) There is a need to build appropriate policies and institutional reform to enable community forestry practices

and innovation. 2) A national research network to support policy change and information and resource exchange could be helpful and should be further explored. 3) Formalizing a national vision, priorities, partnerships, resources and an organizing structure to support communities and their partners could be helpful but must be done with broad input.

Some main accomplishments and outputs resulting from the project include: student training; increased professional networking for stakeholders and students; better understanding of community forestry across Canada; development of cross-cultural sensitivities; reinforcement of the significance of Manitoba's forests and communities; strengthening of national collaboration for the completion of an edited book on communities and forests in Canada; production of a complete bibliography of peer-reviewed literature on community forestry in Canada; and dissemination of results from five relevant research projects.

The increasing interest in communities managing forested land is highlighted by the diverse group of participants who came together from across the country to share their insights and experiences at the Community Forests Canada symposium.

## 1.0 COMMUNITY FORESTS CANADA

In recent years, Canada's forest sector and communities have experienced great adversity. While the industry undergoes transition, many forest groups are engaging in public debate, grassroots organizing, technological and product innovation, and policy reform processes—all of which are part of efforts to rethink relationships among communities, governments, industries and forests for a sustainable future. There is no question that implementing community forestry has proven to be a complex task. However, with over 100 community forests now operating across the country there is a growing body of experience to draw upon.

Established in 2013, Community Forests Canada aims to support existing and proposed community forest initiatives, policy development, and research. The network is the product of ongoing collaboration among community forestry advocates from communities, non-government organizations (NGOs), universities, various governments and private participants. The network has three main areas of focus: building community resilience, community adaptation to climate change, and cross-cultural collaboration (Palmer et al., 2013).<sup>1</sup> Community Forests Canada aims to address disconnects between community forestry concepts and practice. To pursue network objectives, network participants have undertaken several initial projects, such as, a systematic and comprehensive review of scholarly literature on community forestry in Canada. This review will provide a collection of useful resources and baseline data to inform future research and policy development (section 3.5.2). Two additional projects are the focus of this report: a book workshop for the forthcoming publication *Bridging Practice Research and Advocacy for Communities and Forests in Canada*, and the *Community Forests Canada Symposium*. The co-edited book will synthesize a variety of perspectives on community forestry experiences (section 2.1), while the symposium created an opportunity to engage participants in discussion and gather

---

<sup>1</sup> Palmer, L., M.A. (Peggy) Smith and R. Bullock. 2013. Community Forests Canada: A New National Network. *Forestry Chronicle* 89(2): 133-134.

recommendations and feedback on the role the network could play. Together these projects tie community forest theory to practices and perspectives ‘on the ground’ – thereby bridging practice, research, and advocacy.

### **1.1 The Joint Workshop & Symposium**

The first day of the joint workshop and symposium was a writing and discussion workshop for the book *Bridging Practice, Research and Advocacy for Communities and Forests in Canada*. The second day was a networking and policy outreach symposium involving the book contributors, additional invited speakers, and participants. The symposium engaged community members from across Canada including researchers, Aboriginal representatives, government officials, local advocates, industry representatives, and students in order to exchange experiences and resources for advancing community forestry practice, research, and advocacy. Participants shared knowledge and resources of utility to forest communities, industries and governments.

A day of presentations, plenary and breakout discussions, and archival and artifact displays was designed to help explore and reframe relationships between forests and communities. This event also provided an opportunity to build new partnerships and extend the Community Forests Canada network to Manitoba in order to welcome new groups into the fold and secure collaboration. The two events connected over 50 participants from across Canada (Appendix A), who shared community forestry experiences and insights, asked questions, and worked to identify gaps and opportunities to bridge practice, research, and advocacy.



**Figure 1:** Group discussion at the CFCN Symposium, June 2014



## 1.2 Planning Committee

### **Ryan Bullock (Symposium Chair)**

Assistant Professor, Department of  
Environmental Studies and Sciences

Researcher, Centre for Forest  
Interdisciplinary Research  
The University of Winnipeg  
[r.bullock@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:r.bullock@uwinnipeg.ca)

### **Richard Westwood**

Professor, Department of Environmental  
Studies and Sciences & Department of  
Biology

Researcher, Centre for Forest  
Interdisciplinary Research

Director, Bioscience, Technology and  
Public Policy Graduate Program  
The University of Winnipeg  
[r.westwood@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:r.westwood@uwinnipeg.ca)

### **M.A. Peggy Smith**

Associate Professor, Faculty of Natural  
Resources Management  
Lakehead University

Co-Chair  
Northern Ontario Sustainable  
Communities Partnership  
[pasmith@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:pasmith@lakeheadu.ca)

### **Alan Diduck**

Associate Professor, Department of  
Environmental Studies and Sciences

Researcher, Centre for Forest  
Interdisciplinary Research  
The University of Winnipeg  
[a.diduck@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:a.diduck@uwinnipeg.ca)

### **Gayle Broad**

Associate Professor, Community Economic  
and Social Development  
Algoma University

Director  
NORDIK Institute  
[gayle.broad@algomau.ca](mailto:gayle.broad@algomau.ca)

### **John Sinclair**

Professor, Natural Resources Institute  
University of Manitoba  
[john.sinclair@ad.umanitoba.ca](mailto:john.sinclair@ad.umanitoba.ca)

### **Sara Teitelbaum**

professeure adjointe, Département de  
sociologie  
Université de Montréal  
[sara.teitelbaum@gmail.com](mailto:sara.teitelbaum@gmail.com)

### **Julia Lawler (Symposium Coordinator)**

Master's Student, Department of  
Environmental Studies and Sciences &  
Centre for Forest Interdisciplinary Research  
The University of Winnipeg  
[j.lawler-ra@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:j.lawler-ra@uwinnipeg.ca)

## 2.0 DAY 1: AUTHORS' WORKSHOP

The June 25<sup>th</sup> author's workshop was designed to bring together those involved in the book to share ideas, provide feedback, and establish common ground for moving forward with the publication process. The book titled, *Bridging Practice, Research and Advocacy for Communities and Forests in Canada*, involves editors and authors from across Canada who are engaged in various aspects of community forestry research, advocacy, or practice. Together these individuals represent First Nations communities and organizations, university researchers, government policy analysts, undergraduate and graduate students, and non-government organizations. In addition to the authors and editors, three student volunteers from The University of Winnipeg Department of Environmental Studies and Sciences helped to facilitate the sessions. Editorial staff from a prominent academic publisher also joined the group to provide technical advice and input on the main themes of the book to improve the final product.

### 2.1 Project Goals

The edited book is intended to be a timely resource that integrates a variety of experiences and perspectives in community forestry practice, research, and advocacy to address gaps in governance, networked coordination, and resource availability. The book focuses on community forest concepts and practice across Canadian regions including Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Northern Ontario, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia, through a series of research-based chapters and experiential vignettes. The primary themes of the book include: collaborative networks and regional integration, environmental governance and policy reform, enterprise diversification and socio-economic development, and knowledge research and innovation. *Bridging Practice, Research and Advocacy for Communities and Forests in Canada* aims to advance community forestry as a model for collaborative decision-making that links natural resource management and communities to ecological sustainability, socio-economic

development, and cultural autonomy. Once complete, the goal is to have a book that explores concepts and approaches to community forestry through a number of perspectives while encompassing regional and cultural variation across Canada. This useful and insightful tool will be available in 2015/2016.

## **2.2 Activities**

The workshop involved a variety of activities to engage authors (Table 1). The day began with a full group discussion as a practical activity to open a dialogue regarding the main themes of the book, insights or experiences that could be missing, and how community forestry is understood at an individual level. This was followed by showcase summaries by each author about their chapter or vignette work, allowing for a chance to bring everyone up to date on the direction and purpose of each section in the book. The afternoon progressed with small-group format discussions including detailed feedback and peer-edits of each chapter. Finally, an overview with the whole group on the work schedule, editorial process, deadlines and publication timeline, ensured everyone was up to date with the project plan.

**Table 1:** Author Workshop Agenda

|   |
|---|
| <b>8:15 AM – 9:00 AM: Welcome &amp; Introductions</b>   |
| <b>9:00 AM – 10:00 AM: Full Group Discussion</b>  |
| Reflection on main concepts and themes that unify the book  |
| <b>10:00 AM – 10:20 AM: Break</b>   |
| <b>10:20 AM – 12:00 PM: Showcase Summaries</b>  |
| An opportunity to elicit emerging themes across papers and to identify possible gaps                                      |
| <b>12:00 PM -- 1:00 PM: Lunch with Dr. Alan Diduck, Department of Environmental Studies &amp; Sciences representative</b> |
| <b>1:00 PM – 3:00 PM: Small Group Discussions</b>   |
| Feedback provided to authors from colleagues familiar with thematic and geographic areas                                  |
| <b>3:00 PM – 3:15 PM: Break</b>   |
| <b>3:15 PM – 4:15 PM: Overview &amp; Conclusions</b>  |

## **3.0 DAY 2: COMMUNITY FORESTS CANADA SYMPOSIUM**

The June 26<sup>th</sup> symposium was designed to follow the author's workshop in order to benefit from the presence of the community forestry experts gathered in Winnipeg. The Centre for Forest Interdisciplinary Research (C-FIR) at The University of Winnipeg hosted this public event. Throughout the day, four symposium sessions focused on sharing insights from the authors' workshop as well as experiences, knowledge and issues brought forward by additional invited speakers and participants. The result was the creation of a learning forum where forest and community stakeholders as well as other interested individuals and groups explored, networked, and shared their experiences.

### **3.1 Symposium Goals**

A key goal for the symposium was to share governance models, advocacy approaches, and research for sustainably managing forests and building communities. From a series of dynamic speakers, delegates gained insights on First Nations forestry, learned about collaborative networking, and received updates on ongoing community forest initiatives from across Canada. This knowledge sharing was intended to translate ideas into action through the further establishment and expansion of the Community Forests Canada Network in a new location (Manitoba), and the inclusion of perspectives and insights from across the country. In a pre-event interview with CBC Radio Winnipeg (French), Dr. Sara Teitelbaum discussed the symposium and community forestry issues. Additionally, the value of the event was reinforced by the Manitoba Chapter of the Canadian Institute of Forestry which disseminated the symposium presentations in real time to its 2,600 members across Canada via e-broadcast technologies. Historical photograph and artifact exhibits presented by The University of Winnipeg Anthropology Museum, The University of Winnipeg Archives, and United Church Archives further enhanced the day. These

displays explored Manitoba's long history of human-forest interactions and the ways in which these relationships have grown and changed over time.

### 3.2 Speaker Profiles



**Ryan Bullock**

Ryan is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Environmental Studies and Sciences and researcher with the Centre for Forest Interdisciplinary Research, both at The University of Winnipeg. He is co-author of the book *Community Forestry: Conflict, Local Values and Forest Governance* (Cambridge, 2012, with K. Hanna).



**Alfred Gamble**

Mr. Alfred Gamble is the Geographic Information Systems Specialist for the Beardy's & Okemasis First Nation in Saskatchewan and board member of the Prince Albert Model Forest. In addition to addressing land management responsibilities for his band, Mr. Gamble brings several years of experience managing the Junior Resource Rangers Program, an outdoor and traditional training and certification program designed specifically for Aboriginal youth.



**Jennifer Gunter**

Jennifer is the Executive Director of the British Columbia Community Forest Association (BCCFA). Over the past 11 years, Jennifer has worked with the Board of Directors, staff and membership of the BCCFA to help it grow from an organization of just ten member communities, to one with over 50. Ms. Gunter's professional interests include community forestry, community economic development, forest management and education.



**Brian Kotak**

Brian is the General Manager of the Manitoba Model Forest (MBMF), a non-profit organization located in Pine Falls, Manitoba. Recently, he has also become the General Manager of the Canadian Model Forest Network, Canada’s national network that links to more than 60 other model forest sites around the globe. Brian is an ecologist by training, receiving degrees from the University of Manitoba and the University of Alberta. Brian manages the day-to-day activities of both the MBMF and CMFN office, as well as overseeing all projects. Brian has worked on a diversity of projects including wildlife management, water quality, climate change and Aboriginal engagement, all of which include a multitude of partners and stakeholders.



**Erik Leslie**

Erik is Forest Manager of the Harrop-Proctor Community Co-operative (HPCC). He is also on the board of directors of the British Columbia Community Forest Association. HPCC manages a 11,000 hectare community forest in south-eastern British Columbia, and the organization is a leader in ecosystem-based co-operative community forestry.



**Marvin Lee McDonald**

Marvin Lee McDonald was born 52 years ago at an Anishinabe guide’s camp. He has been living with Georgina Scott for 33 years. A Dad to four, and Grand Dad to six, he raised his family on the Wabaseemoong Independent Nations.



**Kris McLellan**

Kris is a Master of Resource and Environmental Management graduate from Dalhousie University's School for Resource and Environmental Studies. He has worked as an environmental consultant, assisting the province of Nova Scotia in the creation of community forests on crown land and contributing to the Halifax Urban Forest Master Plan. Most recently, Kris became the energy project coordinator at Halifax-based Minas Energy, where he leads development of their tidal power project in the Bay of Fundy.



**Susan Mulkey**

Susan is Manager of Communication and Extension at the British Columbia Community Forestry Association, and has served as the annual conference and AGM coordinator for 10 years. Susan provides outreach and member support for the provincial network of rural, community-based organizations in B.C. that manage community forests and serves as a liaison between community forest practitioners and government in the areas of advocacy and policy development.



**Peggy Smith**

Peggy is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Natural Resources Management, Lakehead University. She has an extensive research record in northern development focused particularly on Aboriginal peoples' involvement in forest management in northern Ontario and across Canada. She has had a longstanding interest in community forestry, organizing a workshop on the topic as an undergraduate student in Lakehead University's Faculty of Forestry in 1991. Her interest is not only academic, but as co-chair of the Northern Ontario Sustainable Communities Partnership.





**Sara Teitelbaum**

Sara is an Assistant Professor, Université de Montréal. She has been working on community forestry as an academic and consultant for approximately ten years. This includes conducting the first broad survey of initiatives across Canada and in-depth case studies in three provincial jurisdictions. She

has produced many educational items on community forestry, as well as several academic articles in international peer-reviewed journals.

**3.3 Sessions & Presentations**

The symposium chair, Dr. Ryan Bullock, began the morning with welcomes and opening remarks. Dr. Danny Blair, Associate Dean of Science and Acting Principal of the Richardson College for the Environment, followed by welcoming attendees to The University of Winnipeg. The Director of the Centre for Forest Interdisciplinary Research, Dr. Edward Cloutis, also addressed attendees. Finally, the opening of the symposium concluded with a welcome to the Treaty 1 Territory by Elder Larry Monkman.

The symposium sessions were designed to transition from a broad discussion on community forestry in Canada, to narrowing the focus toward collaboration and networking (Table 3). Session 1 familiarized participants with approaches to community forests in Canada and the differing stages of implementation in four regions. Session 2 addressed the three key focus areas: practice, research, and advocacy, with one presentation dedicated to each topic. Session 3 explored the benefits of collaborative networking within forest management, and session 4 concluded the day with a focus on the future role of the Community Forests Canada Network.

**Table 2:** Symposium Agenda

---

|  |
|--|
| 8:00am – 8:30am Registration   |
| <b>8:30am – 9:00am Opening &amp; Welcome</b>   |
| <i>Opening remarks, Dr. Ryan Bullock</i><br><i>Welcome to The University of Winnipeg, Dr. Danny Blair, Associate Dean of Science &amp; Principal of the Richardson College for the Environment</i><br><i>Welcome to the Symposium, Dr. Edward Cloutis, Director of C-FIR</i><br><i>Welcome to Treaty 1 Territory, Elder Larry Monkman, Thunderbird House</i> |
| <b>9:00am – 10:30am Cross-Canada Policy Updates Panel</b>  |
| Susan Mulkey, British Columbia Community Forest Association<br>Peggy Smith, NOSCP and Lakehead University<br>Kris MacLellan, Nova Scotia Community Forest Advisory Board Facilitator<br>Sara Teitelbaum, Université de Montréal  |
| 10:30am – 10:45am Break: Exhibits & Poster Display   |
| <b>10:45am – 12:00pm Practice, Research and Advocacy for Community Forestry</b>  |
| Marvin Lee McDonald, Wabaseemoong Independent Nations<br>Alfred Gamble, Beardy's and Okemasis First Nation<br>Erik Leslie, Harrop-Procter Community Forest   |
| 12:00pm – 1:15pm Lunch: Exhibits & Poster Display  |
| <b>1:15pm – 2:15pm Lessons for Collaborative Networking</b>  |
| Jennifer Gunter, British Columbia Community Forest Association<br>Brian Kotak, Manitoba Model Forest and Canadian Model Forest Network   |
| 2:15pm – 2:30pm Break: Exhibits & Poster Display   |
| <b>2:30pm – 3:30pm Defining the Community Forests Canada Network</b>   |
| Synthesis of the day's themes<br>Breakout groups: network opportunities for practice, research and advocacy<br>Closing comments and acknowledgements   |

---

### 3.3.1 Cross-Canada Policy Updates Panel

#### **Susan Mulkey – British Columbia Community Forest Association**

Susan’s presentation discussed the role of the British Columbia Community Forest Association (BCCFA) in BC’s forestry sector and the status of community forests in the province. Relatively recent developments in BC’s forest policies and tenure, such as the Community Forest Agreement and community forest pilot projects, led to the expansion of community forest initiatives. From these changes, the BCCFA emerged as a collective voice for community forest groups. Susan highlighted that despite the steady growth in the number of organizations and communities who hold community forest agreements in BC, only 2% of the province’s annual timber harvest is allocated to this form of tenure. The BCCFA works to promote and support sustainable community forest management in BC through advocacy, networking, and education. Susan concluded her presentation with the positive news of the recent approval of the William’s Lake Community Forest in March 2014.

#### **Peggy Smith – Northern Ontario Sustainable Communities Partnership**

In her presentation, Peggy Smith described the background of the Northern Ontario Sustainable Communities Partnership (NOSCP) and outlined its aims and approach. NOSCP began in the midst of the “forestry crisis” Canada’s forest industry faced in 2006. The partnership was developed as a grassroots, solutions-oriented response to the forest industry issues at the time. NOSCP believes community forests can provide long-term sustainable solutions for forest-dependant communities. The forestry crisis provided an opportunity to re-assess the forest sector in Canada, and NOSCP strives to support communities through the use of transformative community organizing, taking a regional approach, and advocating for forest tenure policy reform.



**Figure 2:** The Cross-Canada Updates Policy Panel, Session 1.

### **Kris MacLellen – Nova Scotia Community Forest Advisory Board**

Kris addressed Nova Scotia’s evolving community forestry practice and policy. In 2011 the Government of Nova Scotia opened the door to establishing community forests on Crown land. At the time, the Nova Scotia forestry sector was changing and there was growing community interest in increased influence over natural resource decision-making. Shortly after, the Nova Forest Alliance and the Department of Natural Resources became partners in establishing the Community Forests Advisory Group. This group led a process that resulted in the establishment of the Medway Community Co-operative becoming the province’s first community forest. Kris discussed the exciting opportunities this development presents and possibilities for the future of this initiative.

### **Sara Teitelbaum – Community Forestry Initiatives in Quebec**

This presentation provided a description of community forestry policy and practice in Quebec. It described a history of collective action around forests in rural communities in Quebec, which has produced a diversity of governance arrangements (forest farms, cooperatives, joint management organizations). However, due to a lack of political will on the part of successive governments, most of these arrangements have not received institutional recognition through tenure arrangements and are thus working as sub-contractors to the forest industry. In the 1990s several tenure arrangements were put in place, which allow communities (mainly municipalities) to acquire rights for small parcels of public land. Some of these tenure arrangements have also been negotiated

with First Nations. There is, therefore, a network of about 50 small community forests throughout Quebec. These community forests are not particularly well connected and there is no provincial organization, as is the case in British Columbia. Finally, Sara's presentation covered the most recent policy development, called the 'proximity forest' which was enshrined in law in 2013 but has not yet been implemented.



**Figure 3:** Panel Discussion Question Period

### 3.3.2 Practice, Research & Advocacy for Community Forestry



#### **Marvin McDonald - Wabaseemoong Independent Nations**

Marvin Lee McDonald introduced the Miitigoog Limited Partnership, a forest management plan that involves four First Nations (Wabaseemoong, Naotkamegwanning, Ochiichagwe' Babigo'ining, and Ojibways of Onigaming FN) and industry partners. The partnership plan and organization were explained along with the management contract established with the Miitigoog Forest Management Company that owns and operates the Sustainable Forest License. Marvin's contribution outlines a positive approach to practicing community forestry and the potential for partnership opportunities and co-management agreements.



### **Alfred Gamble - Beardy's & Okemasis First Nation**

Alfred Gamble's presentation focused on the Saskatchewan Junior Ranger Program that provides experience and educational opportunities for youth at risk. The program focuses on resource management including: forest science and health, fire management, environmental issues, oil and gas development, as well as cultural awareness and aboriginal traditional knowledge.

The program has had long lasting positive effects on the hundreds of youth involved in Junior Rangers and their communities. Alfred demonstrated the powerful role education and research have the potential to play in community forest initiatives.



### **Erik Leslie - Harrop-Proctor Community Forest**

As forest manager of the Harrop-Proctor Community Forest in British Columbia, Erik explained the vital role community members played in establishing both the Harrop-Proctor Watershed Protection Society and the Community Co-operative. The importance of advocacy in the initiation of the Harrop-Proctor project was highlighted as part of a broader social

movement. Research projects have often been initiated with Harrop-Proctor and, although time and financial resources can be scarce, interest in further exploring the gap between community forestry theory and practice remains. Today, as a successful working model of community forestry, the Harrop-Proctor organization acts as a useful advocacy tool for community forestry initiatives.

### 3.3.3 Lessons for Collaborative Networking



#### **Jennifer Gunter - British Columbia Community Forest Association**

Jennifer Gunter described the benefits and challenges of the BCCFA network. A unique organization in Canada, the BCCFA connects over 50 communities and organizations across British Columbia. This close network works to promote and support community forest management, education, advocacy, and outreach and ensure practitioners have access to the resources they need. Through a membership-based and inclusive approach, the BCCFA has expanded the community forest program, established a special pricing agreement, and accomplished legislative and regulatory reform for community forests. However, there are many challenges that go hand in hand with success. The necessary resources and capacity to meet demands are often hard to maintain for a small non-profit organization. In addition, developing an organizational structure for a diverse group of members can also present difficulties. Finally, cross-cultural relationship building takes time and is continually being addressed.



#### **Brian Kotak - Manitoba Model Forest and Canadian Model Forest**

The Model Forest network offers a different management approach to forestry. The network began as a federal program aimed to establish partnerships at a regional or landscape level, increase local involvement in forest management, and engage a variety of stakeholder groups. Brian demonstrated the positive impact the Manitoba Model Forest had on its region through the Committee for Cooperative Moose Management (CCMM) project. Moose are a primary forest management consideration in Manitoba and the project involved monitoring, research, and the development and implementation of provincial strategies. Together the CCMM,

First Nations communities, and the provincial government determined the most appropriate conditions for moose hunting in the area as well as other changes. By taking an inclusive approach and empowering local community members, this project directly contributed to the improvement of moose populations. At the same time, Brian stressed the importance of compromise and positive relationship building between partners and communities.

### 3.3.4 Defining the Community Forests Canada Network

In session 4, attendees divided into breakout groups to discuss what role a network could play in the practice, research, and advocacy of community forest initiatives. The discussion was organized around three primary questions:

1. What could a research and policy network do/provide that would be most useful for you/your organization to address current needs related to communities and local forests?
2. What objectives and outcomes could such a network usefully pursue?
3. What could different groups bring to such a network?
  - a. E.g. project collaboration, knowledge of policy windows, funding and in-kind support, advisory capacity, access to data sets, etc.

The majority of responses focused on question one due to the breadth of the question and time provided. Participants outlined several informational, networking and consultative needs that a network could address in order to be useful to partners and communities, including:

- wholesale data and information sharing;
- resources explaining best practices and relevant policies;
- opportunities for research collaboration;
- education and training opportunities;
- funding opportunities; and,
- a forum for dialogue and connections.



Participants suggested that the main objectives of the network could be:

- Analysis, trouble-shooting and problem-solving;
  - Cross-learning: connecting questions and answers between initiatives;
- Guiding research directions;
  - What questions need answering? Who can conduct the research?
- Facilitating policy research by linking practitioners, university researchers and students, and government agencies.

Finally, suggestions for what groups could bring to a network included:

- funding;
- data;
- diverse perspectives;
- potential students and partners; and,
- skills sharing and training.

Through review and evaluation of the responses from this exercise, it appears a community forest network focused on local issues and policy research presents a valued opportunity to create dialogue and connections. It can also provide an arena for skill and knowledge sharing. Because the needs and experiences of members will continuously evolve over time and across the country, the network will have to be flexible and fluid – ready to change along with its members. Some parallels were drawn to centers for excellence and other national forest research networks whose experiences may inform the development of Community Forests Canada. It was suggested that basic information and resources could be provided, but that the focus could entail referring one group in need to another, thereby creating and building connections. Due to the nature of community forest initiatives, content generated by the network would have to be locally driven as well as nationally relevant. Therefore, based on this exercise, suggested key areas of action for the CFCN include: continuing to create opportunities for networking, the coordination of resource exchanges, and contributions to research and training.



**Figure 4:** Session 4 breakout groups

### 3.4 Displays

An artifact exhibit, archival photograph displays, and academic research posters enhanced the Community Forests Canada symposium. The University of Winnipeg Anthropology Department presented an exhibit on a local archeological site in Manitoba: The Sinnock Site. Displays of archival photographs and local narratives were provided by The University of Winnipeg Archives and the United Church Archives. In addition, a series of academic posters from researchers at The University of Winnipeg, Lakehead University, and the University of Manitoba highlighted current and relevant research. These displays complemented the symposium experience by setting the day's discussions against a historical backdrop, reminding participants of the rich history of people and forests in Manitoba and the ongoing relationship of forests and culture today.

#### 3.4.1 Anthropology Exhibit: The Sinnock Site

The University of Winnipeg Anthropology Museum presented an exhibit on the Sinnock site, one of the oldest archaeological sites known in Manitoba. Located in the

southeastern area of the province where the plains and boreal forest presently meet, the site was excavated in the early 1980s by Dr. Anthony Buchner. The artifacts are an important contribution to our understanding of the lives of people during the Palaeo Period of Manitoba (12,000 years ago to 8,000 years ago). Woodworking tools called adzes used for gouging, planing and splitting wood are a significant and defining tool type in the Sinnock Site collection. These artifacts at the symposium presented a meeting of past and present forest resource use.

### 3.4.2 Archival Exhibits

The University of Winnipeg Archives displayed eight photographs at the symposium, exploring the interplay between humans, technology, and Manitoba's forests. Taken between 1910 and 1960, the photographs provided snapshots into the lives of the people who made forests their work and home, and show the vulnerability, danger, and beauty of Manitoba's forests.



**Figure 6:** UW Archives Photograph  
n.d. Photographer unknown. Lumberman's Home in the Bush,  
South of Caraberry, MB



**Figure 5:** UW Archives Photograph  
n.d. Photographer unknown. Construction of Hudson Bay  
Railway by McDonald and Cowan Hauling Ties from the Bush.  
(L-R): Billie Baker, Jack Michael. Photo courtesy of T. Moody.

## The United Church Archives

The United Church of Canada Archives displayed photographs from the 1920s and 1930s by two individuals: Mary Bruce, a matron at the Norway House Residential School; and Dorinda Sturdy, a teacher at Island Lake. These women, along with many other missionaries, teachers and medical staff who served the various denominations and religious orders across Manitoba were keen observers of landscape, community life and cultural practices. Their photographs provide remarkable insight into cultural change and evolving dependence on, and interactions with, the northern forest.



Mary Bruce Fond\_N112

United Church Archives - MBNWO

**Figure 7:** United Church Archives, Photograph by Mary Bruce



sturdy\_16

United Church Archives - MBNWO

**Figure 8:** United Church Archives, Photograph by Dorinda Sturdy

### 3.4.3 Research Poster Display

The Symposium also showcased five research posters from the University of Manitoba, Lakehead University, The University of Winnipeg and Trees Winnipeg. Presenter information and poster abstracts are provided below.

**Do Community Forests Really Benefit Communities? Evidence From Wetzinkwa Community Forest Corporation, Smithers, British Columbia**

*Anderson Assuah, University of Manitoba*

This study examined how learning and collaboration are helping to encourage the sustainable management of community forest tenures. The study was conducted on the Wetzinkwa Community Forest Corporation (WCFC) located in Smithers, British Columbia, which is a community forest tenure jointly held by the town of Smithers (TOS) and the village of Telkwa (VOT), and collaboratively managed with the Wet'suwet'en First Nation. Results indicate that there were ecological, social-cultural and economic benefits from the local management of the WCFC. Economically, jobs are provided to contractors and community initiatives are supported through a grant program. Socio-culturally, Wet'suwet'en land values are being protected. Ecologically, the WCFC is conducting research on climate change adaptation through the planting of non-native species.

**Urban Tree Rehabilitation Project: Response of Mature Boulevard Trees to Vertical Mulching Treatments in Winnipeg**

*Kerienne Lafrance, Trees Winnipeg; Richard Westwood, The University of Winnipeg*

Winnipeg's urban forest consists of an estimated 8 million trees, which are subject to a variety of stresses, including compacted soil, soil moisture extremes and reduced soil fertility. City of Winnipeg foresters are interested in improving the growing conditions of mature trees to improve their health and longevity. The objectives of this project were to: 1) Quantify the condition of mature elms along a high-density residential thoroughfare and compare tree condition with that of other areas in Winnipeg (medium and low-density residential); 2) Determine how mature elms in a high-traffic urban

environment respond to vertical mulching treatments; and 3) Provide recommendations to urban forest managers for improving growing conditions to maintain or improve the condition of mature urban trees. Vertical mulching treatments were applied in 2006 and tree condition and soil compaction was assessed annually for the following five years. Vertical mulching did not appear to have a significant measurable affect on tree condition, annual growth, or soil compaction within the 5-year assessment period, which was consistent with similar studies. It was concluded that soil amelioration techniques were not effective in mitigating the range of environmental factors that can restrict tree growth in urban sites.

### **A Bibliometric Analysis of Community Forestry Research in Canada**

*Julia Lawler and Ryan Bullock, The University of Winnipeg*

A bibliometric analysis of community forestry research outputs in Canada was undertaken to 1) better understand the status, trends, and impacts of research published in peer-reviewed journals; 2) identify gaps in the research literature; and 3) provide baseline data to inform future research. Using a systematic and comprehensive approach we identified 86 papers published in peer-reviewed journals between 1935 and 2014. Heightened research output during WWII and 1990 onwards corresponds with the implementation of provincial programs initiated for conservation, economic development, and to resolve social unrest. Notably, most papers analyzed originated from social science research, particularly geography, and not forestry or the natural sciences presenting a clear research gap. Findings portray the temporal, spatial, and thematic evolution of community forestry research in Canada.

### **Enabling Community-Based Forest Management in Northern Ontario**

*Lynn Palmer, Lakehead University*

A number of northern Ontario municipalities and First Nations in partnership have developed proposals for community-based forest management (CBFM), a forest governance approach that promotes local control of forest management, to be implemented under the new forest tenure system. Using community-based and

participatory action research, the study: 1) assesses community values and visions for local forests in northern Ontario; 2) analyzes Ontario's new forest tenure policy framework in terms of how well it supports CBFM; 3) undertakes an in-depth case study of a developing community forest model proposed for implementation under the new forest tenure policy framework; and 4) will formulate policy recommendations for a new forest tenure framework in Ontario that incorporates CBFM. The study findings will generate new knowledge for furthering forest policy that better supports northern Ontario forest-based communities. The results will be timely given the development of new provincial forest tenure policy and will contribute to a more sustainable and equitable future for the region.

### **Public Participation through Place-Based Inquiry: Study of The Common Ground Land In Kenora, Ontario**

*Mya Wheeler, University of Manitoba; Alan Diduck, The University of Winnipeg; John Sinclair, University of Manitoba; Patricia Fitzpatrick, The University of Winnipeg; Iain Davidson Hunt, University of Manitoba*

Natural resource management increasingly strives for meaningful public participation as a means to address the complexity, uncertainty and conflict inherent in decision-making. When there are multiple stakeholders, place-based inquiry shows considerable promise as a vehicle for such participation. The Common Ground Land (CGL), important heritage lands in Kenora, Ontario, provided an opportunity to consider the relationship between place-based inquiry and participation due to its emerging system of governance as initiated by a multi-stakeholder partnership. Semi-structured interviews and modified focus groups were used to promote place-based conversations regarding the CGL. Our inquiry revealed grounded themes related to connections, perspectives and visions, including subthemes such as "respect", "northern lifestyle", "spiritual activities", "community", and "fear of disconnection". Our results reveal that place-based inquiry can work as a vehicle for meaningful participation and, in this case, can help inform planning while creating a supportive avenue for participation.

### 3.5 Attendees & Volunteers

The symposium hosted 50 invited attendees (and some walk-ins) from approximately 26 organizations representing NGOs, universities, provincial and federal levels of government, First Nations communities, and professional associations (Table 4, for details Appendix A). In addition, Jessie Russell-Edmonds and Kevin Smoley, two University of Winnipeg students, dedicated their time as volunteers to ensure the event ran smoothly.

**Table 4: Symposium Attendee Organizational Affiliations**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Algoma University                               | Manitoba Forestry Association                            |
| Beardy's and Okemasis First Nation              | Manitoba Model Forest                                    |
| Brandon University                              | Miisun Integrated Resource Management                    |
| British Columbia Community Forestry Association | Northeast Superior Regional Chief's Forum                |
| Canadian Environmental Network                  | Northern Policy Institute                                |
| Canadian Wildlife Service                       | Nova Forest Alliance                                     |
| Canadian Institute of Forestry                  | The University of Winnipeg                               |
| Centre for Forest Interdisciplinary Research    | The University of Winnipeg Community Renewal Corporation |
| Conservation Council of New Brunswick           | Université de Montréal                                   |
| Harrop-Proctor Community Forest                 | University of Manitoba                                   |
| Lakehead University                             | University of Manitoba Press                             |
| Louisiana Pacific                               | University of Saskatchewan                               |
| Manitoba Conservation & Water Stewardship       | University of Toronto                                    |
| Manitoba EcoNetwork                             | Wabaseemoong Independent Nations                         |



**Figure 9:** UW Student Volunteers, Jessie Russell-Edmonds and Kevin Smoley



## 4.0 PRIORITIES & ACTIONS

### 4.1 Building a National Network for Community Forests in Canada

The diverse group of participants from across the country that came together at the Community Forests Canada Symposium to share their insights and experiences highlights that there is increasing interest in communities managing forestlands. Some key points of consensus emerged from discussions regarding priorities and actions to this end. Importantly, the perspectives of community forestry advocates were tempered by practical suggestions from participants with broader forestry and public interests. Overall, a broad set of needs and opportunities for action was defined.

**1) There is a need to build appropriate policies and institutional reform to enable community forestry practices.** Policy research and advocacy work involving policy makers, practitioners and researchers can be effective. A networked approach can produce positive results as evinced by experiences in British Columbia with the BCCFA, in Nova Scotia with the Nova Forest Alliance and Provincial Community Forestry Advisory Board, and Model Forests. The creation of additional forums for ongoing networking is critical to engaging diverse groups in processes of policy innovation and reform.

**2) A national research network to support policy change and information and resource exchange could be helpful and should be further explored.** Attempts to advance a national research network should further assess the need(s) for such a network and gauge partner interest. Additionally, any new network should be actively monitored to ensure it remains relevant to its partners. To do this, the network must be adaptive and modular. A suite of services and products are in demand and could be provided via such a network to create conditions favorable for community forestry to flourish (e.g., online interactive mapping and visualization tools; data and resource sharing; training and extension; interpretation of abstract or complex information and guidelines into

accessible forms; forums to support networking opportunities; and, facilitation, tools and examples to support community and business planning).

**3) Finally, formalizing a national vision, priorities, partnerships, resources and an organizing structure to support communities and their partners requires leadership and must be done with broad input and support.** A critical mass of dedicated individuals is typically required to “champion” any new initiative; however, collaboration and open-mindedness must guide the development of Community Forests Canada for it to be effective in the role envisioned for it at the current time. Development of the governance architecture for the network and resourcing opportunities must proceed in a transparent manner. Partner engagement in and support for the network is paramount.

## APPENDIX A – RECORD OF SYMPOSIUM PARTICIPANTS

- 
1. Alfaro, Jazmin: The University of Winnipeg
  2. Assuah, Anderson: University of Manitoba
  3. Austman, Bob: Manitoba Model Forest
  4. Blair, Danny, The University of Winnipeg
  5. Broad, Gayle: Algoma University
  6. Bullock, Ryan: C-FIR/The University of Winnipeg
  7. Casimirri, Giuliana: University of Toronto
  8. Cloutis, Edward: C-FIR/The University of Winnipeg
  9. Coombs, John: Canadian Environmental Network
  10. Cuddy, James: Northern Ontario Policy Institute
  11. Das, Malay: University of Manitoba
  12. Davidson-Hunt, Iain: University of Manitoba
  13. Delaney, Jeff: Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship
  14. Diduck, Alan: The University of Winnipeg
  15. Dojack, John: Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship
  16. Dunford, Lyn: Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship
  17. Egan, Andrew: Brandon University
  18. Egunya, Felicitas: University of Saskatchewan
  19. Epp, Brad: Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship; Canadian Institute of Forestry Manitoba Chapter
  20. Epp, Jane: Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship
  21. Flamand, Wayne: The University of Winnipeg Community Renewal Corporation
  22. Gamble, Alfred: Beardy's and Okemasis First Nation
  23. Glynn, Tracy: Conservation Council of New Brunswick
  24. Gordon, Ariel: University of Manitoba Press
  25. Gunter, Jennifer: British Columbia Community Forestry Association
  26. Klos, Ryan: Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship
  27. Kopecky, Donna: Louisiana Pacific
  28. Koster, Kristine: Manitoba EcoNetwork
  29. Kotak, Brian: Manitoba Model Forest; Canadian Model Forest Network
  30. Lachance, Colin: Northeast Superior Regional Chiefs' Forum
  31. Lawler, Julia: C-FIR/The University of Winnipeg
  32. Leslie, Erik: Harrop-Proctor Community Forest
  33. MacLellan, Kris: Nova Forest Alliance
  34. McDonald, Marvin Lee: Wabaseemoong Independent Nations
  35. McKinley, Val: The University of Winnipeg
  36. Monkman, Larry: Thunderbird House
  37. Moroz, Tatiana: Manitoba Forestry Association
  38. Mulkey, Susan: British Columbia Community Forestry Association
  39. Palmer, Lynn: Lakehead University
  40. Park, Andrew: C-FIR/The University of Winnipeg
  41. Pohrebniuk, Patricia: Manitoba Forestry Association
  42. Rahman, Rezaur: University of Manitoba
  43. Russell-Edmonds, Jessie: The University of Winnipeg
  44. Sheppard, Michelle: The University of Winnipeg
  45. Smith, Peggy: Lakehead University
  46. Smoley, Kevin: The University of Winnipeg
  47. Suprovich, Jason: Miisun Integrated Resource Management
  48. Teitelbaum, Sara: Université de Montréal
  49. Westwood, Richard: C-FIR/The University of Winnipeg
  50. Wheeler Wiens, Mya: University of Manitoba
- Additional individuals participated on a drop-in basis.*
-