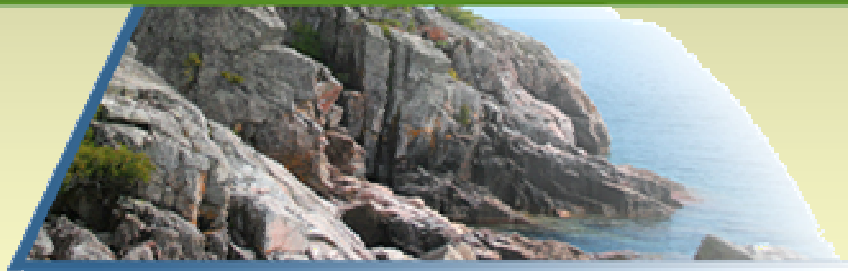


# One size doesn't fit all: insights from Quebec's community forests



Solange Nadeau, PhD.,  
Atlantic Forestry Centre  
Canadian Forest Service

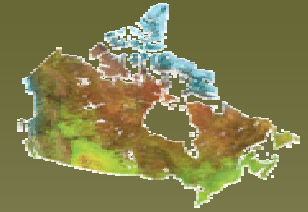


Natural Resources  
Canada

Ressources naturelles  
Canada

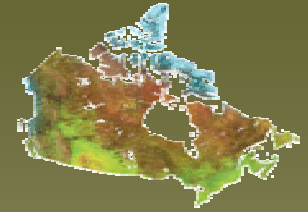
Canada 

# Community forests



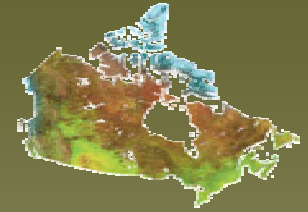
- Many definitions, most suggest that:
  - Decision-making power over forest management is not solely in the hand of industry and provincial government
  - Community benefits from management
  - Forest is managed for multiple values

# Community forests in Canada



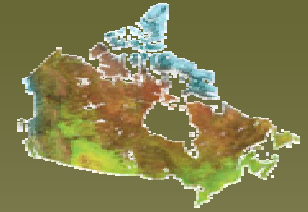
- National survey of community forests on public lands listed 116 forest communities where communities are part of decision-making over management of a piece of public lands where some timber is harvested.
  - Difference in ownership rights, tenure system, organisational structure and governance
  - Most were started between 1995 and 2000
  - 52 were located in Quebec
  
- Source: Teitelbaum S., T. Beckley and S. Nadeau (2006) A national portrait of community forestry on public land in Canada. The forestry Chronicle, Vol. 82, no.3, pp:416-428

# Community forests in Quebec: recent tenure initiatives



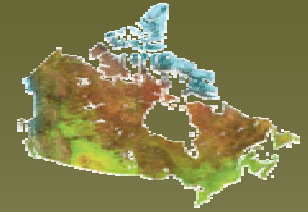
- **Territorial Management Agreements**
  - In mid 1990's the Provincial government allocated rights to municipalities and Regional County Municipalities (RCM's) over scattered public lands within their boundaries.
  - Tenure gives authority to RCM's over most resources
  - Decision making is ultimately the responsibility of the mayors, obligation to form a stakeholders committee to involve regional groups.
  - Diversity of forest management goals and implementation
  - 2005: 22 territorial Management agreements.

# Community forests in Quebec: recent tenure initiatives



- **Forest Management Contracts**
  - Mirror the Timber Supply and Forest Management Agreement but are not linked to wood processing facilities
  - Early 1990's provincial government allocated rights to groups, municipalities or Regional County Municipalities (RCM's) over public lands.
    - Example:
      - Inhabited forest pilot projects
      - Forestry cooperatives, Joint Venture
      - First Nations
  - 2007: 88 Forest Management Contracts

# Community forests in Quebec: the early days

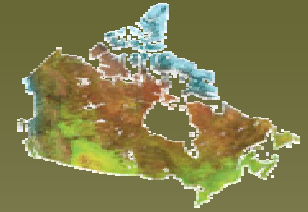


- County reserve:
  - Tenure created in 1911 to provide timber for personal use in rural areas.
  - Communities were not involved in management, government deliver permits for harvesting.

- Some numbers (Guertin 1997):

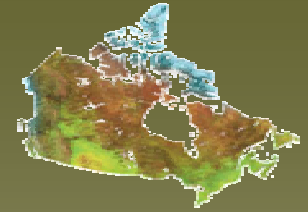
1924-1925	26 county reserves	80 549 ha
1944-1945	183 county reserves	625 178 ha
1971	184 county reserves	717 427 ha

# Community forests in Quebec: the 1940's and 1950's



- Forest workers are looking to organized themselves. Creation of the first forestry cooperatives largely inspired by farmers cooperatives.
- Quebec RPF Association suggests creating community forests with lands within 20 miles of communities.

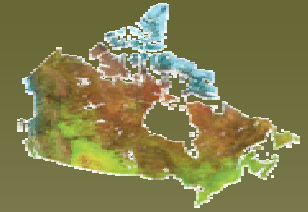
# Forestry Cooperatives



- Grassroots organization who want to be an active player in the development of their communities
- In 1946 two types of forestry cooperatives: 21 are harvesting timber to sell or mill on their own, 20 are harvesting and trucking for forest companies.
- In 1970, 167 forestry cooperatives but then less of them
  - Challenge to survive in a system built for large forest companies
  - 1977 provincial policy for forest cooperatives to help consolidating forestry cooperatives
- In 2005, 43 forestry cooperatives with 3136 members, and an annual turnover of 309 M\$

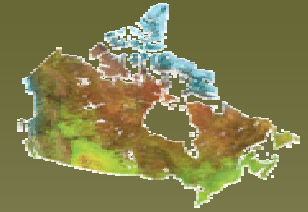


# Forestry Cooperatives



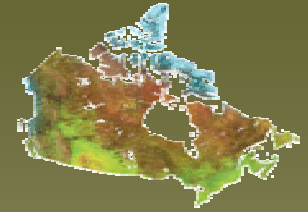
- 1980 to 1990, the province negotiate contracts with forestry cooperatives for up to 50% of forest management activities in regions where they were present.
- In the 1990's the forestry cooperatives got more involved in wood processing by direct ownership or through partnerships with forest companies
- Interest for integrated resource management, forest certification and participation in pilot projects

# Community forests in Quebec: the 1960's and 1970's



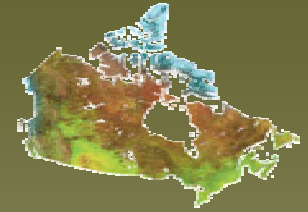
- 1960's Quiet revolution impact forest resources management
  - First public hearing on forest policy: question the power of forest industry over forest resources
- 1970's A regional development plan suggested to close struggling rural communities in Gaspésie and Bas-Saint-Laurent areas
  - Communities are outraged and protests are organized in the affected regions and in other regions
  - Request to get access to public forest resources

# Joint venture



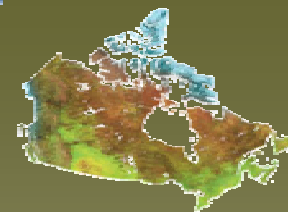
- 1971 First Joint Venture in Gaspésie. Some 50 members put in common 1000 ha of private woodlots to create jobs, and increase their income by managing forest resources.
- In 2007: 44 Joint Venture across the province
  - 25 770 woodlot owners are members
  - Manage some 1.3 M of ha.
  - Hire 112 professional foresters and biologists, 487 forest technicians and 2500 silviculture workers.

# Community forests in Quebec: since the 1980's



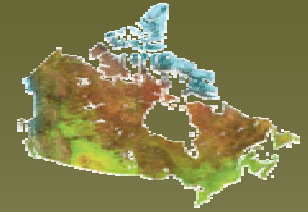
- 1986: New forest policy makes no specific reference to promote community forest
- Public participation exercises provide numerous opportunities to explain rural development challenge and advocate for community forests.
- The voices for community forest is growing louder has the joint ventures, forestry cooperatives and rural communities have developed their organizations.

# Community forests in Quebec: since the 1980's



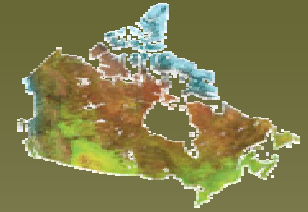
- 1993: Amendment to forest policy create a tenure for municipality or other groups to manage pieces of public lands that are not already allocated.
- Emerging models
  - Inhabited pilot projects
  - Model Forest Program: Tenant farming, FSC certification of woodlot, Waswanipi Cree Model Forest

# Inhabited forest pilot projects



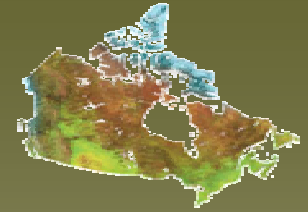
- Initially supported by provincial government to test models for integrated forest management on public and private lands
- 14 projects initiated in 1996, many differences between projects:
  - Type of organization
  - Rights of different partners over resources
  - Potential to increase income from products and service
  - Quality of resources available on the land
  - Support from provincial and regional government
- **Some of these projects are still active**

# On the horizon...



- Regional board on natural resources: set up by regional mayors to, among other things, for developing regional integrated natural resources management plan
  - Develop public participation strategy
  - Take into account public and private forests in land use planning
- For forest management plans
  - White paper on forest policy suggest that forest management shouldn't be under the responsibility of wood processing company anymore. Open the door to greater engagement of communities.

# Conclusions



- Still a strong appetite for greater community involvement in forest management, but not the same intensity in all part of the province.
- Community forests organizations are not always design to provide greater involvement of a wide range of local stakeholders
- Challenges to tackle:
  - Flexibility to respond to local needs and aspirations while meeting provincial goals such as conservation, sustainability
  - Manage forests that have often been intensively