

Boreal Conference 2006  
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An unprecedented crowd of over 300 forestry delegates attended the Boreal Conference hosted by the Lake Abitibi Model Forest (LAMF) and the Canadian Institute of Forestry (CIF) in Cochrane, Ontario from October 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>. This prestigious event took place at the brand new Tim Horton Event Centre and was co-chaired by the FRP's own John Pineau and Guy Smith (CFS). Attendees representing forestry companies, conservation organizations, government, academia (including many students), consultants, *etc.* hailed from all across Canada, parts of the U.S., and as far as Europe! The purpose of this conference was to explore the Canadian boreal forest, climate change, and the relationships between people and the forest.



The all-star cast of speakers addressed the following themes: climate change as a driver of change, globalization and community stability, natural disturbance based management, balancing protection and use, as well as brief presentations on landscape, environmental and aboriginal issues on the Polar Bear Express train trip. The conference also provided opportunities to learn about and experience the affects of forestry and policies on resource-based communities like Moosonee and Moose Factory.

One of the keynote speakers, Mike Martel, Senior Vice President Tembec Forest Resource Management, spoke of the necessity of research in achieving balance between protection and use of the boreal forest. With all of the constraints on forest harvesting (decreasing landbase, increasing guidelines and protected areas), research is crucial to enhance forest productivity on the remaining landbase, increase certainty of wood supply, and to comprehend the sustainability of our practices. The FRP was named as a prime example of a very effective partnership in both conducting this type of research and putting the results into practice on the ground; a number of FRP projects are currently under review for implementation in the Forest Management Planning process.



In all aspects the 2006 Boreal Conference was a resounding success: transferring research and knowledge from across the country to a wide audience including students, engaging northern communities and promoting a positive view of forestry, and providing an opportunity for everyone involved to gain a broader understanding of sustainable forestry and the people and processes that are in place to work towards attaining that goal in the face of a changing environmental, social and economic climate.