

The Professional Forester

The official publication of the
Ontario Professional Foresters Association
www.opfa.ca



Credit: Kandyd Szuba

Indigenous Forestry

ALSO INSIDE

Looking Forward: Introducing
Our Fresh New Look

The Algonquin Treaty
Negotiations

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Unless specifically stated, views and opinions expressed do not necessarily represent those of the Association, its Council or the employers of members.

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Looking Forward

The OPFA Brand Committee

Introducing our fresh new look, designed to carry the OPFA into our next 60 years.

March 29th, 2018



In the fall of last year, we began taking a closer look at the impression we're making as an Association. That included the impression we're making in the eyes and ears of the Ontario public, the forestry industry across Canada, and the members that make up our organization. It also included

the impression we're making on the students who are considering or already working toward a career in forestry. Those young people who will carry on our practise and become stewards of our forests for generations to come. In taking this closer look, it became clear: we needed to freshen up.

With the help of the design and interactive team at Office/Bureau, we set some goals for our organization, our new look, and our new website. We wanted to:

- Promote the reputation of OPFA members as trusted stewards of Ontario's forests
- Position the OPFA as an essential voice within the natural resources and forestry sector
- Appeal to the next generation of foresters in Ontario, promoting continuing education and technological advances in professional forestry
- Inform the public about what professional foresters do and why it's vital to both our economic and ecological survival
- Reinforce the reputation of OPFA members through consistent use of the OPFA brand, its visuals and key messages across all platforms and mediums

A BRAND MEASURED TWICE

In the beginning, the team at Office/Bureau and our OPFA Brand Committee conducted research on the forestry sector, our organization, and our membership. This included:

- An analysis of peer organizations to determine best practices, and identify opportunities for differentiation and innovation
- An in-depth audit of our website and all the communication materials the OPFA uses to communicate with its members and the public
- Member surveys in which we gathered insights and opinions from our members about how they see the OPFA and what we could be doing better
- Member interviews to gain first-hand perspectives of the unique needs and challenges of OPFA members when it comes to the OPFA brand, messages, registration process, and website

One of the things this research confirmed is that many Ontarians have an outdated notion of what it means to be a Professional Forester, and the role foresters play in the long-term health of our forests and economy. We made it a priority to address those misconceptions head on by highlighting things like Ontario's sustainable forestry practices, the technological advancements in forestry, and the role forestry plays in urban environments.

Another insight uncovered by this research was a general lack of representation of the people behind forestry in Ontario. We aim to remedy that by sharing more of the faces and communities that support and are supported by forestry in Ontario and who contribute to our province's prosperity. One of the ways we're doing that is by featuring original, member-sourced photography throughout our new website.

Perhaps most importantly, our research supported the need for a logo and brand visuals that are consistent; that are modern, yet feel established and professional; that are distinct and memorable, and

that are worthy of the reputation each of our members has built over the last 60 years. The new logo, colours and imagery were created with exactly those attributes in mind.

In one survey, our members identified which attributes the OPFA should stand for, and how the refreshed brand identity should feel. The three most common attributes members selected were: **professional, modern, and progressive.**

BRAND IDENTITY BREAKDOWN

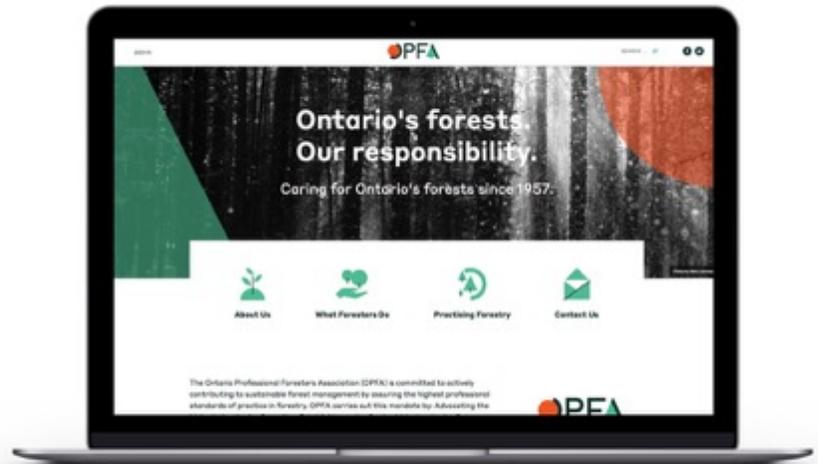
The new brand identity grew out of the deciduous and coniferous trees featured in the old logo, of which we're lucky to have many native species across Ontario.



The colours found in the logo are also inspired by nature. The light teal seen in the "A" represents the fresh new growth of spring saplings, while the red-orange found in the "O" represents the incomparable autumn colours we enjoy here in Ontario. Both of those are complimented by a deep green representing old growth forests and our rich history as foresters.

The introduction of the OPFA's initials as part of the logo was in part a response to the overwhelming majority of our member survey respondents who referred to the organization as either "OPFA" or "The OPFA."

In addition to these initials, we also have several different arrangements of the logo, which include the full organization name. These have been designed to fit a variety of applications and situations, and still remain legible.



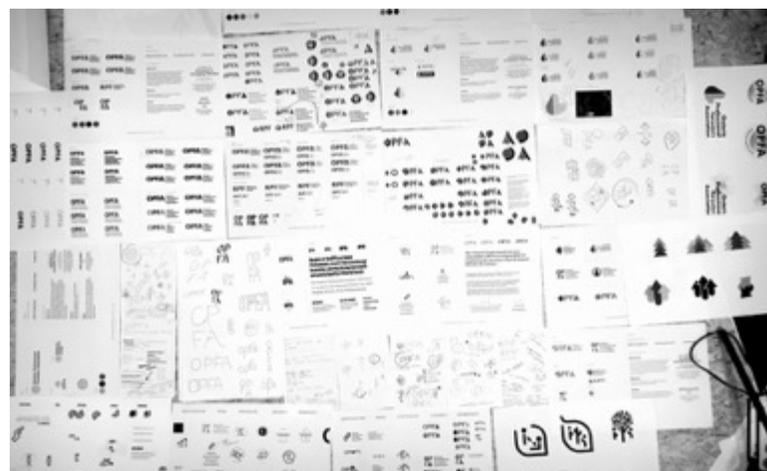
OUR DIGITAL FUTURE

As part of the rollout of this refreshed brand, we're also rethinking our online presence. The recently relaunched opfa.ca website has been rebuilt from the ground up to better serve our members, and to better tell the story of our organization to the public. In the coming months additional resources and tools for us to communicate and collaborate within the organization will be added to the website, including a streamlined process for updating member profiles, purchasing tickets for events, and submitting annual filing requirements. As these features come online, we will be reaching out to members via email with updates and access details.

IN CONCLUSION

Thank you to our members for your thoughtful feedback and input throughout this process, we truly couldn't have done it without your support.

We feel our new brand identity and our newly redesigned website will not only help us achieve all of the goals we listed above, but will also come to represent the incredible knowledge and commitment of our members as the OPFA continues to grow for years to come.



PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

The Algonquin Treaty Negotiations and Forestry in the Ottawa Valley

Nancy Houle, R.P.F.

A 36,000 square kilometre area of Algonquin traditional territory in eastern Ontario has been the subject of modern treaty negotiations since the early 1990s.

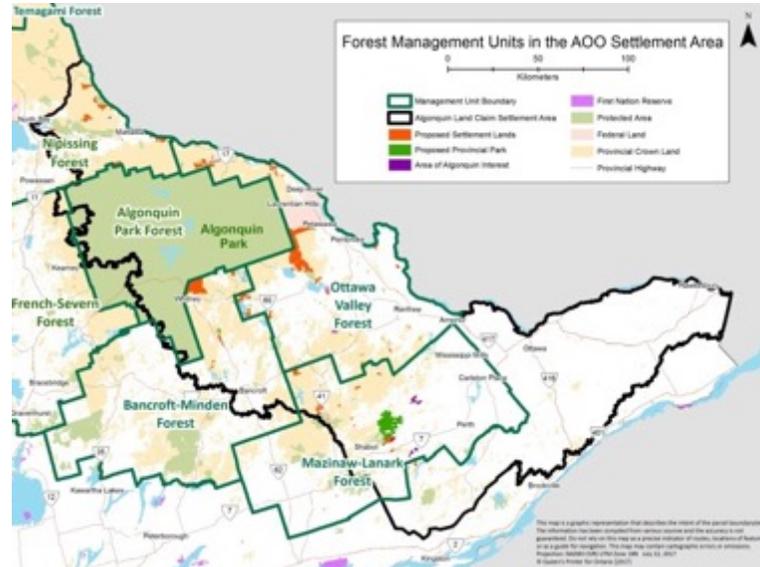
The negotiations between Canada, Ontario and the Algonquins of Ontario (AOO) reached a significant milestone on October 18, 2016, when an Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) was officially signed by all three parties, providing a framework for the final stage of treaty negotiations.

The main elements of the AIP include:

- The transfer of approximately, but not less than, 117,500 acres (47,550 hectares) of provincial Crown lands to Algonquin ownership
- \$300 million as settlement capital provided by Canada and Ontario
- Defined Algonquin rights related to lands and natural resources, including harvesting arrangements that build on interim arrangements currently in place.

Members of the AOO have been involved in forestry for generations in the Ottawa Valley. In addition to employment through forestry activities, they also participate on forest management planning teams and have an active role in the development of forest management plans.

The importance of the forest industry in the AOO settlement area is recognized in the Agreement-in-Principle. This includes an AIP commitment for the AOO to negotiate transitional plans with Ontario and forest companies to ensure continued access to forest resources as the negotiations continue and until the proposed settlement lands are transferred to the AOO. After lands are transferred,



opportunities for continued forestry activities will be a matter to be discussed between the forest companies and the AOO as private landowners.

Five forest management units have proposed AOO settlement lands:

- Bancroft-Minden Forest
- French-Severn Forest
- Mazinaw-Lanark Forest
- Nipissing Forest
- Ottawa Valley Forest

The proposed settlement land parcels range in size from a few acres to more than 30,000 acres. The transfer of lands will occur after a final treaty agreement has been negotiated. The transferred lands will become private lands owned by the AOO. No new First Nation reserves will be created. The negotiation parties have also agreed that Algonquin Provincial Park will remain a provincial park, with no lands within its boundaries proposed for transfer.

As part of Ontario’s ongoing commitment to consult with the public throughout the negotiations, a Draft Environmental Evaluation Report was released for public comment in August 2017. This report focused on potential environmental effects that may result from the transfer of provincial lands into AOO ownership. Anticipated effects on forestry were included in the report, and SFLs in the region were invited to participate in the Draft EER review. Input received during the review period will be reflected in a Final EER to be published further along in the negotiation process.

As we continue to move towards Ontario’s first modern treaty, the negotiation parties remain committed to supporting a competitive, sustainable forest industry built on a foundation of economic prosperity, conservation and stewardship.

For further information on the Algonquins of Ontario treaty negotiations, please visit:

- The Ontario Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation website at www.ontario.ca/algonquinlandclaim or;
- The Algonquins of Ontario website at www.tanakiwin.com

Urban Forestry Working Group needs volunteers

If you are willing to serve please contact the Chair, Mike Rosen, R.P.F. (mrosen@treecanada.ca) by April 27, 2018.

Include a resume and a short note indicating why you are interested in serving.



Credit: Scott McPherson

First Nation Herbicide

Gordon Kayahara, R.P.F.

The demand from many First Nation communities in Ontario for the reduction of herbicide use in forestry, if not an outright ban, is growing.

Foresters are frustrated because forest renewal relies on herbicides for vegetation management, and there is an abundance of science suggesting that concerns about negative impacts on human health and the environment are largely unwarranted when registered herbicides are used according to label instructions. On the other hand, for those holding a traditional First Nation worldview, much opposition to chemical herbicides can be related to the incongruity of the practice with their worldview. Thus, First Nation communities are frustrated because they have continuously brought their concerns to the table during forest management planning meetings without having resolution. A first step toward reconciling the two opposing positions on herbicide use in forestry should be to improve the understanding among foresters of First Nations' rights and perspectives, their lens, concerning herbicide use. Without this understanding it will be difficult for foresters to claim that the use of herbicides is based upon a fully informed decision.

Respectful dialogue with representatives of several First Nation communities has been undertaken to gain a better understanding of First Nations rights and perspectives on the use of herbicide in forestry (see Kayahara and Armstrong 2015¹). This small case study begins a process of communication that at least will help foresters see that the opposition against herbicides is not unreasonable, it is just an alternative lens. The following is a brief summary of what we learned from these focus sessions.

FIRST

Treaties are highly relevant to the herbicide discussion from a First Nation position, because First Nations use the treaties as a lens to view

responsibilities – and these responsibilities include decisions about herbicide use on their traditional lands. First Nations do not look upon treaties as a surrender of the land, but rather as a solemn promise between sovereign nations to share and co-exist in peace. For First Nations, sharing the land in a good way is a key value, which means that before anything is done on the land both sides must agree and come to a collective decision – i.e., permission must be sought. For First Nations, herbicide use in forestry, embodies both a lack of recognition that Aboriginal peoples are the original inhabitants and stewards of the land, and a lack of respect for the intent and sacredness of the treaties that land is a shared gift. Outside decision-makers empowered by the Crown to manage traditional territories are seen to impose unilateral decisions about herbicide use, even when First Nations communities clearly oppose spraying.



Credit: Lacey Rose

SECOND

Many First Nations communities feel that their unique relationship and attachment to wild plants for food, medicine, and ceremonial purposes are insufficiently recognized and protected. Land provides people with a place of reference to remind them who they are and provides substance to life's experiences and how to relate to all things. In the traditional First Nations worldview the relationship to the land and the environment is viewed as a reality that combines the physical and metaphysical to

¹ Kayahara, G.J. and C.L. Armstrong (Compilers). 2015. Understanding First Nations rights and perspectives on the use of herbicides in forestry: A case study from northeastern Ontario. *Forestry Chronicle* 91: 126-140.



Credit: Kandyd Szuba

achieve a balance. Thus, one's relationship with the land is really a relationship with home and an integral part of one's whole existence. Under this conception of land and home, herbicide spraying is viewed by First Nation community members that outsiders are "spraying on top of us."

THIRD

Traditional First Nations feel a special responsibility to continue caring for the land, generation after generation, the stewardship principle reflecting a spiritual connection with the land. There is a sense of responsibility that the land will take care of humans but in turn humans have to ensure the land is cared for, a covenant of "reciprocity". Herbicide use goes against the circle of life by deeming certain life forms as "weeds", which are then killed en masse by chemicals to make way for commodity production of conifer species. Using herbicides in forestry without reference to spiritual connections is seen as an affront to responsibility for taking care of and respecting relationships with all things, and an affront to the understanding of reciprocity. Disrupting the natural processes of an inherited gift is seen as an extreme devaluation of nature and considered irresponsible.

FOURTH

Relying solely on science to determine the safety of herbicides comes with its own challenges. Because of a history of broken trust in the relationship between First Nations and the governments, any assurances by government, its institutions, and industry about

the safety of the use of herbicides are met by First Nations with mistrust; the science showing the safety of herbicides is viewed as the government using or misusing the science for the purpose of manipulation, a defensive measure to justify herbicide use. In addition, even in the case where traditional First Nations do not necessarily feel that science is wrong they feel that the western materialistic worldview that science operates under is too narrow. Within a western materialistic worldview, herbicide safety is judged only on physical effects, using scientific experimentation. Rather herbicide objections are based upon a combination of the physical and metaphysical to achieve a balanced relationship with the land. Concerns over herbicide use by First Nation people holding a traditional

worldview base their opposition to herbicides on all four realms of the medicine wheel -- a continuous interaction of the physical, mental, spiritual, and emotional -- representing the alignment and aspects of human nature that must be cultivated within us and used to make decisions. Finally, there is a personal offence to the western materialistic worldview being imposed on First Nations as the one true reality; therefore, science is the only legitimate form of gaining knowledge, the only valid way of judging whether herbicide applications are acceptable for human and ecosystem health. First Nation participants objected to the presumption that they are then expected to accept the primacy of science, to the exclusion of their own knowledge, experiences, and concerns.

This imposition can be viewed not only as disrespectful, invalidating or dismissive of their core belief system but as the ongoing perpetration of the colonial relationship between the Canadian government and First Nations. This power relationship has a sordid history amongst First Nations with one result being the imposition of residential schools upon First Nation children in an attempt to replace their traditional worldview with the prevailing European worldview of the time. This is a personal and emotional concern. Ultimately, First Nation opposition to the use of herbicides in forestry is not about wanting to return to a past life but rather largely about needing a better attitude towards the earth. Traditional First Nation perspectives offer us a way of moving towards greater balance and harmony. Thus, First Nation opposition to herbicide use should not be seen as

sources of disagreement or conflict, an impediment to “progress”, but rather as sources of diversity and enrichment based upon the spirit to share and co-exist in peace. First Nations are seeking respectful co-operation on equal terms.

What can foresters do that respects the Indigenous position yet does not hinder meeting silviculture objectives? Aboriginal Peoples are not just another stakeholder – they hold particular rights in relation to forested lands as specified under the Canadian Constitution, traditional title, negotiated treaties, and legal decisions. Besides the legal considerations, we are also in an era of reconciliation. The issues come down to: How do traditional values mesh with the contemporary reality of forestry so that forest management on shared land allows First Nation communities to live their lives on their terms?

IN ONTARIO

The Vegetation Management Alternatives Program was established in 1990 to develop approaches to managing forest vegetation that will gradually reduce dependence on herbicides in Ontario's forests. That research program provided insight into many aspects of vegetation management, including tree response to competition and useful alternatives to herbicides and their limitations. We can also learn from the experience of Quebec which has been operating without herbicides in forestry since 2001. Although there has been a lot of published research on herbicide alternative methods, these methods have

been very limited in their adoption and we have not seen any silviculture assessment data or reports on the effectiveness of this approach on an operational scale. Herbicides are effective, comfortable and familiar to foresters, but First Nations demand that we leave our comfort zone and continue the effort to reduce their use. This is the new reality. Dialogue and understanding of the First Nation lens is a start, but the big challenge to foresters is to find solutions that we can all live with. Foresters are better off meeting this challenge directly in a planned methodical manner, rather than facing the possibility of a sudden outright government ban on herbicide use in forestry.



Upcoming professional development courses in Ecological Restoration

Mining Reclamation Course (5-day intensive; June 6-10, 2018)

Mining Reclamation is an important and relevant area to gain skills. This course is scheduled every three years, so don't miss your opportunity to take it this June (eligible for 36 hours of CERP credits).

For fees and registration information:
<https://continuingstudies.uvic.ca/science-and-ecological-restoration/courses/mining-reclamation#/tab-1>

Climate Change in Ecological Restoration Online Course (May 7-Aug 3 asynchronous delivery)

Climate Change has implications for how we plan and practice ecological restoration. By taking this course you will learn to evaluate climate change tools in restoration planning, analyze climate change mitigation measures, and understand the effects of climate change on ecosystems (eligible for 36 hours of CERP credits).

For fees and registration information:
<https://continuingstudies.uvic.ca/science-and-ecological-restoration/courses/special-topics-in-environmental-restoration-climate-change-in-ecological-restora>



KENORA FOREST

Miitigoog – Shareholder Sustainable Forest Licence (SFL)

Mr. Shannon Rawn, R.P.F.
 General Manager, Miisun Integrated Resource Management

Miitigoog Limited Partnership (the SFL holder) is the forest management model that has been used on the Kenora Forest SFL since 2009.

The Partnership was developed to involve First Nations in forest tenure with Industry Partners. The board of directors of Miitigoog is made up of 50% Forest Industry and 50% First Nations, with eight (8) directors: Weyerhaeuser, Kenora Forest Products, E & G Custom Sawing, small sawmills / Kenora Independent Loggers Association (KILA) and four (4) directors from local First Nation communities that have interest in the Kenora Forest.

From this, a wholly owned First Nations forest management company, Miisun Integrated Resource Management, was formed to manage the SFL. The First Nations are currently made up of the following communities: Wabaseemoong, Naoakamegwanning, Ochiichagwe’Babigo’ining, Ojibways of Onigaming,

Northwest Angle #33, Shoal Lake #40 and Anishnabeg of Naongashing. There is an on-ramp for other communities to join Miitigoog and Miisun, that has been effectively used to increase from the initial three (3) communities to the current seven (7).

Miisun has been managing the forest for the last nine (9) years with great success and have increased the First Nations membership dramatically since inception. The company is responsible for all forest management activities on the Kenora Forest SFL and promotes First Nations involvement in every aspect of forest management planning.

The Miitigoog board developed Protocols to incorporate First Nations in forest management activities (i.e. traditional offerings, new cultural areas of concern, enhanced individual trap line consultation, community meetings, information sharing, etc.).

Miisun has been increasing capacity of First Nations involvement in forestry through direct employment in road building/maintenance, renewal, nuisance beaver trapping, information gathering and continual involvement in strategic direction of the SFL.

Miitigoog industry partners are equally as satisfied with the model as First Nations are provided employment and new forestry opportunities in the forest. At the same time, the Forest Industry partners are receiving wood from a forest model that involves First Nations from the planning, road construction, harvest and renewal of the forest. This model provides benefits to both First Nations and Industry while continuing to work as a sustainable working forest.



Credit: Kandyd Szuba

First Nation and Métis Community Involvement and Consultation in Forest Management Planning

John Sullivan, R.P.F.
Forest Management Planning Specialist, MNRF

Forest management on Crown lands in Ontario is governed by two main pieces of legislation, the Crown Forest Sustainability Act (CFSA) and the Environmental Assessment Act.

Combined these statutes ensure Ontario's Crown forests are managed to meet the social, economic and environmental needs of present and future generations. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) is responsible for the long-term health of Crown forests. Forest management is a shared responsibility among MNRF, forest industry, Indigenous peoples, and the citizens of Ontario.

First Nation and Métis communities have unique rights and interests from other people in Ontario. These may include Aboriginal and treaty rights, recognized and affirmed in section 35(1) of the Constitution Act, 1982 and interests as peoples with distinct cultures, histories, languages, perspectives, needs and aspirations. MNRF's policy framework for forest management supports First Nation and Métis community involvement and consultation in forest management planning in a manner that respects Aboriginal and treaty rights and traditional uses of Crown forests.

First Nation and Métis community participation in forest management planning has increased over the last ten years. This increase in participation may be a result of better awareness of consultation requirements (State of Ontario's Natural Resources – Forests 2016, <https://files.ontario.ca/forests2016-final-accessible.pdf>).

Ontario is committed to increasing opportunities for First Nation and Métis communities to participate in forest management planning. The Forest Management Planning Manual (FMPM) provides First Nation and Métis communities flexibility in how they are involved and consulted in forest management planning. The FMPM provides communities the opportunity to develop a customized consultation approach with the MNRF and the author of the Forest Management Plan (FMP). This approach applies to all aspects of the preparation and implementation of an FMP and can be developed at any time.

This approach includes opportunity to:

- Address local circumstances;
- Reflect any existing agreements or protocols in place with communities or organizations;
- Determine what and how information will be made available; and
- Be involved in the preparation and implementation of a FMP.

In April 2017, Lieutenant Governor in Council approved a revised FMPM. The First Nation and Métis community involvement and consultation opportunities in the 2017 FMPM were informed by extensive dialogue and consultation with First Nation and Métis communities and intended to provide meaningful opportunities in the preparation and implementation of an FMP.

Some of the improvements include:

- An invitation to participate in the Desired Forest and Benefits meeting. This meeting is to inform participants of the background information available and to provide an opportunity for participants to share their respective interests in the management of the forest to directly inform the development of objectives, indicators and desirable levels for the management unit;
- An invitation to receive a presentation on the proposed long-term management direction and preliminary determination of sustainability to inform community review and input;



Credit: Scott McPherson

- Opportunity to assist with resolving issues at the planning team, and within the formal issue resolution process; and
- Opportunities for First Nation and Métis communities to review and comment on draft Annual Work Schedules with an emphasis on identifying any new values.

MNRF is continually listening to Indigenous peoples to identify opportunities to better involve and support First Nation and Métis communities in forest management planning. MNRF respects Aboriginal and treaty rights and traditional uses of Crown forests and is committed to providing meaningful opportunities for involvement and consultation in forest management planning, including flexibility to address local circumstances.

Lakehead University's Indigenous Content Requirement

Dr. M.A. (Peggy) Smith, R.P.F., (Ret.)

Professor Emerita, Faculty of Natural Resources Management, and former Interim Vice-Provost (Aboriginal Initiatives), Lakehead University

March 8, 2018

Lakehead University Provost and Vice-President Academic, Dr. Moira McPherson, included a message to new students in September 2017. She said:

Welcome to Lakehead University. You have made a great choice!

Lakehead University has committed to a better Canada through an inclusive process of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples in keeping with the 2015 recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. Northwestern Ontario is home to 75,000 Indigenous peoples, 1,100 of whom are fellow Lakehead students. Lakehead University believes that one avenue to reconciliation is the implementation of an Indigenous Content Requirement (ICR) for all undergraduate

students. Last fall we implemented the ICR. You are the second cohort of undergraduate students to take at least 18 hours of Indigenous course content before you graduate!

Lakehead's ICR represents a groundbreaking change and we challenge you to embrace this opportunity to learn more about Canada's First Peoples within the context of your program and discipline.

Stemming from Lakehead's Academic Plan 2012-2017, an Indigenous Content Requirement (ICR) began in the 2016-2017 academic year. All academic units require their undergraduate students to take at least 18 hours of Indigenous knowledge and/or content before they graduate. Over 60 courses have been listed as meeting the ICR while some academic units have chosen to spread the ICR across their programs. Many of our faculties already had required Indigenous content. For example, since the mid-2000s, the

Faculty of Natural Resources Management has required its undergraduate students in both the Honours Bachelor of Science in Forestry and the Honours Bachelor of Environmental Management programs to take the third year course, Indigenous Peoples and Natural Resources.

For Lakehead the Indigenous Content Requirement is just a beginning. If you think about the implications of 18 hours of Indigenous content for a university student who may have had no previous background on the history or culture of Indigenous peoples in Canada, this is just a drop in the bucket! But it is a start. Lakehead University realizes it will take continued efforts to improve the programming and support services we have built since the 1970s. One



Credit: Christopher Helmeste

of the more recent steps the University took was to hire an Indigenous Curriculum Specialist in 2017 to provide support to faculty delivering Indigenous content.

As a university of the North and in the North, with an Indigenous student population of over 10% of our total enrollment, we have long realized the importance of working with Indigenous communities to ensure their members who pursue post-secondary education are prepared and equipped to begin to address the unequal position of Indigenous peoples in Canada society. This means addressing the impacts of colonization. Our Indigenous Content Requirement has at its core Learner Outcomes that promote understanding about the history and impacts of colonization. To do justice to Indigenous communities means understanding our role in colonization and

transforming our educational systems to support Indigenous communities. This is in keeping with Lakehead University's Strategic Plan and the Calls for Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, but it is a process that Lakehead University has been involved with for decades. Our first Indigenous faculty member, Dolores Wawia (now retired) was hired in 1974.

Lakehead's Indigenous student population is a reflection of our northern space in the heart of the Indigenous territories of the Robinson-Huron and Robinson-Superior treaties and treaties #3, #5 and #9. In our communities, we are struggling to learn what it means for all of us to be treaty people and to redress historic wrongs. Lakehead is trying to play its part by being critically aware of the content of the courses we offer and to ensure we are properly reflecting the history of colonization. This is not a task for the faint-hearted; such work will take partnerships with Indigenous communities (a core element of the university's governance structure) and critical oversight of the content of the Indigenous courses we offer.

Websites that offer free webinars to earn CEU's for your membership maintenance.

1. Canadian Institute of Forestry <https://www.cif-ifc.org/e-lectures/>
2. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. MNRF Science, contact Kristy Mckay, Science Transfer Specialist at Kristy.McKay@ontario.ca
3. Forestry and Natural Resources webinars <http://www.forestrywebinars.net/>
4. Conservation Webinars <http://www.conservationwebinars.net/>
5. Urban Forestry Today <http://www.urbanforestrytoday.org/>
6. Climate webinars <http://www.climatewebinars.net/>



Credit: Lacey Rose

My Journey as a Professional Forester

Dean Assinewe, R.P.F.

My name is Dean Assinewe and I'm Anishinaabe from Sagamok Anishnawbek, near Massey, ON. I grew up on the family farm and began my work in Forestry almost from the time I learned to walk, as we cleared land, cut firewood, and made maple syrup.



When you are eleventh in a family of twelve, you know how to pull your own weight. My parents are primary sources of inspiration and motivation; my father (deceased) was many things over the course of his 87 years, including trapper, log driver, fire fighter, heavy equipment operator, band councillor (over 30 years), and Union of Ontario Indians Grand Council Elder. In her early career, my mother (now 88 years old) took care of many families in the community as a

Community Health Representative (CHR) Nurse. In her elder years she went back to college and university to obtain Ojibwe Language teaching certifications and became a real champion in the revitalization of the Anishinaabe language and culture. Their main message for me was *don't be afraid and never give up or quit*. I just wish they would have told me that these traits could also get you in a lot of trouble. Thankfully, ingraining these traits gave me the wherewithal to get myself out.

After high school, I moved to the bright lights of the big city and earned my PhD at the University of Hardknocks. It was after that time I decided that I really needed to return to school, but as a mature student. I completed a Forestry Technician Diploma at Sault College and immediately went to Lakehead and completed the HBScF.

Since becoming a member of the OPFA in 2002, I've seen a lot of changes in the industry and, if I was going to do well, I had to change with it. Also during this time, I got married and started a family so keeping my profession alive and taking care of the family took on the greatest priority. I'm proud to say that with my education, experiences and network I have never been out of a job and I have benefited by doing a variety of work. Some of my roles included:

- Forestry Program Manager, North Shore Tribal Council
- Minerals Development Coordinator, Sagamok Anishnawbek (Mining)
- First Nation & Metis EA Consultant, Xeneca Power (Hydro Power Development)
- VP First Nation Relations, Helios Whitefish River FN (Solar Power & Greenhouse Development)
- SR. Manager First Nation Metis Relations, Hydro One
- Forestry Consultant & FSC Auditor

In my career, I always wanted to promote science, technology and innovations in the industry and to be a champion for sustainability in resource development. The OPFA's Continuing Education program is a great tool for planning and advancing these goals and I feel like I'm always moving forward. My recent work as a forestry consultant engaged First Nations and Industry and I needed help to get things done. I contacted FPIInnovations for their expertise in forestry operations and that working relationship led to other opportunities and ultimately a job offer. Today, as an Industry Advisor at FPIInnovations, I promote the Indigenous Forestry Program (IFP) as well as other programs and services we have available. The IFP goals are as follows:

1. Increase the capacity of Indigenous communities to take advantage of opportunities in the forestry and wood products sectors;
2. Enhance economic development in Indigenous communities;
3. Create Indigenous employment opportunities.

My role also supports the programs by providing:

1. Access to industry specialists who provide technical advice to help solve production problems, increase productivity, reduce costs and maximize the value of forest resources;
2. On-site technical assistance and operational evaluations;
3. Training through the delivery of workshops and seminars;
4. Market analysis for the development of new forestry or wood products businesses.

Although I'm very new to FPIInnovations, we have some leading edge initiatives planned, including a forum where we'll organize First Nations and their companies to discuss their successes and challenges in the forestry sector. We'll seek out representatives from forest management, harvesting operations and hauling, sawmilling and manufacturing. We hope this forum will generate momentum and an environment where the companies can learn from each other and support each other's businesses.

Even though we work in the forest (and often board rooms), I believe people are at the centre of our business. At every step of my work and consulting business, I always had a friendly face or voice on the phone to turn to and I've always tried to make myself available to give back. When I have a moment to think back on where I have come from, I'm very pleased about where my career has taken me and I look to my future with great optimism.

Editor's note: Dean Assinewe, R.P.F. is a member of the OPFA's Registration Committee.

A model development and application guide for generating an enhanced forest inventory using airborne laser scanning data and an area-based approach

Airborne Laser Scanning data also known as Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) enables the accurate three-dimensional characterization of vertical forest structure. Airborne Laser Scanning data have proven to be an information-rich asset for forest managers, enabling the generation of highly detailed digital elevation models and the estimation of a range of forest inventory attributes (e.g., height, basal area, and volume).

Good practice guidance synthesizes current knowledge from the scientific literature and practical experience to provide non-experts more detailed information about complex topics. With this guide, our goal is to inform and enable readers interested in using Airborne Laser Scanning data to characterize, in an operational forest inventory context, large forest areas in a cost-effective manner.

Download the guide from the Canadian Forest Service bookstore:

English: <http://cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/pubwarehouse/pdfs/38945.pdf>

French: <http://cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/pubwarehouse/pdfs/38983.pdf>

RELATED CONTENT:

A best practices guide for generating forest inventory attributes from airborne laser scanning data using an area-based approach.

2013. White, J.C.; Wulder, M.A.; Varhola, A.; Vastaranta, M.; Coops, N.C.; Cook, B.D.; Pitt, D.; Woods, M. Natural Resources Canada, Canadian Forest Service, Canadian Wood Fibre Centre, Victoria, BC. Information Report FI-X-010. 39 pp.

English: <http://cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/pubwarehouse/pdfs/34887.pdf>

French: <http://cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/pubwarehouse/pdfs/35375.pdf>

Lake Nipigon Forest Management Inc. and Obishikokaang Resources Corporation

Bert Hennessey, R.P.F. and Scot Rubin, R.P.F.

Lake Nipigon Forest Management Inc. (LNFMI) and Obishikokaang Resources Corporation (ORC) are two First Nation-owned and managed forestry companies that have implemented revolutionary models for the sustainable management of the Lake Nipigon and Lac Seul Forests.

LNFMI and ORC captured the opportunity to establish First Nation forest management companies through the turmoil that resulted from the economic downturn in 2008. Both companies assumed management of their respective forests as a result of forest sector business bankruptcies. LNFMI held a Cooperative Sustainable Forest Licence (SFL) with forest industry Board Members that surrendered their seats and is now a First Nation-owned company. ORC assumed management of the Lac Seul

Forest six years ago as a result of a bankruptcy and, in the coming weeks, will be awarded the first enhanced Sustainable Forest Licence (eSFL) in Ontario.

Both companies have survived very difficult early years and overcome the negative expectations of business partners and funders and were forced to start their businesses with no outside financial support. Since their incorporation, they have successfully overcome many political, bureaucratic and business obstacles. Today, both have great working relationships with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), Industry Partners, and Communities. They have written Forest Management Plans, passed successful Independent Forest Audits (IFA), certified their forests, increased harvest levels, lowered management fees, developed capacity of Band Members, contributed to the local economies, and have become successful businesses that other communities can only aspire to.

Through their experiences from incorporation to today, the Boards have learned that their competitive, forestry-based businesses, like any other in Ontario, depend on successful operations from the forest to the



mill. The Board Members understand their businesses rely on successful forest sector partners and, from time-to-time, need to advocate for their success and survival. At the same time, their forest sector business partners have come to realize the benefits of having forest management removed from the consuming mill, which provides an enhanced social licence from the First Nations to operate on the forest. The strength that comes from being able to inform customers and environmental non-governmental organizations (ENGOS) that a First Nation forest management company makes all forest management planning decisions is invaluable. There is an understanding between these Boards and their forest industry partners that mutual success and benefit is integral to long term stability in the Ontario forest sector.

As a Director in any company, the First Nation Board Members are obligated to ensure the financial health of their companies. Their obligations are complicated by the added responsibility of managing the needs of their Band Members. It is a constant balancing act between growing their First Nation business while respecting many and sometimes conflicting First Nation values. Board Members and communities are constantly tackling the increased pressures of planning sustainable forestry activities while observing Traditional First Nation values.

Early in this evolution from single entity to First Nation SFL, the process was cumbersome with many issues between the Boards, forest managers, Elders, trappers, hunters, and other stakeholders. A key component of success was the willingness of General Managers to create processes to identify problem areas, develop a common understanding of the issues, and create a collective and practical solution. Developing annual processes for transparent communication concerning forestry activities allowed for business activity to continue and approval by the community. The remainder of this article will identify the elements of these communication processes and focus on the benefits of transparent communication in sustainable forest management.

Regular Meetings

Regular meetings with Board Members primarily focus on the natural functions of running the business (progress updates on budgets, employment opportunities, audits, certification, negotiations with partners, internal and external policy development, new business opportunities, etc.). Additionally, all of the business decisions are first vetted to consider the opportunity for First Nation involvement,

including the hiring of new contractors or of filling staff vacancies with consideration of capacity building costs.

Newsletters and Social Media

Community newsletters and Facebook posts identifying upcoming open houses or events are commonplace in these companies. Non-traditional forms of communication can result in unprecedented attendance and create good discussion. Both companies and their forest managers support the creation of committees that address difficult issues, including herbicide application, road construction, and larger clear cuts associated with emulating natural disturbance. Engaged and interested Band Members are selected to sit on committees and attend training and development seminars, which are designed to result in the two-way exchange of information. This two-way training model is the key to utilizing Traditional Ecological Knowledge and First Nation values in forest management.

One such committee developed the “Lake Nipigon Forest Tending Tool Box”, a tool box created to address the reoccurring concerns surrounding herbicide use and its impacts. Band Members that participated on the committee agreed to be the community conduit for concerns and distribute Fact Sheets that were drafted by the committee about herbicide spraying. Having a Band Member with herbicide knowledge in the community can also identify areas of concern from year to year rather than dealing with conflicts during the spray or approval of the Annual Work Schedule. The committee also agreed to a reduction in herbicide concentrations and the planned areas to be sprayed was reduced, with an increase in manual tending/ground-based application of herbicides. This past year, on both forests, there were no concerns and the planned area was completed without incident.

Community Liaison

Having an informed Community Liaison from the First Nation is very helpful to address concerns and avoid potential conflicts with forestry activities. It is important that the Community Liaison have a safe and accessible work environment that encourages Band Members to come in and have open discussions about annual planning. Band Members often felt apprehensive about approaching the General Managers (Foresters) with a question or concern about something happening on the forests. Meetings

with a Community Liaison promote good discussion and provides the space and time to develop a solution.

Enhanced Communication and Milestones

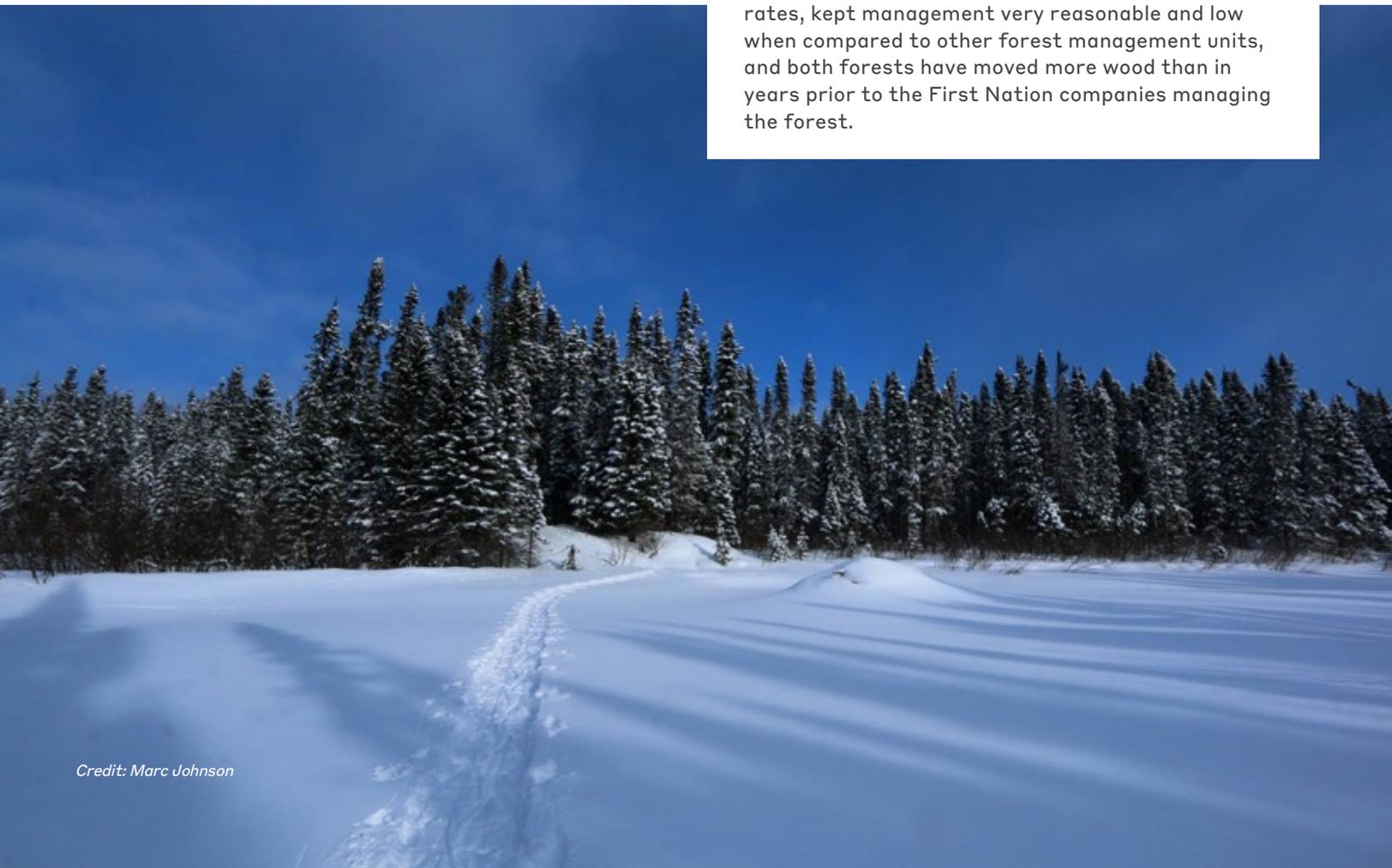
There is a stronger emphasis on communications and milestones that coincides with annual planning processes on the Lake Nipigon and Lac Seul Forests. On the Lac Seul Forest, there is a Terms of Reference developed for an Operations Committee that meets three times every year to help the General Manager develop Annual Work Schedule (AWS) submissions, followed by a second meeting after the MNRF review of the AWS and a final meeting is held before the final AWS submission. The success of this enhanced communication plan was realized this past operating year. There were concerns about a harvest during the first week of the 2017-2018 AWS and they were quickly dismissed, as Band Members reminded the concerned party about the numerous opportunities they had to participate beyond the legislative minimum requirements.

Board Members of First Nation owned forest management companies have increased responsibilities in communications because they are

the voice of Band Members and the protectors of First Nation values. There are also enhanced responsibilities for the General Manager and forest managers to provide science in a digestible format and conversely relay Traditional Ecological Knowledge from Band Members to forest industry, government, and stakeholders. On these forests, the legislated minimum requirements are not enough.

Both ORC and LNFMI hold multiple open houses and actively seek input rather than relying on communications models traditionally used in natural resources management. They do not wait for people to come to the company; the companies go to the people. In the years since their incorporation, their communications model has resulted in the economical, sustainable and predictable management of both forests. The forest sector has benefited from the implementation of this enhanced communications model by avoiding costly bump-ups and harvest operations delays; they can efficiently plan harvesting and hauling operations to effectively procure the wood required to run their mills.

As a point of clarification, the First Nation forest management models utilized on the Lake Nipigon and Lac Seul Forests did not increase forest renewal rates, kept management very reasonable and low when compared to other forest management units, and both forests have moved more wood than in years prior to the First Nation companies managing the forest.



TEXTBOOK

Indigenous Peoples, Lands and Resources

Dr. M.A. (Peggy) Smith is Professor Emerita in the Faculty of Natural Resources Management (<https://www.lakeheadu.ca/academics/departments/nrm>) at Lakehead University. Dr. Smith joined Lakehead University in 2000. She most recently taught courses on Policy and Legislation in Natural Resources, Aboriginal Peoples and Natural Resources, and Environmental Assessment.

In 2001 Dr. Smith developed the course on Aboriginal Peoples and Natural Resources. This course was developed with the assistance of students from her 2001 class. After teaching the course for 16 years, Dr. Smith retired from Lakehead University in the fall of 2017. In her last year at Lakehead, she served as Interim Vice Provost Aboriginal Initiatives.

Dr. Smith is now developing an online, open access textbook funded by [ecampusontario](http://ecampusontario.ca), entitled “*Indigenous Peoples, Lands and Resources*”. It has a planned release date for the summer of 2018.

The primary audience is students in post-secondary institutions as well as practitioners seeking continuing education opportunities, such as those provided by the OPFA’s bridge-training program. Indigenous peoples’ involvement in natural resources management is continuously evolving and therefore Dr. Smith foresees that this may be the first edition with more in the future.

A Committee has been established to support the development of the textbook’s content, including one of Dr. Smith’s PhD students who is acting as co-developer, faculty from Lakehead and the University of Toronto, members of Lakehead’s Teaching and Learning Commons, one of whom is an Indigenous curriculum specialist, and members of the OPFA, including the Executive Director. Local filmmaker Tony McGuire of TheyMedia has been interviewing Indigenous elders to provide content.

The Province of Ontario has made a commitment to provide more accessible textbooks. [Ecampusontario](http://ecampusontario.ca) was funded by the Province in 2014 to undertake course development. There are now over 15,000 courses and over 800 programs available online at the college and university levels.

This textbook will include 14 chapters covering Indigenous involvement in natural resources in Ontario. The textbook will cover historic issues such as treaties, the evolving legal climate on the duty to consult, and free, prior and informed consent, traditional knowledge, economic development in the mining, forestry and energy sectors and how to improve future relationships with Indigenous communities.

Dr. Smith received her Ph.D. from the University of Toronto’s Faculty of Forestry in 2007. Dr. Smith’s research interests focus on the social impacts of natural resource management, including Aboriginal peoples’ involvement in natural resource management, development and conservation, community forestry, public participation, northern development, and forest certification. She is a Registered Professional Forester (Retired) who graduated from the Faculty of Forestry at Lakehead University in 1991. She considers herself privileged to be a part of the growing number of people of Aboriginal ancestry (Cree) who have graduated from Canadian forestry schools. Dr. Smith continues her longstanding affiliation as Senior Advisor with the National Aboriginal Forestry Association, a non-profit, Aboriginal-controlled organization with the goal of increasing Aboriginal participation in the forest sector.



Credit: Kandyd Szuba

Pathways to finding a sense of place over 30 years

David Flood

General Manager, Wahkohtowin Development GP Inc

I have been a land user since the age of six; there is no better teacher than the land and the natural environment.



I'm sure I have had many common experiences as most Foresters or Northerners growing up who gained exposure and experience hunting and fishing. If you've ever had to stalk a rabbit in dense black spruce forest with a Crossman CO2 air rifle with squirrels always available to give up your position - it was these early beginnings of time management, equipment care, expecting the unexpected, preparedness for weather and weather change, managing packed food and water

resources, teaching oneself orienteering at the age of ten, and being gone for eight hours at a time, all with the goal of bringing food resources for a return of my time and commitment. Most humans will feel this connection in one form or another to the natural environment - hiking, boating, berry harvesting. Mine was a different experience internally; I did not have a Kookum (Grandmother) or Mishoomis (Grandfather) speaking to me in Ojibway, teaching me about Natural Law and how to always give thanks (Meegwetch) to all that is offered from the natural environment, but it was as if intuitively my experiences resonated a richness in my heart, mind and soul that I did not have an answer for, but a yearning to understand.

My father chased employment to care and provide for his family of four children, moving away from the land and language from which I was birthed, and I was raised out west in Alberta. So, naturally, my post-secondary education choice was local, and I first

attended the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology and received a Forest Technologist Diploma. After working seasonally and observing the various career paths, I was encouraged to go to University to obtain management skills and knowledge as well as a higher level of western science knowledge. In 1997, I managed to obtain my degree from the University of Alberta in Forest Management, another accomplishment. However, after taking a number of Natives Studies courses, an advocate was born, with both technical and professional qualifications. It wasn't until 2003 that I had a real opportunity to make my first attempt at full advocacy working for Nishnawbe Aski Nation - Treaty 9 which covers two-thirds of Northern Ontario. Leading up to that time, I had acquired my Professional designation in British Columbia and shortly after was registered in Ontario's Professional Foresters Association after successfully writing the Policy Exam. By 2010, I had left both registrations unattended and lapsed, primarily due to my growing uncertainty of whether the responsibility of the profession was to manage the forest resource for the public first or the citizens of the jurisdiction first and foremost, and the burning question of whether this really includes Indian, Native, First Nation, Indigenous = Forest Dwelling or Forest Dependent People in the definition of Sustainable Forest Management.

First Nations in Forestry

It's important to understand that since 1850 - the first *Indian Act* in Canada, then 1867 where Indian Nations were written out of Confederacy, to 1982 where Section 35 - protection of Aboriginal Peoples Treaty, Aboriginal Rights and Title in the Constitution, followed by ongoing evolution of Section 92 Powers to Provinces to govern, make laws and create benefit to the citizens, which continues to grapple with the evolution of the Supreme Court Doctrine of Consultation and the protection of Section 35 Aboriginal Rights, - one could call this period death by a thousand cuts.

The coming into effect of the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act* in 1994 and its associated Forest Management Planning Regulation that includes an Aboriginal Full Participation Framework requires significant care and attention given the following. There, in fact, is a framework within which, with the right policy, procedure and capacity support for both Ontario (MNR, MOECC and MIRR) and affected First Nations, a brighter collaborative future can take shape. The movement is underway with tenure reform and improved understanding of consultation requirements that extend to accommodation



Credit: Lacey Rose

associated with consumptive use rights as allocated by the Minister or held by SFL holders.

What has changed? The Supreme Court of Canada Decisions over the last 40 decades associated with Consultation with Indigenous Peoples. Forest Certification - namely, Forest Stewardship Council; the completion of the Ipperwash Inquiry - Dudley George and recommendations - 2007; the National Apology on the abuse and impact of extinguishment policies of the Federal Government - 2008; the first Aboriginal Title Case - Tsilhqot'in - 2014; the completion of the Truth and Reconciliation Report - Recommendations - 2015; the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Rights by Canada - 2016; and the current government's commitment to The Journey Together towards Reconciliation - 2016.

What is the future of Indigenous People in Forestry and Forest Management?

I'm pleased to say that I have a renewed spirit for the future and Full Participation of Indigenous Peoples in leading coexistence with our Natural Environment. This includes taking the holistic view of connectedness in order to adapt to Climate Change, Landscape Level Planning and Use, Cumulative Effects Monitoring, Forest Ecology, land and waters process and knowledge, and taking care of our plant

and animal relatives in a way that supports Natural Law Principles.

I currently work for a 100% Indigenous-owned Regional Economic Development Corporation named Wahkohtowin Development - Wahkohtowin meaning connectedness or kinship. As the General Manager, I am tasked to bring about a business model that embraces all elements of sustainable development - social, cultural, environmental, and economic. This is not done alone; it is owned by the First Nations and its people, and I am excited to recruit and grow the natural and intuitive talents of the people who are born from their respective homelands. The organization is only two years old and off to a great start, please visit www.wahkohtowin.com for

more information. In the 2005 Mikisew Supreme Court Decision, the Judge stated that Treaties should not be viewed as static in time, but that they should be brought forward and contemporized - they ought to be treated as an unwritten blueprint and be jointly written into the future with First Nations people as Nation to Nation.

This requires reconciliation between Section 92 and Section 35, as, it would appear, Canada and Ontario are seeking approaches to write Indigenous People back into the fabric of the Constitution and respect their inherent right to self-determination, governance and institution building. I'm happy to make my contributions, and even more excited to do it as a soon to be, once again - Registered Professional Forester.

My journey to rekindle my connectedness and search for Mino - Bamapii (a good life) continues. I was gifted my spirit name in 2011 - zonzei ma-iingun (Strong Wolf). It was observed in ceremony that my role is to care for the people. As I look back at my early days as a young harvester, it's as if I am coming full circle - I continue to work hard to bring benefit through the use of contemporary skills, education and professionalism.



Credit: Kandyd Szuba

Forest Change: A Government of Canada Initiative for Climate Change Adaptation of the Forest Sector

Rik Van Bogaert, Canadian Forest Service

1. Why did Forest Change originate?

Forests are climate sensitive. Climate affects plant and animal distributions, growth rates, mortality, and also disturbance regimes like wildfires that shape our forests. Because of their northern location, Canada's forests are being exposed to a warming rate that is about two to three times faster than the global average. Canada's forests are therefore expected to evolve and may become quite different from what they are now. Climate warming over the last five decades has already contributed to multiple changes, including more frequent and severe drought episodes, increased annual area burned, shifting patterns of insect outbreaks, and at times to loss of jobs and homes in forest communities (Ste-Marie et al. 2015). Efforts that support forest sector adaptation to climate change are therefore more important than ever.

2. What is Forest Change?

In 2011, the Government of Canada announced funding for nine federal departments and agencies to support adaptation. Under this initiative, the Canadian Forest Service initiated a program called *Forest Change*. In 2016, the program was renewed for another five years; it focuses on the resiliency of Canada's forests and the forest sector in the context of climate change. More specifically, the program aims to identify risks and opportunities, and to suggest adaptation options.

Forest Change is structured into three components:

- i. indicators that track recent changes and project future trends in Canada's forests and forest sector;

- ii. tools and resources that identify vulnerabilities and provide information and adaptation options; and
- iii. an integrated assessment assessing the implications of projected climate change on the forest sector.

management of the boreal forest (Gauthier et al 2014b). The website includes a Forest Change Data Catalogue of maps, graphs and data that shows current status and projected changes for topics such as drought, fire, temperature, and precipitation. Users can print summary maps showing short-, medium- and long-term projections and download data for further analysis.



Credit: Kandyd Szuba

The third component, the Integrated Assessment, brought together researchers from across the country to synthesize some of the latest biophysical and socioeconomic knowledge and data at a national scale. Starting with climate projections, researchers modeled potential impacts from changes in disturbance regimes, to growth rates, and timber supplies from short (2011–2040) to long term (2071–2100).

3. Some results and future prospects

A few key findings of the Integrated Assessment include increased fire and insect damage in large parts of Canada’s forests over the short to medium term (2011-2070; e.g. Boulanger et al. 2014). For the same time period, increases in wood supply costs

are projected for some areas such as BC and Quebec (McKenney et al. 2016). With unabated greenhouse gas emissions, forest productivity will be significantly affected after 2050. The response will be complex and vary across the country (e.g. Price et al. 2013; Bernier et al. 2016; Girardin et al. 2016; Boulanger et al. 2017; Hogg et al. 2017). For instance, in the Maritimes, the abundance and growth rate of more warm-adapted hardwood tree species is projected to increase, while the abundance of cold-adapted tree species like balsam fir and spruce that make up about half of Acadian forests, is projected to decline by 10 to 20 per cent by the end of this century (Taylor et al. 2017).

The complexity of interacting factors such as drought, pests, fire, changing forest composition, productivity, and mortality, will have impacts on both the ecology and economics of the forest sector. To ensure a cohesive and cost-effective approach to

Indicators include climate variables such as drought, forest characteristics such as tree distribution, and socio-economic factors such as the annual number of wildland fire evacuations. The selection of indicators is based on relevance to decision-making, extent of coverage in space and time, sensitivity to climate, measurability, and feasibility (Gauthier et al. 2014a; Lorente et al. (submitted)). Currently, several indicators are available online and several others are being developed.

The second component, adaptation tools and resources, includes web-based applications that provide assistance on issues such as determining optimal locations for seed sources and seed deployment, while taking into account current and future climate. Other information sources are available, such as a database of adaptation options that have been proposed in the literature for

climate change adaptation, it is now more important than ever to collaborate and co-create climate adaptation smart solutions to sustainable forest management with all interested partners and stakeholders.

To address this issue, the *Forest Change* program is developing a deeper understanding of climate change adaptation strategies through Regional Integrated Assessments, which are targeting region-specific issues, while maximizing transferable knowledge.

To learn more about *Forest Change* and climate change adaptation resources, please visit www.cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/forestchange.

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Credit: Alastair Rae

Ontario's Species at Risk Listing Criteria Fail to Do the Job

Kandyd Szuba, PHD R.P.F.

In Ontario, Foresters wrestle with species at risk issues daily. The public, municipal organizations, and others have expressed bewilderment over what appears to be required to address habitat issues for seemingly common species under the Endangered Species Act.

In my opinion, their concerns are well-founded. The following illustrates that Ontario's process for evaluating the status of species and assigning them to a risk category has been failing to do the job as intended by the provincial Endangered Species Act. Both the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry and the listing body (COSSARO <http://cossaroagency.ca>) have the power to make necessary changes, but have not done so.

Background and Examples

The Ontario Endangered Species Act states that classifications of "endangered" or "threatened" must be reserved for species that are at risk of imminent extinction or extirpation, but some of the species

that have been listed are still common, much more common than species that are not listed at all. Examples follow.

BANK SWALLOW

Listed as "threatened" in Ontario in 2013 with 200,000 individuals because the population was "declining" rapidly, but the Recovery Strategy estimated that population size is now 400,000 (Falconer et al. 2016), Partners in Flight (PIF) estimates 7.7 million in Canada & the USA², and the species is globally secure ("common, widespread, and abundant") according to NatureServe³. Ontario's "recovery goal" is 330,000 (less than Ontario's current population).

² Partners in Flight (<https://www.partnersinflight.org/>; Rosenberg et al. 2016)

³ NatureServe G5 rating; www.natureserve.org

BARN SWALLOW

Listed as "threatened" in 2011 with a population of 350,000. The recovery strategy (Heagy et al. 2014) says it is "still common and widespread in much of Ontario", Partners in Flight estimated 41 million in Canada & the USA (more common than the black-capped chickadee at 39 million), and NatureServe says it is globally secure ("common, widespread, and abundant").

EASTERN MEADOWLARK

Listed as "threatened" in 2012 with a current population estimated to be 130,000 in Ontario according to the recovery strategy (McCracken et al. 2013), 24 million in Canada & the USA (PIF), and the species is globally secure ("common, widespread, and abundant") according to NatureServe.

BOBOLINK

Listed as "threatened" in Ontario in 2010 with about 800,000 in Ontario, 1.8 to 2.2 million in Canada (McCracken et al. 2013), and 9.7 million in Canada & the USA (PIF). Identified as globally secure by NatureServe ("common, widespread, and abundant"). The Recovery Strategy (McCracken et al. 2013) estimated in 2013 that there were 570,000 bobolinks in Ontario. Ontario's "recovery goal" is 90% of the current population size (less than it is today).

Even the Recovery Strategies developed by experts in the field admit that these species are still common. To put these species into context with other birds, the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas (OBBA; Cadman et al. 2007) estimated there were 1 million American Crows in Ontario in 2001-2005 and that the Crow was "an abundant breeder south of Precambrian Shield" in Ontario. The current population of the Bank Swallow is at 40% of the level of the Crow, a level that would seem to be too high to qualify this Swallow as "threatened with extinction" in Ontario. The OBBA also estimated that there were fewer than 50,000 each of the Bluebird, Kingfisher, Black-billed Cuckoo, Rufous-sided towhee and Mockingbird in Ontario. All are much less common than the Bank Swallow but none is even listed as "Special Concern" in Ontario. It defies logic that the Bank Swallow, a species with eight times the population level of uncommon species that have not warranted listing at all, should be listed as threatened with extinction.

This is a serious concern because once a species is listed as "threatened" or "endangered", Ontario takes extraordinary measures to protect it above and

beyond the mechanisms already in place outside the ESA (such as through the federal Migratory Birds Convention Act, the provincial Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, or the provincial Crown Forest Sustainability Act). MNR's website illustrates that these measures often include a wide variety of prohibitions, a complex, costly process of habitat regulations, a recovery strategy, permitting, and a wide range of restrictions on activities that would otherwise benefit society. It is reasonable to unleash these measures when a species is rare and its population is facing imminent extinction or extirpation or is likely to become endangered as stipulated under the ESA. However, it is unreasonable to do so when the species is still common and capable of increasing beyond the "recovery level" in only a few years (see the bank swallow example above).

The implications of erroneously or prematurely listing a common species as "threatened" are enormous. For example, the General Habitat Description for the Barn Swallow defines habitat, which is subject to restrictions on both public and private property, as the area within 200 metres of the nest (an area covering 12.6 hectares). With 350,000 barn swallows in Ontario during the nesting season, the area potentially subject to restrictions is very large. Assuming there are 175,000 pairs and four nests per location, the area affected could be 551,250 hectares. If the species was truly rare and at risk of extinction, the area affected would be a small fraction of that, and the implications to society would be that much less.

As a biologist and R.P.F., I believe wholeheartedly that the welfare of these beautiful songbirds should be important to all Ontarians. However, I do not believe these common songbirds belong on the Endangered Species list as "threatened" for all of the reasons described above.

MNRF Could Ask for a Review

The Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry has the right, under Section 8(2) of the Endangered Species Act, to ask the Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario (COSSARO) to re-evaluate the species at risk status of any species. It would seem important for the Minister to ask COSSARO to do this for the Bank Swallow, the Barn Swallow, the Bobolink, and the Eastern Meadowlark. It would also seem important for COSSARO to revise its listing criteria to ensure that species that are still common can be differentiated from those that are truly at risk of imminent extinction. Until the criteria are

changed, common species are likely to continue to be identified as "threatened" by COSSARO, with significant implications for society, and for other wildlife species with different habitat requirements than those that are listed.

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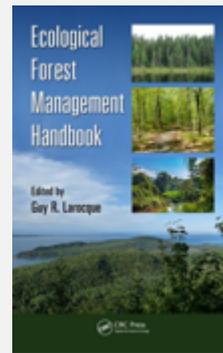
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***Ecological Forest Management Handbook* by Guy R. Larocque**

<https://www.crcpress.com/Ecological-Forest-Management-Handbook/Larocque/p/book/9781482247855>

"Forests are valued not only for their economic potential, but also for the biodiversity they contain, the ecological services they provide, and the recreational, cultural, and spiritual opportunities they provide. The Ecological Forest Management Handbook provides a comprehensive summary of interrelated topics in the field, including management concepts, forest models, and ecological indicators.



Featuring contributions from experts on the three main forest types - boreal, temperate, and tropical - this book presents in-depth coverage of important issues in ecological forest management and includes case studies addressing ecological and socioeconomic issues. It illustrates how ecological

forest management is a complex process that requires broad ecological knowledge while giving readers a deeper understanding of basic principles and applications".



Women in Wood at the 2017 OPFA Annual General Meeting in Guelph, Ontario.

A Rebuttal to the “Old Boy’s Club”

Lacey Rose, R.P.F. and Jessica Kaknevicus

That’s the joke that started Women in Wood, but it’s turned into a means of bringing together passionate women across Canada to share their love for working in the woods, with wood, or for the woods.

Our mandate has been to provide a networking opportunity to help women find mentors, seek career advice, or meet other women in the field.

What’s resulted, since Women in Wood’s inception in 2015, has been almost 500 women from all over Canada, the US and elsewhere sharing experiences, advice and information, starting in a Facebook group. Almost 50% of these women are in the 25-34 age range – the future is bright! Interestingly, when we did a poll, the leading profession in the group was forester. We launched <http://www.womeninwood.com> and a Twitter account in early 2017, which expanded the reach of the group, and generated some good conversations and interest in forestry media. Make sure to check out the blog, which, thanks to some great guest contributors, has some interesting content. Several Women in Wood events have taken place, from informal small gatherings to a packed room at an event co-hosted by SFI and sponsored by EACOM.

Why is this important? We can probably all agree that there’s a gender imbalance in the forest sector. We’re hoping that by profiling women in the sector, we are breaking the stereotypes of who fits the molds for forestry jobs, thus encouraging more women to enter the field. We’ve seen the success of an online community helping each other out by asking and answering all types of questions, and the relationships that have resulted. We’ve had women reach out to share their challenges, letting us know that these types of conversations are still necessary. We’ve had employers reach out to find out how they can be engaged, and ask about what actions they might take to more successfully recruit women.

The OPFA has many successful, inspiring members who happen to be women, and this number has certainly increased in the last 20 years. We’re certainly grateful to the women who paved the way. The first woman joined the OPFA in 1967. In 2015, 18% of OPFA members were women (most recent stat available). It looks like there’s still work to be done in attracting and ensuring the success of women in the organization and in Ontario’s forests.



If you want to get involved, check out the website, follow us on Twitter and LinkedIn or join the Facebook group (this one is a “Women’s Club”!). We’re always looking for keeners to host events, write blog posts, or offer up and run with ideas. We look forward to what’s to come.

Member News

New Full (R.P.F.) Members

Javier Cappella
 Jacqueline Hamilton
 Mitchell Legros (transfer from British Columbia)
 Garrett Pechinger
 Alexandra Ryland (transfer from British Columbia)
 Margaret Scott
 Riet Verheggen (from Inactive membership)
 Daniel Yeboah

Please welcome and support the following people who have been admitted into the OPFA but are not yet entitled to practice professional forestry in Ontario:

New Provisional Members

Sharad Kumar Baral
 Courtney Bender
 Cheyene Brunet
 Scott Cassidy
 Joy Das
 Sage Fleming
 Bradley Jennings
 Sharnya Jeyaratnam
 Mitchell Long
 Taylor Makinen
 Jacob Mazzetti
 Annonciade Murat
 Wayne Pawson
 Kamala Rupakheti
 Stephen Tepylo
 Sarah Todgham
 Zilong Ma

Also, welcome seventeen Student Members to the OPFA. We look forward to them completing their academic training and becoming Provisional Members in the near future.

Student Members

Harjeet Singh Brar
 Derian Caron
 Xinli Chen
 Ramnik Dhaliwal
 Amy Doudiet
 Mark Engel
 Dehui Geng
 Sahari Inoue
 Yuen Ting Lam
 Aurora Lavender
 Richard Ormrod
 Mansoor Rahmani
 Stephanie K. Robinson
 Wanyuan Sheng
 Harmeet Singh
 Satnam Singh
 Ryan Wilkie



The following people are not entitled to practice professional forestry in Ontario but remain members of the OPFA:

New Inactive Members R.P.F. (Ret.)

David Archibald
 Alan Brailsford
 George Bruemmer
 Charlotte Caron
 Brian Cavanagh
 Mark Ryans
 Stan Vasiliauskas
 Steve Watson

New Life Members R.P.F. (Ret.)

Glenn MacLeod
 Peggy Smith
 Stephen Williams

The following people are not entitled to practice professional forestry in Ontario and are no longer members of the OPFA:

Resigned, Full Members:

Kristen Corrigan
 David Millson
 Susan Millson
 Kevin Ride
 Tony Saint
 Stephen Virco

Resigned, Inactive Members:

Derek Dool
 Bruce Nichols
 Jim Parsons
 Vince Rutter

Resigned, Provisional Members:

Olufemi Adekoya
 Sydney Mitchell
 Andrew Pitek
 Kayla Richard
 Nina Shach



Credit: Kandyd Szuba

Upcoming Events

INTERNATIONAL URBAN FOREST CONFERENCE

Vancouver , B.C., September 30-October 3, 2018
<http://www.iufcvancouver2018.com/>

THE URBAN FOREST OF TOMORROW: STRATEGIES FOR A CHANGING ENVIRONMENT

University of Toronto Mississauga Campus
 Thursday June 14th and Friday June 15th 2018

Download the Conference Program and register online at <http://ufis.ca/conferences-and-educational-events/>

61st OPFA AGM and Conference

Theme: “People and forests, a changing environment: fire, insects reconciliation”

All of this information, as well as hotel information and registration forms, can be found at www.opfa.ca.

Registration Rates:

- Full Conference, OPFA Member, Early Bird Rate (up to April 15, 2018): \$250
- Full Conference, OPFA Member (after April 15, 2018): \$300
- Full Conference, Non-OPFA Member: \$325
- Full Conference, Student: \$100
- Field Trip: \$60
- Awards Banquet only: \$85

Register online at www.opfa.ca today and take advantage of the early bird rate!

If you do not have internet access, or have trouble registering, contact Priscilla Doyle at the OPFA office at 905-877-3679.

Ontario Professional Foresters Association 61st Annual Conference & General Meeting Program

Senator Hotel and Conference Center, Timmins
May 15 – 17, 2018

Visit our website for the most up-to-date program

<https://opfa.ca/about-us/event-list/#!event/2018/5/15/2018-annual-conference>

TUESDAY, MAY 15

7:30 am – 9:00 am

Registration opens
(Senator Hotel Conference Floor)

1:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Registration continues
(Senator Hotel Conference Floor)

9:00 am – 6:00 pm

Field trips; various options
(See description at end of program)

6:30 pm – 12:00am

Ice-breaker social
(Senator Hotel Ballrooms)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16

7:30 am – 9:00 am

Registration
(Senator Hotel Conference Floor)

8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Trade Shows open
(Senator Conference Floor and Ballrooms)

8:30 am – 9:00 am

- Welcome from Annual Conference Committee (Ballrooms A & B)
- Opening Prayers – Cree & Ojibway elders
- Greetings – City of Timmins

9:00 am – 10:00 am

OPFA and ABCFP – We are professionals

- PLENARY Session – Presentations and dialogue on what it means to be a regulated profession
- Christine Gelowitz R.P.F., CEO of the Association of British Columbia Forest Professionals (ABCFP), and
- Fred Pinto R.P.F., Executive-Director of Ontario Professional Foresters Association

10:00 am – 10:30 am

Break – Tradeshow Exhibits

10:30 am – 12:15 pm

Three Concurrent Sessions

- Theme 1. **FIRE: Conflagration in Changing Times**
- Fire on the landscape – climate change and the future of forest wildfires occurrence and impacts in Canada and Ontario
 - Ontario's Wildland Fire Management Strategy and forest management
 - What government, industry, First Nations and boreal forest communities can do to respond

Theme 2. **ALLIED PROFESSIONALS: Lessons from Regulated Professions**

- Professional Engineers of Ontario
 - How the engineering profession regulates scope of practice within one professional organization
- Health Care Professionals
 - How multiple professions work together
- Ontario Land Surveyors
 - Ontario's first regulated profession

Theme 3. **INSECTS: Invasive Pests and Changing Climate**

- Mountain Pine Beetle, Emerald Ash Borer, Asian Long-horned Beetle and others
 - How forest insects are responding to climate change and affecting Ontario's forests

12:30 pm – 1:30 pm

- Lunch
- Keynote: Beth MacNeil, Assistant Deputy Minister, Natural Resources Canada

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

INDIGENOUS TEACHINGS ACTIVITIES

- Elders: Drum-making and other teachings
- Artisan Crafts: Beading and animal hide work (Artisan crafts available for purchase)

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

Network Break and Visit Exhibitors

3:00 pm – 4:30 pm

OPFA Annual General Meeting
(Ballrooms A & B)

6:00 pm – 10:00 pm

Banquet and Awards
(Ballrooms A, B, C & D)

- Keynote: Dana Collins, Executive-Director, Canadian Institute of Forestry
Advocating for Professional Forestry Practices, a national and provincial perspective

THURSDAY MAY 17

7:30 am – 8:15 am

- CIF Connection – John Pineau, Director, FP Innovations
- News from FP Innovations and what’s happening at the CIF Algonquin Section

8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Trade Shows open (Senator Boardrooms)

8:30 am – 9:45 am

INDIGENOUS PLENARY

Blanket Teaching Exercise – Indigenous Knowledge Activity
(Ballrooms A & B)

9:45 am – 10:15 am

Prize draws, Network Break and Visit Exhibitors

10:15 am – 11:45 am

Concurrent Sessions (Two)

Indigenous Forestry Economic Stories

- How Indigenous communities are undertaking economic development
- Presentations from:
- Wahkohtowin Development GP Inc.
 - Island Falls Forestry (Taykwa Tagamou Nation)
 - Wahgoshig Resources Inc.

FP Innovations – Indigenous Support for Business Opportunities

- Innovative direction for promoting Indigenous business

Free, Prior and Informed Consent and Forest Stewardship Council

- How FSC is helping to integrate Free, Prior and Informed Consent into sustainable forest management

Indigenous Knowledge and Forestry Professional Certification

- Recognizing Indigenous knowledge within our professional standards

12:00 pm – 12:30 pm

Final Remarks & Closing Prayer

FIELD TRIP SUMMARY

Tour A: Millsons + Goldcorp Mining Reclamation

9:00 am to 1:30 pm

- Includes bus travel and tour of Millson’s Greenhouse and Seed Plant, lunch and tour of mining site reclamation led by Goldcorp Inc.
- Bus pick-up on Elm Street behind the Senator Hotel
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) required including Green Triangle safety boots
- www.goldcorp.com/English/portfolio/closed-sites/porcupine/default.aspx
- www.millsonforestry.com
- Link to video clip re: Millson’s Seed Plant: www.northernontario.ctvnews.ca/video?clipId=675022

Tour B: Indigenous Cultural Tour

9:00 am to 1:30 pm

- Includes bus travel and Indigenous cultural awareness tour of the Ojibway & Cree Cultural Centre plus traditional bannock lunch at the Miken Otaski cultural site located in forest south of Timmins
- Bus pick-up on Elm Street behind the Senator Hotel
- Elders will be available to speak on cultural teachings
- www.occ.ca

Tour C: EACOM Sawmill Tour

1:30 pm to 3:00 pm

- One hour tour of random length sawmill located centrally in Timmins
- No charge for this tour – numbers limited
- PPE required
- www.eacom.ca/sawmills/timmins

Tour D: Full-Beard Craft brewery tour and Forests Without Borders fundraiser

2:00 pm to 6:00 pm

- A taste of northern Ontario
- 219 Wilson Ave near the Senator Hotel – join us when you can
- www.fullbeardbrewing.com

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice of the Annual General Meeting of OPFA Members

Fred Pinto, R.P.F.
Executive Director and Registrar

Notice is hereby given of the Annual General Meeting of Members of the Ontario Professional Foresters Association

to be held at the Senator Hotel and Conference Centre, Timmins, Ontario, at approximately 3:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 16, 2018 for the purpose of conducting the affairs of the Association, including:

Agenda Items (to be finalized prior to meeting):

1. Receiving and considering reports of the President, Executive Director & Registrar, Auditor and Committee Chairs for the year December 1, 2016 to November 30, 2017.
2. Receiving the Financial Statements as of November 30, 2017.
3. Reporting the appointment of the Auditor for the fiscal year ending November 30, 2018.
4. Confirming and approving the acts and procedures of Officers and Councillors.
5. Confirming Proposed By-law revisions.
6. Considering and, if desirable, approving resolutions.
7. Transacting such further business as may properly come before the meeting.

If you are unable to attend this meeting, please complete the Instrument of Proxy (below) and return it to the OPFA office:

- by mail - 5 Wesleyan St. #201, Georgetown, Ontario, L7G 2E2
- by scanning and Email – opfa@opfa.ca or
- by fax - 905-877-6766.

All Resolutions must be submitted, prior to the start of the Annual General Meeting, in the approved Resolution Form format (see form), with a Mover and Seconder.

Please take note, only those Resolutions submitted to the OPFA office by 2:00 pm on Friday, May 11, 2018 will be presented and discussed at the Annual General Meeting.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Instrument of Proxy

I, _____
(name of Member)

(Member number)

of _____
(address of Member)

Being a Member of the Ontario Professional Foresters Association hereby appoint

Greg Pawson, R.P.F., of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario

WHOM FAILING

Peter Street, R.P.F., of Callander, Ontario

OR _____, (_____)
designations

of _____

as my proxy to vote on my behalf at the

Annual General Meeting of the members of the Association

to be held at approximately 3:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 16, 2018 at the Senator Hotel and Conference Centre, Timmins, Ontario, in connection with the 2018 Annual Conference of the Association.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2018

at _____.

(signature of member)

IF YOU ARE NOT ABLE TO ATTEND THIS 2018 OPFA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, PLEASE RETURN THIS PROXY TO THE OPFA OFFICE by 2:00 p.m. Friday, May 11, 2018.

- by mail - 5 Wesleyan St. #201, Georgetown, Ontario, L7G 2E2
- by scanning and Email opfa@opfa.ca or
- by fax 905-877-6766.

THANK YOU

ANNOUNCEMENT

Louise Simpson, Registration Manager of the OPFA

The OPFA recently held a job competition to fill the part-time position of Registration Manager. The Association received applications from well qualified applicants across Ontario. The OPFA thanks all of the applicants for their interest in the position and their willingness to serve the OPFA. A subset of five very talented applicants were selected for an interview.

The OPFA is pleased to announce that Ms. Louise Simpson has been hired as the Registration Manager for the OPFA. Louise started on Tuesday, February 20, 2018.

Louise has a BSc in Geography from Kings College London in England, and an MSc in Forestry from Lakehead University in Thunder Bay. Growing up in England, she fell in love with the space, lakes, and forests of Canada while on vacation when she was ten years old and became determined to live here. She travelled to Mattawa and Timmins to research the impacts of forest management on biodiversity for her BSc thesis, and in 2009 she made the move from England to Thunder Bay to begin her MSc at Lakehead, focusing on white spruce regeneration. In doing so she developed strong ties to Northern Ontario and a great appreciation for its unique culture and landscape. After graduating she worked in various positions around Ontario, including as a Data Analyst at the Great Lakes Forestry Centre in Sault Ste. Marie. Now, a permanent resident of Canada and living in North Bay, she is incredibly excited to be able to work with the OPFA as our Registration Manager. Louise is looking forward to getting to know our members and to improving their experience as they move through the registration process.

As Registration Manager, Louise will support OPFA staff and the Registration Committee in improving registration services to members, particularly Provisional Members. The OPFA has a historic high

number of Provisional Members that keeps growing every month. The challenge is to enable these Provisional Members to become practising members, i.e. Full or Associate Members. Each Provisional Member has specific requirements to complete before they can become practising members. It is important that these members are offered additional help that will enable them to become practising members as soon as possible.

Louise Simpson can be reached via:
Telephone: (705) 358 8428
E-mail: registration.manager@opfa.ca





CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

OPFA Annual Awards and Recognition

Submission Deadline – Friday, April 13, 2018

The OPFA Awards and Recognition Working Group is asking for nominations from the membership for the various awards that recognize outstanding service to the Association and to the practice of professional forestry by both members and non-members. Presentations of the awards are made annually at the Annual General Meeting or in person during the award year. Details regarding each of the awards, who has received the award in the past, and the nomination requirements can be found at www.opfa.ca/about-us/what-professional-foresters-do/awards-recognition. Please note that not all awards have nominations each year. The OPFA awards are as follows:

- The Honoured Professional – to recognize an exemplary career
- The Fernow Award (formerly Forester of the Year Award) – to recognize notable contributions to forest practice by a member registered less than ten years
- The John H. Sellers Award - for the promotion and awareness of professional forestry

- The Herridge Award – intended to recognize those in “mid” career
- The Zavitz Award - to recognize contributions to forest conservation
- The Jorgensen Morsink Award – for accomplishments in urban forestry
- The Bayly Award – to recognize contributions to forestry by a non-member

It is important that we recognize our peers, colleagues, and mentors. Please take a few moments to consider your colleagues as candidates for recognition. There are many great foresters in our midst and many supportive non-members who have taken up our cause. Take the time to nominate someone who has inspired you.

In addition to reviewing nominations for the above awards, the Awards and Recognition Working Group may recommend to Council candidates for Honourary Membership in the OPFA, presented from time to time to “a non-member who has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of forestry in Ontario”.

For further information or questions about any of the awards, please contact Fred Pinto, R.P.F. (executive.director@opfa.ca) or Sarah Bros, R.P.F. (sarah.bros@merinfores.com). Nominations should be mailed to:

Sarah Bros, R.P.F.
 Chair, OPFA Awards, and Recognition Working Group
 259 Pearce Street,
 North Bay, ON P1C 1H3
 Ph: 705-475-9083
 Cell: 705-498-4165
 Email: sarah.bros@merinfores.com



Describing what professional foresters do to Franziska Von Rosen, Producer of a film for high school students that describes forestry in eastern Ontario.

Report from the Executive Director and Registrar

Fred Pinto, R.P.F.
Executive Director and Registrar

Formal communications such as this report tend to be boring positive feel good stories. This time I have decided to write about two recurring issues. I would like to spark a discussion so members are more aware of what it means to be a regulated professional.

Being a regulated professional means we serve others and can be held to account, it does not give us a monopoly over the provision of forestry services in Ontario. Send me any comments related to the issues described below or discuss what I have written with other members.

Annual membership renewal

I apologise for the first part of this message. You will get a sense of some of the frustration I feel. Many members are unaware of their responsibilities as members of a regulated profession and this has serious consequences, so please bear with me.

The OPFA has just completed its 2018 annual membership renewal. All members' annual fees must be received by Dec 1st each year and practising members must also report how they plan to maintain their competency by January 15 annually. By the middle of January 55 practising members had either not paid their annual fees or reported on their competency support documents, even though a letter had been mailed and several e-mail notices sent to each member. These individuals are a mix of new and long term members.

This is a serious failure. It indicates that many members do not realize that our profession is regulated by provincial law and that OPFA members,



Credit: Kandyd Szuba

like all provincially regulated professionals must pay their fees on time and have a plan to maintain their competency as failure to comply ultimately leads to the member being suspended. If the member is reinstated the suspension is posted on the member's directory that is accessible to the public. The suspension stays on the member's public record indefinitely. Please note that this is not something that I or OPFA's Council can change.

Due to the serious consequence that results from non-payment or non-reporting of competency I called every one of the 55 delinquent members and either spoke to them or left a voice mail message if the phone number worked. Written notices have also been sent.

Some members that were contacted claimed that they never knew that there were late fees and that after a specified time their membership would be suspended. This is a problem as I have mentioned the reason and consequences of non-compliance at every OPFA member meeting and e-lecture over the past three years. Every mentor agreement that I have seen over the past three years indicates that the mentor has explained the responsibilities of being a member. Every new practising member is also informed of their responsibilities in the letter that informs them of their acceptance into the OPFA.

We need every member to know and understand what it means to be a regulated profession. This means we need to change the culture of our membership. Causing a cultural change in a community of people is a difficult and slow process. So what more can be done? I recommend that every OPFA member speak to another provincially regulated professional and ask

them what happens when they do not pay their fees on time or if they do not have a learning plan. Also all members should speak about and explain membership requirements for regulated professionals to other members. As of this year one member of OPFA staff will contact each new practising member by telephone and explain their responsibilities shortly after they receive their acceptance letter.

For the 500 practising members that paid their fees and reported their competency maintenance plans on time my apologies for the message above. I need your help though. Please re-iterate the responsibilities we have as members of a regulated profession to other members.

Advocacy and the OPFA

This is another area that will require a cultural change in the membership. Members have asked the OPFA to take positions on public policy in the past and continue to do so. This is outside the mandate of the OPFA both as a normally accepted function of a regulator of a profession and specifically under the legislation within which the OPFA operates. The *Professional Foresters Act* section 5 subsection 2 (7 & 8) limits advocacy by the OPFA to:

“To promote public awareness of the role of the Association and to communicate with the public on behalf of its members.

To provide vocational guidance to persons wishing to enter the forestry profession.”

This means that the OPFA will not take or state positions on the use of herbicides, logging in Algonquin Provincial Park, closure of MNR facilities, provincial legislation such as the *Endangered Species Act*, etc. The OPFA will state a position if one can be developed that protects the public interest or more commonly describe what professional foresters do. Please note that the OPFA will not be silent. Over the past three years I have contacted or been contacted by different media and written or spoken on behalf of professional foresters to explain what we do.

In February of this year I was asked by a reporter from the Canadian Press to describe what professional foresters do to protect species listed under Ontario's *Endangered Species Act*. The reporter was writing a story on the proposed extension of an exemption that forestry would have from some of the requirements of the *Endangered Species Act* where there were approved forest management plans. I realise that many people hear the word "exemption" and think that forestry operations are to receive a blanket exemption from the requirements of the *Endangered Species Act*. Getting people to understand the limits of the exemption is not easy, the details are important, but difficult to communicate.

I spoke to the reporter for about 30 minutes informing him that professional foresters are regulated and what this means, that forest plans integrate the protection of endangered species habitat needs with other aspects of ecological integrity, including harvest and regeneration, in documents that are reviewed by the public. I had to correct many misconceptions: I told him the OPFA does not represent or speak for the forest products industry and gave him a contact for the Ontario Forest Industries Association. I informed him that the OPFA regulates professional foresters in Ontario. I then went on to describe what professional foresters do. I also told the reporter that forestry and all environmental issues are complex, where there is no simple winning solution for everyone and everything through time. The last point was made as activists promote a simple "solution" that may be intuitively appealing to some people.

You can read what he wrote and how he characterized the OPFA and other people he interviewed:

<http://cfjctoday.com/article/608448/industry-exemptions-ontario-wildlife-laws-put-caribou-risk-critics-say>

<http://nationalpost.com/pm/news-pmn/canada-news-pmn/industry-exemptions-to-ontario-wildlife-laws-put-caribou-at-risk-critics-say>

If you have examples of communications on forestry you have had with the media please share them with the OPFA. Let me know if you are willing to share your interview or statement with other members. We can all learn from one another and have a responsibility to explain our profession to the public.

Speaking this winter to university students planning to work in the profession. We are at Canada's oldest forest research plot, at the Petawawa Research Forest, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2018.

