

## **Forest Futures Project comes to Algonquin Section**

The Sustainable Forest Management Network's Forest Futures Project, together with the Canadian Institute of Forestry's Algonquin Section, the Forestry Research Partnership and Nipissing University, held a special workshop in North Bay on November 4, 2008. With the theme of "*Alternative Futures for Canada's Forests and Forest Sector*", the Forest Futures Project is a network-wide initiative that looks to provoke thought and assist in moving toward a sustainable future for Canada's forests. Held at the Nipissing University campus, participants from industry, government, Aboriginal communities and several NGOs gathered at the one-day event to discuss four separate future scenario descriptions and their drivers, and to relate them to their own understanding, experience and expertise.

Many changes are occurring with Canada's forests as a result of climate change, shifts in global markets and society's expectations of what the forest should provide. The Forest Futures Project focuses on analysis of multiple fictional scenarios for Canada's forests and the forest sector in the year 2050. The scenarios are meant to catalyze thought with respect to the kinds of policies which will be required in the future to ensure sustainability of forests and the forest sector. During the workshop, the participants formed small breakout groups and discussed each scenario and the specific associated future as influenced by key drivers of change. The groups also discussed how these drivers will shape future socio-economic, political and ecological conditions. As well, specific implications for the region, in the case of this workshop – northeastern Ontario were discussed in terms of each scenario.

Through its series of workshops, the Sustainable Forest Management Network's Forest Futures project is provoking thought and promoting discussion across Canada, amongst a full range of forest sector stakeholders and many individuals and groups interested in the future of Canada's forests and the forest sector. The goal of the Forest Futures project is to produce a set of documents that inform and present possible scenarios and corresponding analyses that can be used to inform present and future decision-making by government, industry, and all groups with interest in Canadian forests.

For more information about the Forest Futures Project, please visit: [www.sfmnetwork.ca](http://www.sfmnetwork.ca).

Written By: Wanda Leung & Michelle Nadeau