



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

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Engaging Aboriginal Communities in Forestry

The First Nations Forestry Program (FNFP) and the Canadian Model Forest Program (CMFP) are federal government programs committed to strong working partnerships with Aboriginal communities. Individually and together, these programs help many of these communities establish and maintain sustainable management of their forest land in an Aboriginal context.

Canada's Model Forests

Since its inception in 1992, Canada's Model Forest Program has been an effective community level tool in advancing knowledge, innovation and best practice in forest management. Its success is largely the result of the efforts and commitment of over 500 Model Forest funding partners. Across the country, twenty-eight Aboriginal communities or organizations are partners in local Model Forests, including the Waswanipi Cree First Nation, which established Canada's first Aboriginal-led Model Forest.

Achievements is a new publication by the Canadian Model Forest Network that presents an overview of the key accomplishments of Canada's eleven Model Forests from 2002 - 2005. To learn more about Aboriginal involvement and how FNFP works with the CMFN, view or download this report by following the link below, or call (613) 992-5874 to obtain a hard copy free of charge.



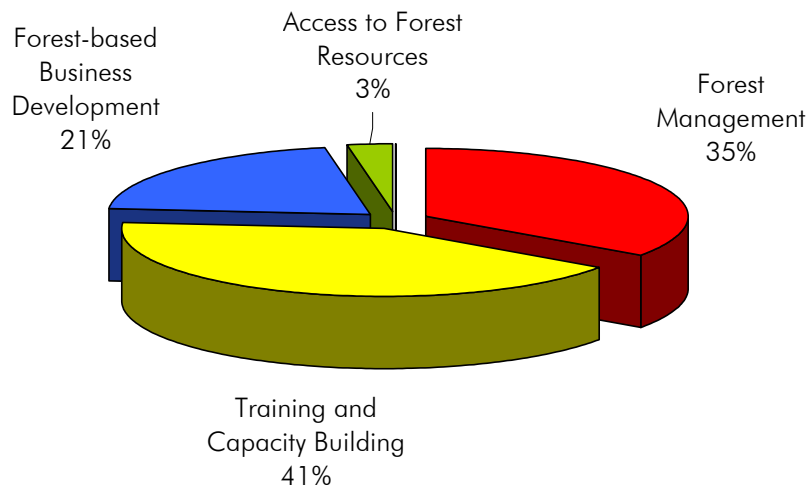
http://www.modelforest.net/cmfn/en/publications/publications/publications_record.aspx?title_id=3934



FNFP – the Year in Review

In 2005-06, FNFP received 288 proposals from First Nations organizations, tribal councils and communities, requesting a total of nearly \$26 million for their proposed forestry projects. From these proposals, 164 projects met the criteria and were selected. Base funding of \$3.7M was provided by FNFP, and, with cash and in-kind contributions of \$8.6M from First Nations and their partners, the total value of these forestry projects was \$12.3M

FNFP 2005-06 Funding Allocation by Activity



The projects covered a wide range of activities. For example, 25 forest management plans were created or updated in First Nations communities across Canada. Forest management plans establish broad management strategies with balanced objectives, including traditional values, to maintain the long-term health of the forest and lay the groundwork for the community to safeguard sustainable benefits.

Forest-based community economic development is also encouraged by FNFP. This aspect is supported through feasibility studies and business plans, which form an essential first step in supporting viable, long-term business opportunities in Canada's First Nation communities. In 2005-06, twelve feasibility studies and 24 business plans were completed under the Program.

The experience and skills gained through FNFP projects assist in building First Nation capacity and enhance opportunities for Band members to find work in the forest sector. Through 40 FNFP funded projects, workshops, and training programs 237 First Nations

workers gained experience in the forest industry. These projects provided 150 First Nations communities, organizations or tribal councils with increased experience, capacity and technical skills for the management of their own forests, as well as creating employment opportunities for band members in off-reserve forestry activities.

We invite you to visit the program website at www.fnfp.gc.ca to read about the projects supported through the First Nations Forestry Program.

A New Forest Communities Program

The Canadian Forest Service (CFS) is proposing to replace the existing Model Forest Program with a new five year partnership program, beginning in April 2007, subject to Treasury Board approval.

The successor program will build on the successful community level partnership model that was used in the Model Forest Program. It will support the development, demonstration and sharing of new knowledge, innovative tools and practices to assist forest-based communities in meeting the opportunities and challenges of a healthy forest and forest sector.

Details of the new program are available through a call for proposals posted on the CFS website. For more information on the Forest Communities Program, and to obtain application details, please review the Call for Proposals at: http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/cfs-scf/national/what-quoi/forest_com_e.html.

Events

Valuing Nature 2006 (July 2 – 8 in Corner Brook, NL) is a national conference held every three years aimed at drawing attention to conservation and stewardship issues. Participants include all levels of government, non-profit organizations, industry, and Aboriginal groups from across Canada. For more information or to register, visit www.stewardship2006.ca, or call (709) 637-2043.

Did you know?

The **Vancouver Organizing Committee (VANCO)** wants to achieve unprecedented Aboriginal participation in the planning and staging of the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. Visit www.vancouver2010.com to see how you can become involved. Information and job postings are updated weekly.