

Overview of Community Forests in Canada

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Building Resilient Communities Through
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Presentation Outline

- ♦ Defining community forestry
- ♦ A portrait of community forestry across Canada
- ♦ Provincial overviews and research findings
- ♦ PhD project results
- ♦ Lessons

What is community forestry?

- ♦ Based on a number of common principles
 - ♦ Enhanced local control over decision-making
 - ♦ Community benefit
 - ♦ Environmental stewardship

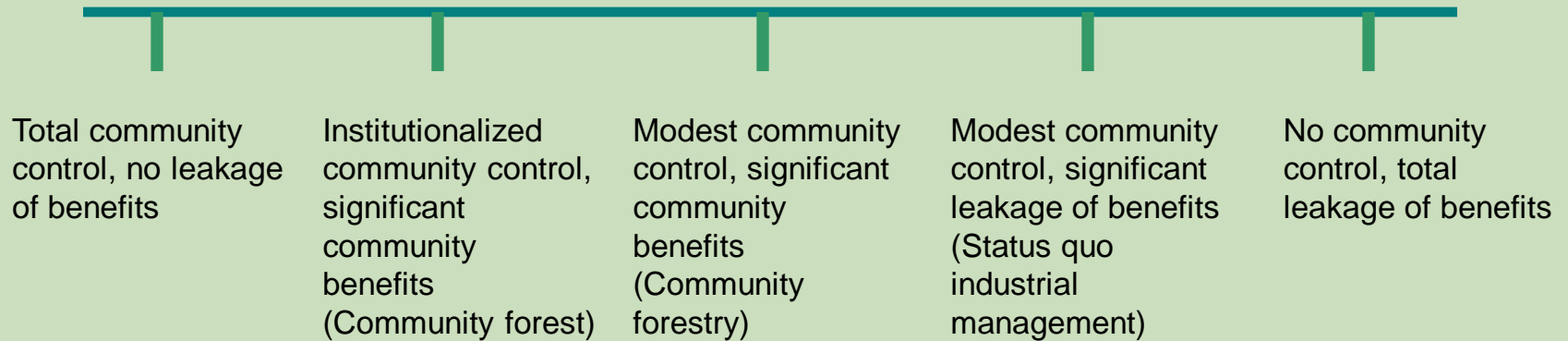


Source: BCCFA

The umbrella of community forestry



Control - benefit continuum in forest management



Krogman and Beckley 2002

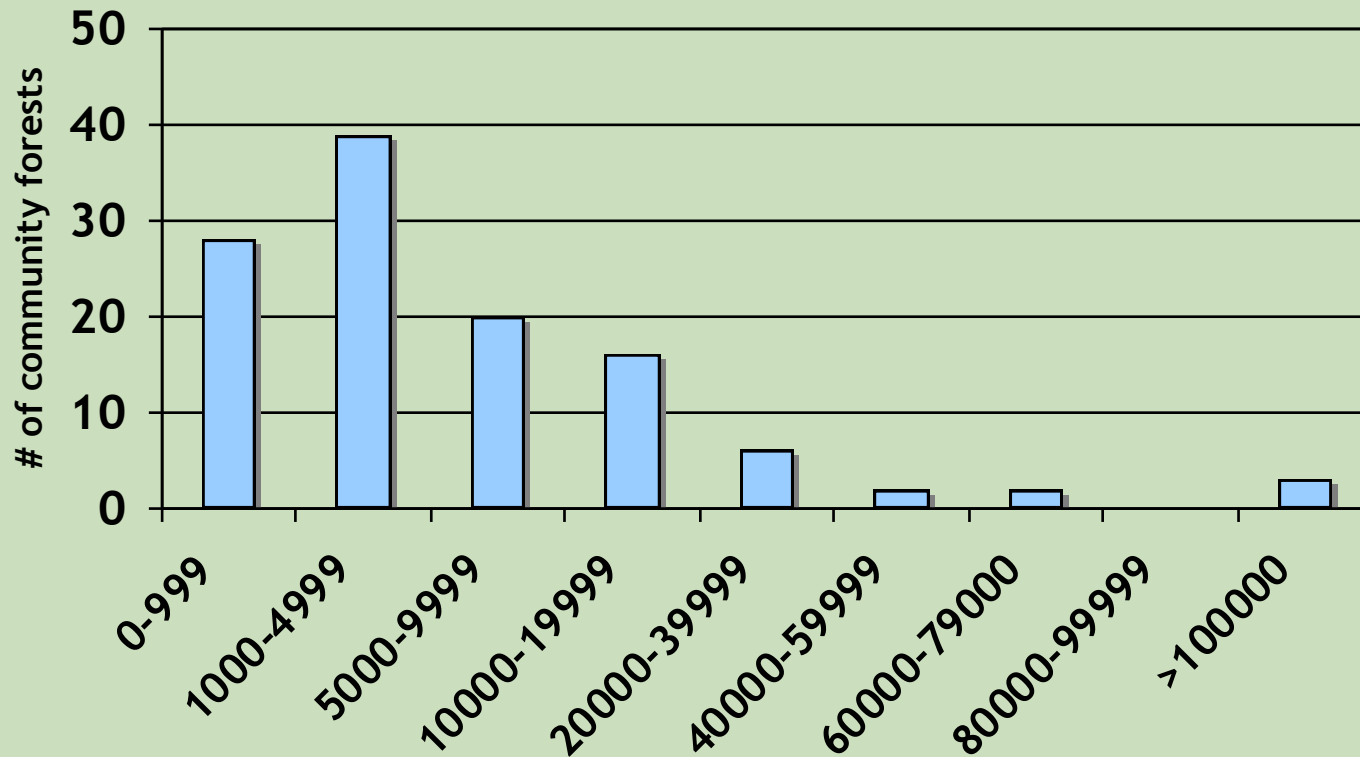
Project definition

"A public forest area managed by the community as a working forest for the benefit of the community"

National portrait (2005 with updates in BC)



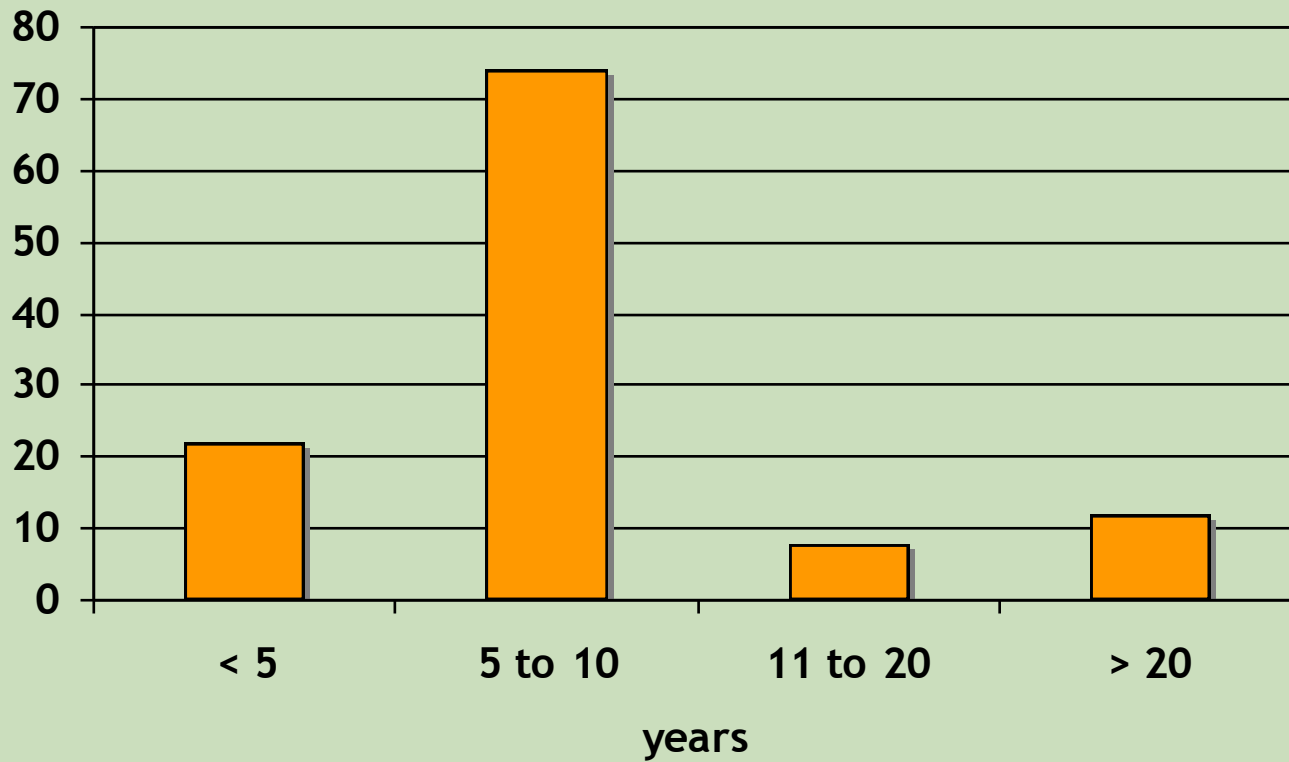
Size of landbase



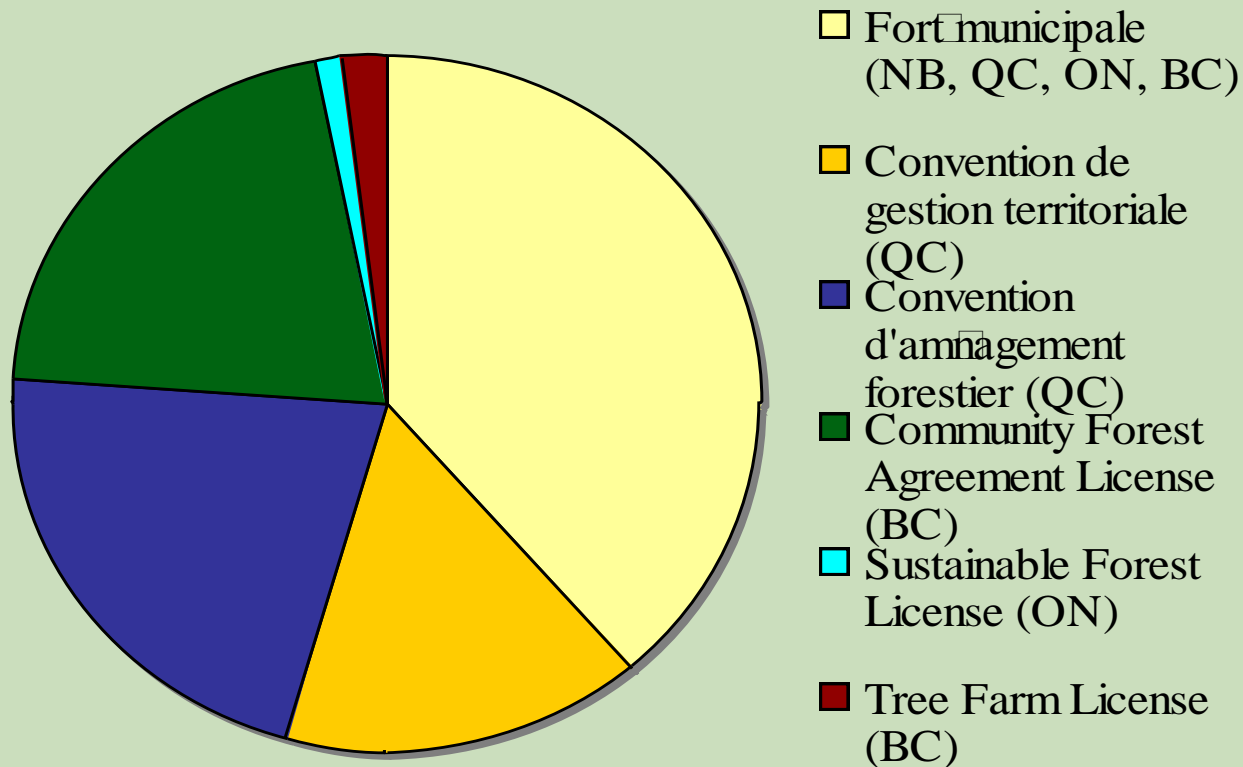
average size 12,000 ha

median size 4,200 ha

Age of community forests

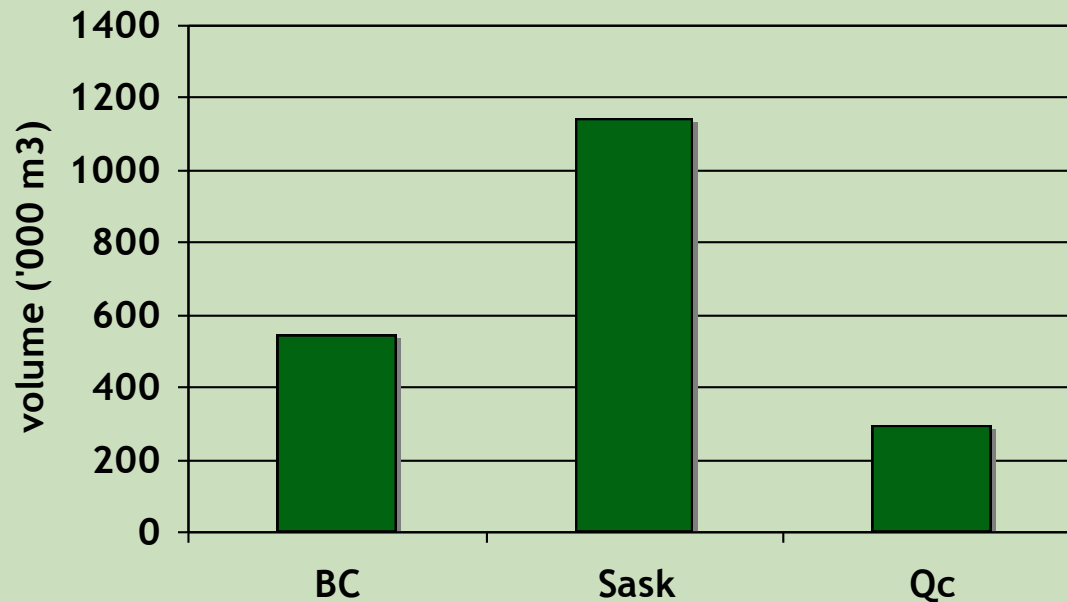


Proportion of tenure types across Canada



Aboriginal-held tenures in Canada

- ♦ Access to 11.7 million m³, of which 20% (2,246,000 m³) is long-term area-based tenure with management responsibility



Source: National Aboriginal Forestry Association's "Aboriginal-held forest tenures in Canada" 2007

British Columbia



- ◆ Grassroots mobilization, academic support
- ◆ Pre-1990's - a handful of community forests on conventional tenures or municipal land
- ◆ 1998 - introduction of new tenure “Community Forest Agreement License”

British Columbia

- ♦ Community Forest Agreement License
 - ♦ 25-year replaceable license
 - ♦ Exclusive rights to timber and NTFPs
 - ♦ Selection based on invitation
 - ♦ 37 long-term, 10 probationary, 8 invitees (2012)
 - ♦ 1,28 million ha (2012)
 - ♦ Close to 1/4 allocated to First Nations

British Columbia

- ♦ Strong provincial association (BCCFA)
 - ♦ outreach materials
 - ♦ lobbying
 - ♦ marketing support

Research on British Columbia community forests

- ♦ Slow start to pilot projects (McIlveen and Brashaw 2005/6, McCarthy 2005)
- ♦ Tenure conditions restricted to operational decision-making (Ambus and Hoberg 2011)
- ♦ One case study described ‘narrow governance’ (Reed and McIlveen 2006)
- ♦ Little NTFP development or value-added (Ambus et al. 2007)
- ♦ Factors of success tied to: community support, social cohesion, expertise, quality of resource, government support (McIlveen and Bradshaw 2009, Bullock et al. 2009)

Review of CFAL (2006) by Meyer Norris Penny

- Described challenges in terms of economies of scale, economic context, mountain pine beetle, constraints on harvesting from other values
- However, described numerous under-reported benefits:

“For example, there is community education about forestry, capacity-building for local contractor communities, and creation of recreation opportunities. Where community forests have earned net revenues above costs, there have been contributions to municipal treasuries and a variety of community organization. These contributions help improve a community’s social infrastructure. Contributions leverage additional funding sources from other sources such as the federal and provincial government, “30 cent dollars”, to facilitate the development of community facilities and capital infrastructure projects.”

Ontario

- ♦ Relatively limited progress on Crown lands
 - ♦ OMNR pilot projects in early 1990s
 - ♦ Westwind Forest Stewardship (1998) - 700,000 ha, non-profit structure with local board
 - ♦ Recent tenure reforms - Local Forest Management Corporations (LFMC) - Crown agencies governed by local board of directors responsible for management and marketing
 - ♦ Nawiinginokiima Forest Management Corporation - encompasses five SFLs -area roughly size of Lake Ontario
 - ♦ Board members appointed by Lieutenant Governor in Council upon recommendation of Minister of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry

Ontario

- ♦ Large and unique network of County, Municipal and Conservation Authority (CA) forests
 - ♦ Scattered parcels, owned by local government or CAs
 - ♦ Strong multi-use and conservation focus
 - ♦ Fewer legal requirements, yet most do public participation activities
 - ♦ Most profits are reinvested in the forest
 - ♦ Employment-creation (in forest activities) is limited

Quebec



- ♦ Long history of community mobilization
- ♦ Diversity of community-based initiatives
 - ♦ Joint management groups
 - ♦ Cooperatives
 - ♦ Tenant farms
- ♦ Inconsistent government support
 - ♦ 15 pilot projects in mid-1990s
 - ♦ Early 2000's two new tenures

Quebec

- ♦ New forestry regime
 - ♦ Sustainable Forest Development Act
 - ♦ “forêt de proximité” (local forests)
 - ♦ Objectives
 - ♦ Give decision-making power to communities and certain management responsibilities
 - ♦ Economic returns to community - returns should be diverse (NTFPs, recreation, social, etc.)
 - ♦ Allow communities to develop management expertise

Quebec

- ♦ Eligible bodies
 - ♦ Municipalities
 - ♦ Regional municipalities
 - ♦ Band councils
- ♦ Implementation - transfer of existing tenures, 10-12 new projects added in 2013

Research on Quebec community forests

- ♦ financial self-sufficiency an issue for those initiatives that lacked direct rights to the forest (Bérard 2000)
- ♦ Benefits include
 - ♦ enhanced collaboration between diverse stakeholders and with First Nations (Chiasson et al. 2005)
 - ♦ Innovations in integrated resource management (Tremblay 2009)
 - ♦ Enhanced economic spinoffs for communities (Masse 2002)

Nova Scotia

- ♦ Recently announced first community forestry program in the province
- ♦ Dec 2012 - province purchased 222,000 ha in SW Nova Scotia from Resolute Forest Products (and site of paper mill)
- ♦ Province working collaboratively with Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs
- ♦ Accepting expressions of interest from groups in NW Nova Scotia

Evaluation of 4 community forests

Creston Valley Forest Corporation



Matane RCM



Forêt de l'Aigle



South Nation Conservation



Approach

- ♦ 4 diverse case studies
- ♦ Evaluation of performance in areas of:
 - ♦ Participatory governance
 - ♦ Local benefits
 - ♦ Multiple forest use
- ♦ Qualitative data collection (50+ interviews)
- ♦ Quantitative data collection (C & I framework)

Findings

Governance:

- Two approaches - interest group versus elected officials
- Public participation activities variable
- Limited by operational decision-making in three of four cases
- Indications of some social conflict in two cases

Findings

Community benefits:

- Local employment a clear benefit, especially for those with diversified activities
- Regional processing, but little evidence of value-added activities
- Modest re-investments in the community

Findings

Multiple forest use:

- Development of non-timber aspects remarkable in two of four cases
- Multi-use approach helped forge partnerships and synergy with local groups, fosters entrepreneurialism, create jobs (more so than profits)
- Helped foster local connections to the forest

Lessons

- ♦ Positive impacts despite limited landbase and lack of institutional support
- ♦ Economic benefits + **important** social benefits, which should not be overlooked
- ♦ Opportunity to **experiment** with new approaches to governance and business development
- ♦ Need to evaluate results in order to learn from successes and failures (adaptive management) - need for more structured approaches and methods

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