



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

January 2006

### New Land and Resources Management Unit for Eagle Village Community

To the Algonquin community of Eagle Village First Nation, located near Témiscamingue in Northwestern Quebec, forestry is a very important economic activity. The Band Council realized that by creating a Land and Resources Management Unit dealing with forestry issues within their community, local experience and expertise could be developed and the community could have direct involvement in negotiations with forestry companies and the provincial government. This step would also assure that the community's traditional lands are managed with respect and according to the values of its people.

With financial assistance from the Quebec Ministry of Natural Resources and Wildlife (QMNR), Tembec and the federal government's First Nations Forestry Program, the community was enabled to put in place a local Land and Resources Management Unit. The unit, under the responsibility of the Band Council, endeavours to find rapid solutions and stable funding for this important tool to protect Eagle Village First Nations rights and needs.

The team has completed a forest stand analysis to support silviculture operations on their traditional land, provided technical assistance, and developed working plans with forestry industry and the QMNR. The Land and Resources Management Unit also negotiated a contract with Tembec for pre-commercial thinning of 200 hectares on Eagle Village lands. It now intends to complete a land use study to ensure the compatibility between forestry and the needs and activities of the community and establish management guidelines and criteria for proper forest sustainable management. This type of study takes a lot of time and is very costly, but remains a major issue for the community.

The team is also working on a forest harmonization process to work in partnership with government and industry to ensure that Eagle Village community is involved and consulted in all forest development activities conducted on the community's traditional lands.

For more information, contact: Larry Paul at (819) 627 9034, or by email at: [lmr@evfn.ca](mailto:lmr@evfn.ca)

### Hands-On Learning for Bigstone Cree

The Bigstone Cree First Nation in Northern Alberta has done something few First Nations have either pursued or achieved to date. As the community takes steps toward the management of its own forest land, it also aims at building the capacity for community members to work in forestry jobs. Six Bigstone Cree band members participated in a rigorous training course to become highly specialized forest regeneration surveyors, and three of them attained full certification.

In Alberta, the law requires that only regeneration surveyors who are certified can submit reports on Crown Land activities. With financial assistance from the First Nations Forestry Program, a project was designed for the Bigstone Cree First Nation to train and certify its own band members in this specialty. The very demanding training course was delivered in the spring of 2005 and success soon followed. With three certified members, the band was in a position to pursue regeneration survey contracts with off-reserve companies and have since negotiated and/or finalized contracts with Tolko Forest Industries Ltd., Alberta Plywood, and Vanderwell Contractors.



Certified regeneration surveyors are in high demand, especially in Alberta. Based on its initial success, the Bigstone Cree project may become a model for other First Nations communities wishing to benefit from the growing opportunities in this area.

For more information, contact Clifford Starr at 780 634 3742, or email [cliffordstarr@shaw.ca](mailto:cliffordstarr@shaw.ca)

### ***Engaging Aboriginal Youth in Forestry***

*Engaging Aboriginal Youth in Forestry* was the single focus for sixty-five people attending a workshop in Winnipeg, Manitoba on January 17 -18. They represented Aboriginal communities, government, industry, and academia from across Canada, and they all shared an interest in the future of today's Aboriginal youth.

The purpose of this event was to highlight initiatives that encourage Aboriginal youth to work in the forestry sector. Session planners also hoped to encourage new partnerships that lead to even more opportunities. Youth initiatives from different parts of the country, including summer science camps, First Nations junior ranger programs, and academic/work programs were presented and discussed.

At the conclusion of the workshop, participants were given the opportunity to meet with others from the same province/territory to discuss what steps should be taken in their areas to encourage Aboriginal youth to become involved in forestry. The knowledge and experience they gained through this workshop will be used toward creating or improving forest-related activities for youth in their regions.

The First Nations Forestry Program and the Aboriginal Strategic Initiative of the Canadian Model Forest Network hosted the workshop, with refreshments provided by partner organization, the Forest Products Association of Canada.

For workshop proceedings (available at the end of February) or more information, contact Brad Henry at (613) 847-9045, or email: [bhenry@nrcan.gc.ca](mailto:bhenry@nrcan.gc.ca)