

NSRCF Forestry Agenda

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Canadian Institute of Foresters

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The NSRCF Agenda

- Northeast Superior Regional Chiefs' Forum
- Created in 2007 as a social-spiritual experiment
- Serves to build on existing social trends, not set them
- Must be doing something right because it is moving too fast for some, too slow for others

Process Driver: Megatrends

- 1982 bestselling book - we are moving:
 - from short-term towards long-term planning
 - from centralization towards decentralization
 - from institutional help towards self-help
 - from representative towards participatory democracy
 - from hierarchies towards networking

Process Driver: CBNRM

- Community Based Natural Resource Management
- Rapidly evolving global trend
- Helps the rural poor overcome poverty
- About personal empowerment, not institutional power
- Community forestry nestled within this concept
- It is about making sure that community needs are met, not about community control

Process Driver: Eighth Fire

- Aboriginal Prophecy: spiritually based
- Marks a return to balance, holism, nurturing
- We are now entering a period of great reconciliation
- People centred: increased social responsibility
- Underlying epistemology is fully compatible with Megatrends and CBNRM trends

NSRCF Successes to Date

- NS-ESFL Development Agenda
- NSRCF-Ontario RRS pilot project
- NSRCF Economic Development Agenda
- NSRCF Guardianship Agenda
 - ABIR pilot project
 - EFRI pilot project

NS-ESFL

- Enhanced Sustainable Forest Licence Pilot Project
- Mutual respect and trust are driving principles
- Started with a community empowerment approach
 - FN/municipal alliance - limited initial traction
- Moved to a sustainable development approach
 - FN/industry alliance - limited initial traction
- Gained government-to-government traction
 - OMNRF commitment letter a game changer

Resource Revenue Sharing

- NSRCF-Ontario two year pilot project
- Huge NSRCF compromises made to set precedent
- Evaluation methodology jointly developed
- Big breakthrough – circular (holistic) representation of evaluation criteria led to a common understanding
- Convergence is not about blending two world views but about looking at the same world from different perspectives!

NSRCF Economic Agenda

- Started with a full court press Condition 34 agenda
 - Focus on new entry opportunities for First Nations
- Moved to a business-to-business agenda with industry
 - But commitment wavered once wood fibre allocated
- Brinkmanship exercise was required to break impasse
- Now industry partners are coming to the NSRCF
- OMNRF now sending a clear message about the importance of FN-Industry partnerships

ABIR Convergence Methodology

- Aboriginal Background Information Report
- Comprehensive Aboriginal values mapping
- Concerns that map values would freeze harvesting
- Map values superimposed on specific cut blocks
- Limited flags raised – most mitigated easily
- Multi level risk management system developed
- Multi year issues resolution process developed

FRI Challenge Statement

- Forest Resource Inventory
- FRI process focusses on wood fibre availability
- Lack of focus on biophysical data
- NSRCF concern about lack of traditional information
- Identified need for a hybridized approach

EFRI Opportunity Statement

- NSRCF Enhanced FRI pilot project underway
- OMNR, NSRCF, GLFC, FFT, NRCAN, Industry, Others)
- Hybridized methodology to include:
 - key NSRCF Aboriginal plants
 - key NSRCF NTFP priorities
 - GLFC soils assessment pilot project
 - More intense validation in the field

NSRCF Guardianship Agenda

- Multi faceted approach
- Links NSRCF Elders with youth
- Heavy focus on field monitoring and compliance
- Tied to EFRI and ABIR methodologies
- Tied to proposed FPIC-FSC pilot project
- Tied to NSRCF Regional Development Corporation
- Looking to de-politicise resource decision-making

Conclusions

- Process hampered by fear of change fueled by a lack of trust and lack of understanding
- Transformative change ambassadors with mandated or delegated responsibilities were missing in action
- Nobody wants to make a mistake or to be unpopular
- People working together through meaningful dialogue can overcome all of these challenges