

New Brunswick Community Forestry Charter

BACKGROUND

What is Community Forestry?

Community Forestry is a model wherein community members have access to forest resources in their area and make decisions on how forests within or adjacent to community boundaries are managed. Because communities and forests are diverse and complex, many models of community forests exist to reflect local values and principles. Working community forests in Canada and around the world demonstrate that community forests have the potential to diversify local economies, restore and protect forest ecosystems and provide a more equitable distribution of wealth from forest resources.

Why Community Forestry in New Brunswick?

Many New Brunswick communities have historically been dependent on the forests. Traditional forestry, targeted at maximizing timber yield, has proven not to be sustainable as evidenced by the mill closures that have devastated many rural communities. If stronger and more resilient communities are to be developed, the diversity of the goods and services obtained from the public forests needs to be increased. This is best achieved through directly involving communities in forest management and transferring access of forest resources to them.

Who/What is the New Brunswick Community Forestry Alliance?

The New Brunswick Community Forestry Alliance is made up of various groups and individuals from the province, including municipalities, not-for-profit organizations, First Nations, conservation and watershed groups, woodlot owners, woodworkers, scientists, knowledge keepers, educators and concerned citizens

What is the New Brunswick Community Forestry Charter?

The New Brunswick Community Forestry Charter is a statement of shared core principles for sustainable forest management which includes communities in forest management decisions. The New Brunswick Community Forestry Charter will be used to help build a province-wide constituency to advance community forestry in New Brunswick and to support the aspirations of communities to establish community forestry initiatives in their respective regions.

NEW BRUNSWICK COMMUNITY FORESTRY CHARTER

The following are Shared Principles for Community Forestry in New Brunswick:

1. Establishment of community-based forestry licences on the public lands of New Brunswick;
2. Community participation in forest management decision making;
3. Restoration and conservation of the ecological integrity of the New Brunswick forest type known as the Acadian forest;
4. Use of watersheds as the basis for forest management planning and practices;
5. A community-based forest management structure that ensures benefits of forest resource use contribute to the long-term economic and social development of the people of the region;
6. Forest resource use and management that respects Aboriginal rights and treaties, and involves First Nations in the planning and decision making process.

The undersigned believe in the shared principles listed above and will work together to make their collective vision of advancing community forestry in New Brunswick a reality.

To endorse the NB Community Forestry Charter, please email forest@conservationcouncil.ca or call 506 458-8747.