



Member Newsletter November 19, 2023

Photo by Chris Bubar

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Annual Year-End Survey

The annual year-end survey for members is now open!

An email with a link to survey was sent to all members November 15th. It will remain open until 5 pm, November 29th, 2023.

Member participation in the survey is very important, and all responses are anonymous. Your answers help direct the future of the Federation, so if you have not already participated, [click here](#) to go to the survey.



A question of translation

As the only officially bilingual province in Canada, New Brunswick is unique. The majority of Federation members speak and read English, but we would like to be able to reach more French speakers and readers.

We wanted to take this opportunity to address the reasons behind our not having simultaneous translation at our AGM and get some feedback from the membership on your position.

We had planned to have simultaneous translation at the AGM but the only available translator that we could find would not work without a translation booth. Large rooms cause sound distortion which adds to the challenge of simultaneously translating. We looked into this possibility but the cost was \$4000 for the equipment on top of the \$1500

for the translator, so we opted for having translation on-line only. At the beginning of the event, we had one person online who might have used this feature but they were not using translation and so the translator agreed to only charge us for the one hour that he worked.

This is the challenge that we face, providing service in two languages vs being judicious with our limited resources. The cost of full simultaneous translation for the AGM would have been almost 70% of the revenue from annual membership fees.

Our current language policy is *“As much as possible NBFWO will strive to provide service in both official languages. Policy/legal documents will be*

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officially translated.”

We would like to know our member's thoughts on the following:

- Is the current language policy acceptable? If not, what should it be?
- Is having bilingual service more important than maintaining low membership fees / event fees? If so, where is the balance?
- Are members open to increasing the annual membership fee? If so, by how much?

Since becoming a member-based organization the Board has revisited these discussions regularly. As always we strive to provide the best service possible to members utilizing the resources that we have.

If you would like to weigh in on these questions, please [click here and provide your feedback](#).

A Message from the Executive Director

In the last month NBFWO has been part of an application to prepare for **FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) Certification**. We are working with private woodlot organizations in NS and PEI and are looking to expand the NS certificate to the Maritimes. We are applying under the **Nature Smart Climate Solutions from Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)**. This certificate or some form of certification is important to the sale of carbon credits. This work will start in January. We are also hopeful that we will receive funding to continue our climate adaptation work in January.

I travelled to Ottawa in October and had 12 meetings over 2 days with federal government staff and MPs. The NBFWO is a part of the Canadian Forest Owners (CFO), and as national group we lobbied for the adoption of our **Personal Silviculture Savings and Investment Plan** into the 2024 federal budget. This plan would allow woodlot owners to place some of their harvest revenues into a registered plan that would be sheltered from tax and could then be withdrawn to pay for future silviculture work. We are hopeful that **NRCan, ECCC and Rural Economic Development** will include our ask in their letters of request to the finance minister. We, Canadian Forest Owners, are following up with letters to Minister Freeland, Wilkinson and Hutchings. NBFWO will be following up with our own letter and other provincial associa-

tions will be asked to do the same. We are also hoping to be able meet with provincial MPs to push for our ask.

If you would like to write to your MP or MLA, about any topic, there are [links](#) on the NBFWO website that list how to contact them for your convenience.

We are continuing to work on the structure document that was presented at the AGM and I will be presenting at the **Natural Climate Solutions for Carbon Sequestration Workshop** next week and at the Climate Change Adaptation Conference hosted by NBEN. Both are great opportunities to promote the good work that private woodlot owners do and the contribution they make to the environment.

Our annual [year-end survey](#) is now in progress. You should have received a link in your email to access it online. Member participation in this survey is key to directing the future of the Federation and your participation is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

Susannah Banks
Executive Director

ED@nbwoodlotowners.ca
506-459-2990



What's New?

A round up of news from our website, other organizations and upcoming events

NBEN will be hosting a climate change adaptation conference on December 6th, 2023 in Hanwell. Called “Leveraging Synergies: How we can adapt and reap co-benefits” . Our own Susannah Banks will be speaking at this conference. [More details](#)

The video recording of the **Woodlot Income Tax and Estate Planning** webinar held on October 11th is available for viewing. Please note that there is a fee to view this video for anyone that did not register for it. Members receive a discount, so be sure to login to the website to be able to access the member pricing. [Click here for more details and to view the video.](#)

The Maritime College of Forest Technology (MCFT) in Fredericton will be holding a **New Brunswick Watercourse Alteration Certification Training** on **December 4th to 8th**. [Check the Calendar on the website](#) for details on this event and more educational opportunities coming up.

Did you know that the [Ads Board](#) on the Federation website is **FREE for members** to post their ads? Have an item to sell? Looking for something specific? Own a business and want to advertise? Have a community announcement you want to share? Everyone can view the Ads Board, so post your ad and reach a wider audience!

For example, Rod is looking to sell Red Pine cones.

Free to Grow in Forestry: hosting a FREE educational virtual workshop on **Inclusive Leadership (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the Forest Sector)** on December 7th. [More details](#)

The annual year-end survey is now in progress. If you have not already participated, [click here](#) to go to the survey.

Save the date, the **Canadian Woodlands Forum** will be hosting “CWF: From Seedling to Success: Fostering Healthy and Sustainable Managed Forests Through State-of-the-Art Practice”, January 17—18, 2024. More Details to follow.

The NBFWO office will be closed from Thursday, December 21st, 2023 until Tuesday, January 2nd, 2024

Keep an eye on the [News](#), [Ads Board](#), and [Calendar of Events](#) on the website for additional events and details.

Updates to the NBFWO website

If you have checked the [News](#) page on the website lately you will have noticed that it has been updated to allow you to filter by the type of News you want to see;

- Press release — notices from government, NGO's, etc. that announce something new.
- Media articles — links to items in newspapers, journals, magazines, e-zines, etc.
- Lobbying — responses to proposed regulations changes, updates from the CFO, etc.
- Other — any other interesting news bits that members may find interesting.

You can still view all new items added to the page by just not checking off any of the filter options.

Each page will display up to 12 items at a time, but you can use the 'load more' button at the bottom of the page to see older postings.

If you see something in the News that you think could be shared with members, please email a link to info@nbwoodlotowners.ca !

We have also added a [Carbon](#) page to the website to facilitate accessing the latest research and information we can find to pass on. It is still in early stage, so check back often to view new links to information as we add them.

As always, if you have a suggestion for something you would like to see added to the website, contact info@nbwoodlotowners.ca



Blog writers wanted

We are looking for opinion pieces to include in the NBFWO [Blog](#). Until now the Blog has been written by the Board of Directors, and we would like to present the opportunity for members to share their writing skills.

If you are interested, please get in touch with [Susannah](#) (ED@nbwoodlotowners.ca) with the topic(s) you would like to write about.

A really quick poll—results

In last months newsletter we asked:

“Would you like to have the option to receive the newsletter in the post for a fee (paid yearly when you renew your membership)? Estimated cost is \$5.25 per month, which would be \$63.00 per year.”

We received a grand total of 2 responses! One yes and one no.

We will take this into consideration during our strategy planning session for the new year.

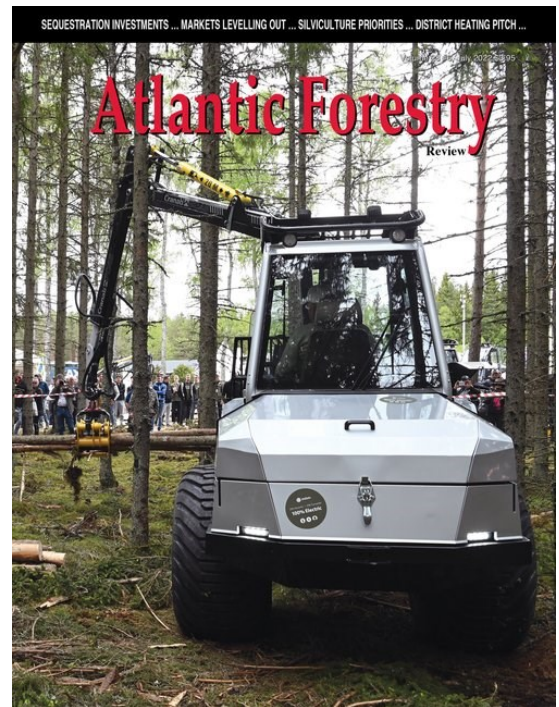


Join us on social media!

Every Share, Like and Comment on a Social Media post helps to improve the Federation's visibility, reach, and helps grow our membership! Thank you to everyone that engages with us there and help us grow an even stronger Federation

Hey Members! Would you like to receive the Atlantic Forestry Review every other month? You can receive a \$6 discount off of the price of a 1– year subscription!

[Click here](#) to sign up today!



Thanks for reading - Until next time!