



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

February – March 2006

## Missanabie Cree First Nation: Planning For the Future

Missanabie Cree First Nation (MCFN) first developed a Forest Initiative Strategic Plan in December 2000, which proposed a tripartite agreement with the Province of Ontario and forest industry to identify and capitalize on opportunities in the forest sector. The objectives were to establish mutually beneficial partnerships for economic development and create long-term employment opportunities for community members. Agreement was reached in 2001 for the MCFN, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, and two major forest products companies (Weyerhaeuser Company and Tembec Inc.) to work together toward the achievement of four goals: Skills Development and Training; Economic Development; Values/Enhanced Dialogue/Forest Management; and Strategic Planning.

With financial assistance from the FNFP and other partners, MCFN has made significant progress. Six band members have been successfully trained in operating conventional heavy equipment and road building. Two of the six continued in a second phase of the project. They spent 100 hours each on a job site and learned to operate the bulldozer and excavator. Already, MCFN is in a position to contract their services to forest industry companies, providing employment for the band members as heavy equipment operators. Such contracts also provide the perfect place for them to hone their new skills and prepare for the next level of training, learning how to operate the forest harvesting equipment.

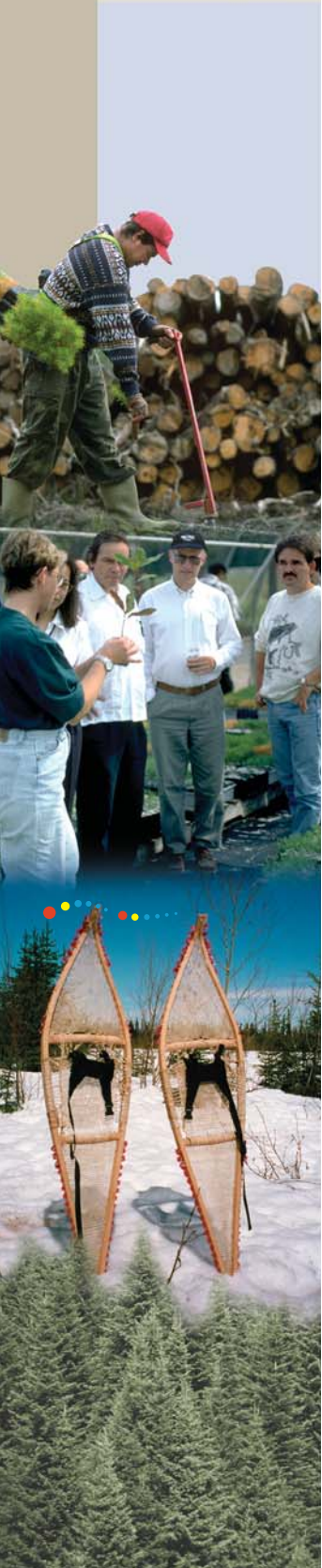
For this phase of the plan, negotiations were successfully completed with Timmins Forest Products to allow the band to use an area of private land and access an allotment of timber for training in timber harvesting. The revenue generated from the timber harvested on this training project will allow MCFN to invest in training other band members in heavy equipment and timber harvesting machinery.

"[The experience] was good, and it worked out to our expectations," said John McLeod in an interview. "The First Nations Forestry Program has supported us right from the beginning."

For further information, please contact: John McLeod, Forestry/Training Coordinator, phone 705-254-2702 or via e-mail at [jmcleod\\_mcfn@hotmail.com](mailto:jmcleod_mcfn@hotmail.com)

## Workshop Held on FNFP's Funding Allocation Model

In response to a request from the program's First Nations representatives, the National Management Committee sponsored a workshop in Ottawa on February 22-23 to examine the current budget allocation model and to discuss options that could be used for future FNFP budget allocations. Participants included First Nations and federal government representatives, who examined the current FNFP budget allocation model. The variables used to measure forest-



based needs and opportunities in each region were fully discussed, as well as the strengths and weaknesses of the current model.

The next steps involve establishing a First Nations working group with representation from each provincial and territorial management committee. This group will formulate and present a new First Nations vision for the program in anticipation of its renewal in 2008. All members of the nine FNFP management committees will then be invited to participate in a final visioning exercise as preparation for renewal of the program moves forward.

## Did you know...

A new First Nations Forestry Program report titled: *An Exploration of On-reserve Forest Management Capacity & Forest Certification Interest in First Nations Communities across Canada* is now available?

This report is based on a project designed to describe the general level of capacity for forest management planning in First Nations communities across Canada. It also explores the level of interest of First Nations communities in obtaining forest certification.

To order a free copy of this report, please contact the First Nations Forestry Program via email at [info@fnfp.gc.ca](mailto:info@fnfp.gc.ca) or by telephone at (613) 992.5874.

## Events...



**September 25 – 27, 2006-04-11**  
**Gatineau, Quebec**

The Canadian Forest Association and its partners present the **10<sup>th</sup> National Forest Congress - Sustainable Forest Land Management in the Boreal.**

Survival of the boreal depends on long-term, sustainable integrated land use management, which is of special interest to First Nations peoples. The 10<sup>th</sup> National Forest Congress brings together Aboriginal leaders, government policy makers, and industry to discuss and better understand the challenges presented by a multiplicity of interests associated with the boreal: economic development, Aboriginal interests, community and social values, and ecological sustainability.

To save by registering early (before June 30), or for more information, call the Conference Registrar toll-free at 1-866-441-4006, or visit the website at <http://www.nfc-cfn.ca/>