



Member Newsletter April 23, 2023

In this month's issue:

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Did you know...?

From the Wood Pellet Association of Canada:

“Canada is the world’s second largest producer of wood pellets; but more than 90 per cent of our pellets are exported. Why? Yes, we have work to do on promoting wood pellets to make Canadians more aware, but the fact is we see publicly-funded incentives going to competing products. These include heat pumps and investments in far-off solutions like hydrogen, when today’s solutions are in the sawmill and harvest residuals across Canada’s forests.”

“Today, biomass is recognized by the Government of Canada as low carbon technology, typically saving 90 per cent GHG emissions over fossil alternatives. It can contribute to the elimination of heating oil and natural gas heating in Canada and mitigate the effect of closing coal power plants by providing high efficiency, low carbon heat energy in replacement for fossil-derived electric heating.

But to reach its full potential, good public policy from the ground up and fair incentives from governments are needed.”

Want to learn more about the wood pellet industry in Canada?

[Click here](#) to read their latest newsletter.



A Message from the Executive Director

Woodlot Management Committee Meetings

Since the last meeting there have been 2 Private Woodlot Management Committee meetings hosted by DNRED. In one Paul Orser talked about ecological goods and services and Tom Beckley talked about who is providing services to woodlot owners now, their diverse values and how there is more than one way to look at extension and the outcomes that should come from it.

In the second meeting Sandy Loder, from DNRED, talked about the wood supply modeling (2020 – 2100) they had done. They noted that the percentage of woodlot with active management ranged from 78 – 87% depending on the marketing board region. The model accounts for the decline of fir in the south and looks to maintain the SFJ and hardwood harvests at the current levels. Soft wood is prioritized over hardwood. The model was run for 4 regions to account for similar forest types and markets. The regions were North Shore, Eastern (Northumberland and SENB), Southern (SNB and YSC), and northwest (CV and Madawaska). They looked at what additional silviculture money could do to the AAC as well as where it would best be spent. There is a large emphasis on planting.

They next step is to divide up into smaller committees to look at various pillars, but no date has been set for the next meeting.

Meeting with the Minister

Rick and I met with Minister Holland and Deputy Minister Tom McFarlane at the end of March. It was a good meeting. We talked a little bit about the challenges with the woodlot committee



work. We discussed the idea put forward by one committee member that the money going to the private land sustainability plan is industry money rather than government money, and the Minister reiterated that it is government money once it is in the fund, and government is the one that gets to decide how the money is used. Tom outlined that there are no longer published timber royalty rates, per se. They now publish what he was calling “fair market values” and then the levy going to the sustainability fund on top of that rate, to make up what used to be called the royalty rate. The Minister said he would back us up on the assertion that the money in the Private Land Sustainability is government money.

Most of the time was spent discussing the identity of the Federation. The department remains supportive of the Federation and supports the idea of the Federation being the hub for woodlot owners to access information and services. This was encouraging. The Minister said he had a number of ideas, and he would put them into an email and send them to us. He also offered to make a pitch to Opportunities NB for funding for the Federation to assist us with the start-up costs involved in becoming a member-based organization. I am not sure what that will look like, but the Minister was promising, and Tom was nodding along, to support us to move this forward, as a part of the

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whole forestry plan. It will be important to continue to raise this with the Minister to ensure it actually moves forward.

The Minister also spoke of the need to get things completed before the next election to ensure that the continuation of the Federation, and that his ideas around the changes to the private woodlot sector, are not lost due to a change in government. The department think more communication is necessary. We will try to address the issue of more communication.

Woodlot Management Committee

Marketing Boards see themselves as the one stop shop for woodlot owners so I think we should think about meeting with Board chairs to talk about the future role of the Federation and see if we cannot come to alignment.

Marketing Boards are also looking at carbon credits and one manager has suggested that potentially they should have a levy on carbon as well.

I continue to meet with managers weekly and silviculture managers monthly.

Federal Government Lobby

I will be in Ottawa next week, April 25 and 26, as part of the Canadian Forest Owners delegation to meet with MPs and department staff to ensure that they do not forget about private woodlots, the benefits they provide and the valuable contributions

they make to the Canadian economy. As such we need to be considered when policies are made and that we need to be treated fairly. Things such as the need for a personal silviculture savings plan, so that harvest income is taxed fairly.

The Federation has also been invited to the meeting of the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers meeting to be held in St. Andrew's, NB in May. We will be attending to again represent the views and positions of private woodlot owners.

Projects

This week I was privileged to attend the presentations of two masters' students working on woodlot related projects. Abigail Evan spoke about "Approaches & Methods for Forest Extension on Private Woodlots" and Peter Anyah spoke about the "History of the NB Federation of Woodlot Owners". We will share copies of the presentations and reports on the member webpage once they are available. Congratulations to both students.

Respectfully,

Susannah Banks
Executive Director

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What's New?

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

Spring weight restrictions for truck traffic: are currently in effect. Restrictions will continue until 23:59 (AST) Sunday, May 14th, in Southern New Brunswick and until 23:59 (AST), Sunday, May 21st in Northern New Brunswick. These dates are dependent upon weather conditions and are subject to change.

District Meetings for the regional Forest Products Marketing Boards are now taking place. For a list of the boards and links to their websites, [click here](#).

ARTICLE from Wood Pellet Association of Canada: [WOOD PELLETS TAKE CENTRE STAGE IN THE SEISMIC SHIFT TOWARD CLEAN ENERGY](#)

Free to Grow in Forestry is hosting a FREE educational virtual workshop on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (Allyship)! [Click here for more information](#)

Nashwaak Watershed Association is hosting a workshop on managing forested properties to benefit wildlife and species at risk. [Click here for more information](#).

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

A very quick survey

Another very quick survey for you! [Click here to participate](#)

Do you have a question you want to ask your fellow woodlot owners? Let us know!



Would you like to be more active in the Federation?


We are looking for people that:

- are interested in becoming a part of the Board of Directors;
- have experience in finances, a legal back ground, etc. and would be willing to offer a free hour of advice to the board, or even join a board committee;
- have experience in marketing and recruiting new memberships.

Contact Susannah at ED@nbwodlotowners.ca and let her know how you would like to participate..



**VOLUNTEERS
WANTED**

- 
- **Looking to buy / sell / trade something?**
 - Have a question another member might know the answer to?
 - Want to share information?
 - Looking to hire?

POST FOR FREE on the [Ads Board!](#)

Everyone can view ads, but only members can post.

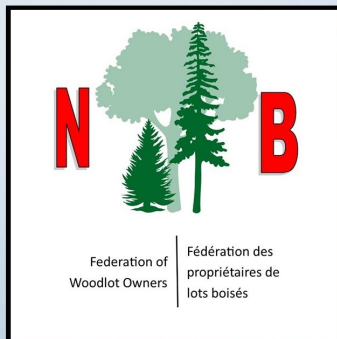
Hey Members!

Have you updated **your profile** on the website since you first signed up to be a member?

You can **choose** what information you do and do not want to be seen in the Member Directory, and provide us with some useful information about yourself!

Some options may have changed since you signed up. We would love to know how you learned about becoming a member, why you joined, and what interests and issues about owning a woodlot you have.

All you need to do is [log in to the website](#) and on the Member Homepage, you can click to 'Manage Your Profile'. If you don't remember your password, just click the 'Request Password' button below the sign in option and a new password will be emailed to you automatically.



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**NBFWO members can receive
\$6 off of a 1-year subscription
to the Atlantic Forestry Review**

Click the poster for details.

Join us on social media too!



Thanks for reading - until next time!