

**The
Newfoundland and Labrador Forest Caucus
and the
Western Newfoundland Model Forest**

**A Report on Activities
1996-1997**

1. Introduction

Since December 1992, the Newfoundland and Labrador Environment Network has, through its Forest Caucus, provided services to the Western Newfoundland Model Forest aimed at facilitating the increased involvement of environmental non-government organizations in The Model Forest program, and to provide a communications link to share information and viewpoints between NGOs and the Model Forest partners. This report summarizes the activities undertaken in support of that objective over the period of time from April 1, 1996 to March 31, 1997.

2. Communications

A central goal of the Newfoundland and Labrador Environment Network (NLEN) is to foster improved communications; providing new communications opportunities and using existing facilities as effectively as possible. Resources provided through the contract with the Western Newfoundland Model Forest have enabled the NLEN Forest Caucus members to work more closely together, to learn from others and share their knowledge, viewpoints and experience more widely.

2.1 Electronic Communications

One specific initiative that has been explicitly funded by the Model Forest is the NLEN's use of Web, an electronic communications network established expressly for the needs of non-government organizations (NGO's). The Web is a Canadian network, linked up with other networks around the world through the Association for Progressive Communications. In 1994, Web users obtained full access to the Internet.

The Web has been particularly beneficial in the case of international forest communications, particularly with respect to the United Nations Commission for Sustainable Development and international communications among members of the Taiga Rescue Network. It has also been an invaluable communications tool for the members of the Canadian Environment Network Forest Caucus. Here in Newfoundland, Web use has grown considerably in the past year,

with NLEN member groups now having Web access (Humber Environment Action Group, Protected Areas Association, Extension Community Development Cooperative, Action: Environment, Innu Nation, Central Avalon Coalition and various other groups).

2.2 Newsletters

The NLEN newsletter, Environment Network News, continues to feature a regular column on forest issues, entitled "Forest Murmurs". A broad range of articles have been published here, including information about the Model Forest that may be of interest to Forest Caucus members as well as other articles that contain information of relevance to both the NGO community and the other Model Forest stakeholders. The Newsletter has monthly distribution of approximately 200 copies, including environment NGO's, media, key politicians, and other subscribers.

2.3 Mailings

The NLEN Forest Caucus has issued three mailings in the past year, disseminating more detailed information about forest-related activities than is possible through the newsletter. As well, the mailings have been used to distribute a wide variety of publications and pamphlets received by the NLEN, including flyers or newsletters from the Western Canada Wilderness Committee, the Taiga Resource Network, Greenpeace, CFES Newsletter and Model Forest Newsletters.

2.4 Canadian Networking

Several members of the NLEN Forest Caucus are also actively involved in the Forest Caucus of the Canadian Environment Network (CEN). This has enabled Forest Caucus members to be exposed to a broader perspective on forest issues and to share their experiences with environmentalists from across the country.

The Forest Caucus coordinator from the NLEN is a co chair of the Model Forest Working Group within the Canadian Environmental Network. This group has functioned as a network of NGO's involved in Model Forests across Canada.

2.5 Resource Materials

The NLEN continues to maintain a growing resource library and to make that library available to all interested people. As well as regular subscriptions to periodicals such as The Northern Forest Forum, The International Journal of Ecoforestry and Taiga-News, below is a sample of the items received over the past year:

"A Genetic Analysis of Pine Martin (*Martes Americana*) in the Western Newfoundland Model Forest". By Colin McGowan and William S. Davidson. November 1994.

A Protected Areas Gap Analysis Methodology: Planning for the Conservation of Biodiversity. World Wildlife Fund Endangered Spaces Campaign.

A Summary of Some Studies on *Kalmia Angustifolia*: A Problem Species in Newfoundland Forestry. Natural Resources Canada. 1995.

Biodiversity in Canada: A Science Assessment for Environment Canada. Prepared by the Biodiversity Science Assessment Team. 1994, 245 pages plus a 21-Page summary.

Canadian Biodiversity Strategy: Canada's Response to the Convention on Biodiversity. The final report of the Biodiversity Working Group. November 1994, 52 pages.

Conserving Ontario's Old Growth Forest Ecosystems. Final Report of the Old Growth Forests Policy Advisory Committee. July 1994, 90 pages plus a 32 page summary booklet.

Deforestation and "Development" in Canada and the Tropics: the Impact on People and the Environment. Edited by Aaron Schneider. Published by the Centre for International Studies, University College of Cape Breton. 1989, 251 Pages.

Earth Warden Guide Book. Living Lightly on Planet Earth. New Brunswick Environmental Trust Fund - 1994.

Feasibility Task Force Report on the Proposed Wilderness Research Centre of the Labrador Institute of Northern Studies. May 1991, 57 pages plus appendices.

Forest Ecological Classification and Mapping: Their Application in Ecosystem Management". By L.J. Moores and B. Pittman, Newfoundland Forest Service. 10 pages.

Forests and People: A Forest Caucus Networking Conference. Edited by Helen Forsey, this is the proceedings from a meeting of the Forest Caucus of the Ontario Environment Network that took place in September 1993. Available for \$12.00 (postage included) from the OEN, 27 Douglas St., Guelph, Ont., N1H 2S7, 88 pages plus appendices.

Giving the Land a Voice: Mapping our Sacred Places. Salt Springs Island Community Services. Sheila Harrington.

"Harvesting Methods in Canada's Forests: A Discussion Paper from the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy". Edited by Steve Thompson. Available from the NRTEE, 1 Nicholas St., Suite 1500, Ottawa, Ont., K1N 7B7, tel: 613-922-7189.

Income Opportunities in Special Forest Products: Self Help Suggestions for Rural Entrepreneurs. By Margaret R. Thomas and David R. Schurmann. Published by the United States Department of Agriculture. An Extremely useful reference work. Available for US \$10(postage included) from the Midwest Research Institute, 425 Volker Blvd., Kansas City, MO, USA. May 1993. 206 pages.

Labrador Ecosystems Analysis Facility: Proposed Implementation Plan. October 1992,65 pages

Maintaining Ecological Integrity in representative Reserve Networks. A World Wildlife Fund discussion paper. January 1995.

National Environmental Indicator Series. Sustaining Canada's Forests: Overview/Sustaining Canada's Forests: Timber Harvesting/ Stratospheric Ozone Depletion.

"Proceedings of the Workshop on Development Ecosystem Health Indicators". Prepared for the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment Water Quality Guidelines Task Group. June 1994, 51 pages.

Protecting our Natural Heritage: Conservation Areas in Atlantic Canada., Environment Canada, Natural Resources Canada, and Canadian Heritage.

The Impact of Whole-Tree and Conventional Harvesting on White Birch Sites in Central Newfoundland: an ENFOR Establishment Report. Natural Resources Canada Information Report N-X-293.

The Report of the Partnership on Sustainable Communities and Marine Ecosystems in Newfoundland and Labrador. The Newfoundland Round Table on the Environment and the Economy and National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy. October 1995.

The Sawmill and Planning Mill Industry of Newfoundland. Natural Resources Canada. 1994.

Timber Supply and Endangered Spaces. A World Wildlife Fund Canada Discussion Paper.

Wildwood: A Forest for the Future. By Ruth Loomis with Merv Wilkensen. Reflection. 1990.

Woody Points. Spring/Summer 1995. Volume 24, Number 1.

3. MODEL FOREST-NLEN FOREST CAUCUS COLLABORATION

This section outlines some of the ways that NLEN member organizations have been involved in Model Forest initiatives. It includes participation in both Model Forest working groups, as well as other, less structured forms of cooperative endeavours.

3.1 Humber Environment Action Group (HEAG)

HEAG has been actively involved in the Western Newfoundland Model Forest since October of 1991. HEAG members participated in the drafting committee for a proposal to continue the Western Newfoundland Model Forest for a further five years. Until December of 1996 HEAG members were involved as a partner at the board, management group and working group levels. In December of 1996 HEAG withdrew as a partner but has continued involvement in projects which are facilitated by the Model Forest such as the five-year operating plan for district 15.

3.2 Protected Areas Association (PAA)

PAA has been a member of the Integrated Resource Management Working Group, with Laura Jackson participating. The PAA is also a member of the NLEN Forest Caucus.

3.3 Humber Arm Environmental Association

Association Coordinator Sean Dolter has participated on the Model Forest's Public Awareness and Involvement Working Group since its inception in January 1993.

3.4 Other Groups

The Forest Caucus Coordinator has made a number of efforts to involve the Aboriginal community in Model Forest programs. Prior to the final drafting of a proposal for the present five-year term information was forwarded to both the Labrador Metis Association and Innu Nation regarding Model Forests. As well the NLEN initiated a meeting between Model Forest personnel and the Federation of Newfoundland Indians regarding future participation of that organization in Model Forest Programs.

3.5 NGO Capacity Building

In September of 1996 two NLEN Forest Caucus members were given support from the Model Forest to attend the hearings of the World Commission on Forests and Sustainable Development in Winnipeg. Mr. Beni Malone of the Save Our River Environments group and Greg Mitchell of HEAG also had the opportunity to attend the American Forest Forum which

was a meeting of NGO's in preparation for the hearings of the World Commission. The NGO conference allowed our Forest Caucus members to network with both national and international NGO's.

4. Other NLEN Forest Caucus Activities

The NLEN Forest Caucus is a predominantly volunteer organization, and it or its member groups are involved in a wide range of activities that are not necessarily related to the goals and objectives of the Western Newfoundland Model Forest. Nevertheless, it is important to briefly enumerate them here since there are indirect benefits to all parties when there is a more fully informed dialogue around forest issues, and the NLEN Forest Caucus plays an important role in this regard.

4.1 NLEN Forest Caucus Meetings

The annual meeting of the Caucus took place at the Annual General Meeting of the NLEN at Makisons in July of 1996. Another Forest Caucus meeting was held at the Laurock Centre on Jan 12, 1997, in conjunction with the Legislation Caucus of the NLEN. The Forest Caucus of the NLEN has expanded its membership list to more than 40 individuals and groups in the province.

4.2 Participation in Five Year Planning Teams

The Forest Caucus has been instrumental in contacting members and member groups in the forest management districts, so that, they can participate in the operating planning teams. The Caucus has, in fact, acted as a clearing house in networking between government officials and members and to the best of our ability been distributing pertinent documents and information.

4.3 Participation in Certification Process Toward Sustainable Forest Management

In the case of woodlands certification for Abitibi Consolidated, the caucus coordinator has contacted member groups so that they have been informed about meetings and has networked with the consultants on NGO involvement. In mailings and meetings the Caucus has been distributing as much information as possible on the Canadian Standards Association and Forest Stewardship Council Certification Processes. To members, Martin von Mirbachs' activities at the national and international level on certification has been vital to providing member groups with information on the two primary certification processes (CSA and FSC). Martins' affiliation with the Forest Stewardship Council has given a direct link between what issues NGO's pursue in Newfoundland and what NGO's in other parts of the world see as important.

4.4 Environmental Assessment of Forestry Plans

The forest caucus keeps members and member groups informed, to the best of our ability, regarding assessment in individual districts.

4.5 Environmental Assessment Reforms

The Forest Caucus has had several opportunities over the past year to participate in consultations on both assessment reforms and harmonization of provincial and federal legalisation. Caucus members attended a consultation on harmonization in January of 1997 which gave participants an opportunity to recognize the links between forest issues, other environmental issues and pertinent legislation.

4.6 Commission for Sustainable Development

In February of 1997 Greg Mitchell and Martin von Mirbach attended a multi-stakeholder consultation (Ottawa) in preparation for Canada's position at the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests. Martin was chosen as the NGO delegate to attend the UN meetings in New York (Feb. 11 - 21).

The multi-stakeholder meetings also gave an opportunity for Eugene Conway of the Central Avalon Coalition to attend the CEN forest caucus meetings and become involved in discussions around certification, forestry alternatives and Model Forests.

Financial Statement
March 31, 1997

REVENUE

Model Forest Contract	\$10,800.00	
TOTAL	\$10,800.00	\$10,800.00

EXPENSES

Co-ordination	\$ 7,500.00	
Office	840.00	
Meeting (AGM)	500.00	
Communications	1,300.00	
Miscellaneous	60.00	
Administration	<u>1,800.00</u>	
TOTAL (Maximum allowable expenses \$12,000.00)	\$12,000.00	<u>\$12,000.00</u>

AMOUNT OWING

\$ 1,200.00