Learning to tango: Social Issues and Community Forestry in Canada

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55th Forest Industry Lecture
Edmonton, March 9, 2006
Forestry for what and for whom?

- In Canada, forest policy aims at wood production for the processing industry
- Decades of achievement
- World leader in forest products
- In 2004
  - Harvest: 195 M m3
  - Export revenues: 44.6 G $
  - Jobs: 361 000 y.-p.
Canadian forest policy: like a tango

- State
- Industry
- Heavier regulation
- Ecosystem complexity
- Increasing social demand

Source: Fabian Perez
Two phenomena affecting forestry

- Social demand diversity that must be addressed implicitly
- Harshness of productivity race in a global economy
An outburst of values?

- Wood
- Habitats
- Landscape aesthetics
- Ecosystem functions

Photo: P. Roland Johansson
Biodiversity

- Protected areas
- Maintenance and restoration practices
- How much?
- At what costs?

Photos: H. Sundkvist and Niall Benvie
The race to Industry Rationalisation: A Quebec - Sweden comparison (2003)

<table>
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<th>Harvest (M m³)</th>
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La Baie

ACI Plant in La Baie

Street gathering Jan 2005

Photos: Jeannot Lévesque
Legitimacy crisis

The movie

L'Erreur boreale

The Coulombe Commission

Questioning the state of the forest
“Forest dependant communities feel like watching the show of their death”

Anishnabe community of Lac Simon

Euroamerican community of Grande-Vallée

Photos: H. Jacqmain et S Côté
Community forestry

- The institutional answer as an alternative to corporate forestry (Beckley and Krogman 2002)
- Alleviate poverty in community upset by external project (Colfer 2005)
- Figure out tradeoffs between production and conservation (Glasmeier and Farrigan 2005)
Community forestry: definitions

- Active management of forest through direct participation of local people (Arnold 1992)
- A tree-dominated ecosystem managed for multiple community values and benefits by the community (Duinker et al. 1994)
- A state achieved when a given forest is managed in partnership with a community (Beckley and Krogman 2002)
FIGURE 1 Control/benefit continuum in forest management.

The Beckley - Krogman Model
A word of caution

- Community’s view of development is not necessarily consistent to generate local benefits and achieve conservation goals (Berkes 2004)
- Common property institutions
- Shared environmental ethics
- Collective vision
Public participation

“A social regulation process using public debates to facilitate choices in forest management and to increase their political legitimacy”

Bouthillier, 2001
Two types of participation

- **Type I**
  - A set of means used to justify a project or a development policy (Canter, 1996)

- **Type II**
  - A communication approach aiming at empowering civil society groups to take an active role in their development (Buchy et Hoverman, 2000)
To sets of practices

**Type I**

- Knowledge sharing (Sadar et Stolte, 1996)
  - Issues
  - Environmental components
  - Impacts

- SENSIBILISATION

- INFORMATION

**Type I I**

Capacity development (Gibson *et al.* 2000)

- Competences improvement
- Responsibilities sharing
- Power redistribution

- CONCERTATION
- PARTNERSHIP
- DEVOLUTION
A scale to clarify intends behind participation

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<tr>
<th>LOW</th>
<th>MODERATE</th>
<th>HIGH</th>
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<td>2 Discussion</td>
<td>3 Dialogue</td>
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<td>4 Agreement</td>
<td>5 Partnership</td>
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<td>5 Training</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Devolution</td>
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Plan 1
Information Sharing

Plan 2
Mutual Understanding

Plan 3
Power Sharing

Roberge et Bouthillier TBP
Social learning: A process of social change

- Exchange of information among participants to a civic dialogue mechanism which improves their mutual capacities to interact (Bouthillier 2004)
- Interaction among stakeholders to identify diversified ways of getting things done (Mutimukura et al. 2004)
Social learning: Some results from a Mauricie experiment

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Monnet et Bouthillier
The issues at stake for cognitive social learning

- Forest Law and Regime
- Forest Industry
- Silviculture
- Logging
- Wildlife Habitat
- Aboriginal identity ???
- Biodiversity (NO)
- Forest structure (NO)
Aboriginal forestry in Quebec

- Aboriginal people have inherent rights.
- Aboriginal people have a specific role to play in natural resources management:
  - Increasing participation to development
  - Harmonisation between traditional way of life and development activities
- Mandatory cultural encounter that should be observable in language
WEMOTACI in Nitaskinan

Photos: Michel Mongeon
Two ways of thinking
Practical issues I

- Logging operations
  - Logging operations have impacts that could be mitigated

- Roads
  - First step to logging operations

- Landscape
  - Logging modifies landscape for the time regeneration takes to reach FTG

- Logging operations
  - It modifies notcimik and it lowers chance to reach nehirowisi

- Roads
  - It improves access to notcimik, but increases non Atikamekw presence

- Landscape
  - After harvest, notcimik is different and « knowledge » is lost
Two ways of thinking
Practical issues II

- **Consultation**
  - Foresters look for information to improve their planning and to meet QMNR regulations

- **Expectations**
  - Wealth creation and enhancement of Atikamekw’s participation to forest industry.

- **Consultation**
  - Tipahiskan is based on information sharing and collective decision making

- **Expectations**
  - More jobs and revenues and, adapted forest practices
Directions for foresters in aboriginal forestry

- Notice the Other’s reality
- Compare to your reality
- Apprehend real issues within the realm of these comparisons
- While implementing forestry projects, satisfy three conditions
Three conditions for aboriginal forestry

- Free and informed consent
- Harvest and silviculture practices harmonised with traditional way of life at a community level
- Training and empowerment for aboriginal communities in forestry
- In other words: Look at community forestry
Back to community forestry

- Poverty alleviation through value added by growing and processing raw material
- Economic diversification
- Empowerment of the excluded
- Self-awareness of community members to sustainable outcomes nurturing a new forestry
- Development of feasible solutions matching conservation and development
Take home messages

- Be prepared for a new breed of forest policies
  - Accommodate a diversity of values
  - Face directly aboriginal issues
  - Implement forestry at a landscape level ecologically and socially

That is sustainable forest management!
Take home messages II

- Get ready to community forestry
  - Local leadership
  - Boundaries congruence
- Be part of the development process at a community level
  - Social capital to learn, decide and act
  - Collective ability to monitor and adapt
Be willing to learn dancing with social issues in forestry
Thank you!

[Image of acrobats performing a stunt]

[Photo credit: Luis Padovan]