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Public Forest Council
Report to the Minister of Environment, Energy and Forestry

Woodlands Hold the Island Together

Introduction and Methodology

In the fall of 2004, the Minister of Environment, Energy and Forestry asked the private members of the Public Forest Council to conduct an analysis of government's existing forest policy and to recommend changes, if any, following a thorough review and public consultation. Over the past five months, council has carried out this task to the best of its ability and with the full support of the Forestry and Land Resource Modeling Division (hereinafter referred to as the Forestry Division), Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry, and other government agencies. We wish to thank all those who helped in any way in what was an interesting and challenging effort. Details of council's research and consultations are included in Appendix A.

Suffice to say, Honourable Minister, the interest shown by the general public in this topic far exceeded council's expectations, as did the quality of presentations generally; we were hard-pressed to deal effectively with the volume of material brought forward. Council was also impressed by the number of people who expressed their gratitude for this opportunity to voice their ideas and concerns for our forests.

On an opening note, we share with you our strong impression that forests, their status and the way they are managed are topics dear to the hearts and minds of Islanders, and this policy review exercise has itself created expectations that government will find most challenging in the years to come.

What Council Heard!

The discussion paper *Creating a Vision for the Future* (Appendix B) served as a useful starting point for our task. A number of people commented favourably on the quality of the document. This being said, the six issues outlined in the discussion paper were more or less helpful in framing the debate. It is human nature to pick one's topic and to speak one's mind, and that's what people did. Council listened and took note of all ideas as long as the person expressing the view stayed on the topic of forestry, which most were kind enough to do. The following section of this report is an attempt to describe, as concisely as possible, what council heard.

Following our meetings, we have attempted to organize the more than 90 submissions and discussion notes generated into *dominant themes*. Some proved easier to grasp than others, and some generated more agreement than others. It is council's observation that where there is less clarity around an issue (for example in restoring the Acadian Forest), it is easy to achieve consensus that this is a good idea. Where the boundaries defining the issue are clear, as with the topic of clearcutting for example, opinions are sharply divided and immediate accord is not always possible. Mr. Minister, we feel obligated to report that the clearly focused issues will be no easier for you to resolve than the cloudy ones, but we will give you the benefit of council's views on how the new forest policy should address them.

Finally, we were struck not only with the widespread concern but also with the passion that people expressed when addressing forest issues. There is a strong feeling that something is wrong, and that the wooded landscape of our Island is in trouble. Many who have an interest in the spiritual values of landscape, who simply want to be reassured that we are not losing something of great value in our lives, addressed the council in emotional language. We hope our recommendations address their concerns, as well as the important if more mundane issues.

Restoring the Acadian Forest

Many presenters expressed a desire for Acadian Forest restoration, citing values such as ecological complexity and stability, beauty, wildlife habitat enhancement or simply the spiritual benefits of having access to more timeless, less economically driven woodland. Such restoration forestry is an active research field, with many silvicultural strategies being proposed and just as many questions yet to be answered. After hearing dozens of submissions from people committed to this objective, council was presented with only one comprehensive silvicultural plan – from Dr. Peter Salenius of the Canadian Forestry Service. While restoring the Acadian Forest seems a worthwhile and a laudable aim, council questions whether everyone agrees on the real outcome desired. This is

because the Acadian Forest is for most people a visionary concept based on ideas generated through looking at remnants of the original forest located on unploughed land. This upland hardwood forest of American beech, yellow birch, sugar maple, white pine, eastern hemlock and red spruce is certainly attractive to this generation. However, few people mentioned that low-lying areas colonized by white cedar, elm and stunted grey birch and red maple qualify also as typical Acadian Forest, but they do, just as does wind-blown white spruce clinging to exposed shorelines. People want large and attractive trees, and who can blame them?

What people seem to agree on, and council supports these views, is that:

- Restoring the Acadian Forest is a worthwhile aim of good forest stewardship but it can be achieved only at the stand or, at best, the woodlot scale, not on an Island-wide scale.
- Restoring the Acadian Forest is, in most cases, a very long-term proposition requiring a ‘learn-by-doing’ understanding of silviculture and an unwavering commitment to a silvicultural plan by a succession of owners.
- Stands with the best potential for restoration are those located on unploughed land; the planning horizon required to achieve the goal on highly disturbed areas like old fields (hundreds to thousands of years) is not considered practical.
- The Forest Enhancement component of the Private Land Program offers some hope that government understands and is committed to helping restore the Acadian Forest.
- Since no other jurisdiction has taken on the challenge at a provincial scale, and since much research has yet to be done on restoration techniques on a stand scale, Prince Edward Island will have to accept the risks that come with being first.



We point out that such a forward-looking strategy is very much in accordance with the province’s initiatives in renewable energy and alternate fuels and, in general, a marked emphasis on environmental activity as a driver in government policy. Tree biomass energy can become a powerful positive force helping to drive forest improvement, providing available harvesting equipment and technology are used for the better and not to favour the creation of low-quality hardwood and mixed-wood coppice stands.

Maintaining or Increasing Public Forest Holdings

Excepting the minority view that government never manages assets as efficiently as the private sector, council heard from many people that government should maintain its present holdings of public forest. Many recommended that government add to them where this makes sense, for example, to enlarge existing blocks, to preserve unique forest ecosystems, or to protect watersheds under extreme stress. Council is aware that the 38,000 hectares of woodland owned by the public represents less than nine per cent of the total area of the province and just 12 per cent of the forested area. While few people know this, public forest holdings cost the province very little to acquire. Some of them came through tax sales, foreclosures and property trades.

Many of them were acquired during the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s with the benefit of significant federal dollars. People recognize that the overall quality of the public forests may be below average in economic terms, but they encourage government to take a broader view of their value and a longer view when it comes to managing them.



In the course of council's work, we were informed by the minister that government had decided to enter into discussions with a community not-for-profit organization, the Macphail Ecological Forestry Project, around the possible license of a significant block of public forest for management purposes. For the benefit of those who will read this report, we wish to make it clear that council was not involved in this decision in any way and, in fact, the chair was informed of it only a couple of days before the announcement was made. As expected, this surprise government announcement caused some people to question council's influence and, by inference, the credibility of the whole public forest policy review process. We decided not to respond to the criticism, but rather to focus on the task we were given.

Managing Public Forests

Many of those who addressed council do not know that the Forestry Division has a plan for the public forests or, if it has, that the management philosophy for public land is any different than it is for private land. Yet, we heard that Islanders want public forests to be managed for multiple purposes using a variety of models, specifically:

- Financial return should be far down on the list of priorities for public forests.

- The clearcut and reforestation model should not be used on public forest land.
- Public forests require better signage, location assistance and on-site interpretation.
- Management objectives should take into account the contribution public forests can make to the local economy if they are managed sustainably for a variety of uses.
- The primary objectives of public forest management should be education, research, demonstration, restoration, conservation and recreation.
- Public forests should be linked more closely to the communities where they are found through partnerships with local, not-for-profit organizations.

Council is concerned about the high level of financial investment being made by government through the Forestry Division and the unrealistic objective of cost-recovery. We will propose solutions around the management of public forests in the section of this report which contains our recommendations.

Moving Away From the Commodity Model

Fifteen years ago, the softwood lumber market finally found Prince Edward Island; it was only a matter of time. Because they are on the tail end of the North American supply line, local harvesting contractors, processors and woodlot owners may be the first to suffer if – more likely, when – the commodity cycle turns downward. Regardless, wood supply shortages may dictate an earlier end to the good times for those who have profited from the boom in softwood commodity products. Council did not hear from all of the big players in the industry but we feel safe in saying that some are better prepared for the crunch than others. There is also the matter of contractor service quality which many woodlot owners judged to be sub-par. On the positive side, returns from the sale of softwood stumpage, most of it old-field white spruce, have supplemented the incomes of many woodlot owners. In spite of many claims to the contrary, council is not prepared to accept that these woodlot owners made the wrong decision. The alternative, in many cases, would have been lost income and, in strictly economic terms, a wasted opportunity. As one woodlot owner remarked: “Someone knocks at my door and offers me \$20,000 for something I thought was worthless. What am I supposed to say?”

Council also heard from a number of entrepreneurs in the harvesting sector as well as in primary, secondary and tertiary manufacturing, that there are significant opportunities for value-added hardwood and softwood products. In other words, there is an important segment of the industry that would easily shift to other sources of wood if supply or demand for softwood commodity products were to collapse. We were told by many that government should do three things:

- Do what it can to encourage on-Island value-added forest products processing.
- Let the softwood commodity sector (pulpwood, studwood and sawlogs) succeed or fail on its own merits.
- Don't interfere with the market.

We will have more to say later in terms of how council believes government could help the forestry sector move away from the commodity model.

Reconciling Aesthetics and Economics

When it comes to woodland, “Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.” It is rare to find a woodlot owner who can reconcile aesthetics and economics, these two oftentimes opposing views of the forest. For many people who shared their thoughts with council, it is one or the other. Some woodlot owners would say: “The only reason you’ve gained enjoyment from looking at my woodlot and walking through it is that I haven’t decided to cut it yet!” Others would say: “What right do you have to impair my view, create a mess and destroy wildlife habitat?” Two things were made clear to council:



- Provided they stay within the law, owners of private woodland are free to cut as much wood as they want, whenever they want and however they want.
- The best ways to influence landowner behaviour are through education, recognition and financial incentives, not regulation.

Despite the overwhelming strength of the land ownership argument and the attractiveness of liquidating the resource for immediate financial gain, council agrees with those who claim the time will come when a higher monetary value is placed on woodlot properties that are aesthetically pleasing. The time may also come when society will be willing to place a value upon and pay a price for landscape, groundwater and wildlife habitat protection. We were led to believe this is happening elsewhere and may happen here as well in the not-too-distant future. In other words, woodlot owners in a fair number of cases are providing a public good, for instance in capturing soil erosion, producing a diversity of wildlife, protecting ground and surface waters. At present they are

not being recognized, financially or otherwise, for these benefits. We believe they should be, although we are not sure how!

Shifting Emphasis Away From Plantations

Of total expenditures by the Forestry Division, council was told that 60 to 75 per cent go toward seedling production, tree improvement and plantation establishment on public and private forest. Other programs like fire protection, education, forest enhancement and resource inventory and modeling account for the rest. From the public, we heard conflicting views:

- The emphasis on plantation forestry is far too strong and leaves little financial flexibility for other needed initiatives.
- Investing public money in privately owned plantations is either ridiculous, advantageous or necessary, depending on one's point of view.
- The trend toward fewer seedlings and a reduced planting program should be reversed for two reasons: it means less and less of the harvested area will be replanted, and it is not in keeping with the spirit and original intent of the checkoff system.

Council agrees this is not the time to curtail planting. This makes no sense when barely 20 per cent of harvested areas are being replanted now compared to 33 per cent not that long ago. It will only make the backlog worse. There are ways to shift program emphasis away from plantation forestry and council will outline its thoughts on these later. As for investing public money in the production of food or fibre on private land, taxpayers, through their governments, do this all the time. Why shouldn't our woodlot owners be given the same consideration? The economics are certainly no different in forestry than they are in agriculture.

Investing to Achieve Strategic Objectives

This is another way of saying that government must find better ways to spend the money invested in forestry. Council heard a number of interesting ideas, the best of which – in our view – are outlined below:

- Shift the emphasis away from commodity softwood products toward value-added hardwoods.
- Factor the return to the woodlot owner from a recent harvest into the equation determining the incentive levels.
- Consider the high strategic value of things like education, research, training, certification and community partnerships.
- Factor the impact of global warming into the design of all silvicultural programs, and particularly when it comes to species selection in tree improvement, forest renewal and forest enhancement.



Many people see recent efforts as knee-jerk reactions to market factors over which Prince Edward Island will never have influence and that, as a jurisdiction, we are making the same mistake in forestry as in the potato industry, moving toward commodity production instead of away from it. Just as significant, many people who spoke to council asked: “Why does government give the biggest incentives to those who clearcut, and encourage them to follow one mistake with another, a softwood monoculture?” We couldn’t answer!

Diversifying Seedling Production

The J. Frank Gaudet Nursery was designed in the late 1970s to produce up to five million containerized seedlings per year. Between 1990 and 2000 an average of 2.5 million seedling per year were produced, with white spruce, black spruce, white pine and eastern larch accounting for approximately 72 per cent of total production. Figures in the discussion paper show that 29 species have been grown at the nursery, 15 of them softwoods and 14 hardwoods. None of the hardwood species grown has accounted for even 0.5 per cent of total production.

Council heard a number of comments regarding seedling production and tree improvement:

- Tree improvement has produced gains in height and diameter of as much as 65 per cent in plantation-grown seedlings.
- There is a place for selected non-native species for two reasons: they have been proven to grow well here, and global warming will favour southern species over boreal ones.
- There is a need to diversify the species mix so that woodlot owners are provided with more choice, particularly in hardwoods.
- Fast-growing species should be added to the mix to be used as nurse crops for more valuable species in plantations.



Based on information provided to council, the J. Frank Gaudet Nursery appears to be an efficient operation, producing quality seedlings. The tree improvement program has the potential to contribute further to gains in fibre quality and quantity. The one common theme remains: the nursery must grow a greater variety of species and provide people with more choice, particularly in the hardwood species. Council believes woodlot owners are prepared to pay the presumed higher cost of these and will outline recommended changes to incentives for plantation establishment.

Recognizing Non-Timber Values

Council was overwhelmed by Islanders' knowledge and appreciation of the societal benefits of forests and their non-timber values. This sentiment was articulated clearly by people associated with the industry, not only the so-called environmentalists. This tells us that society is becoming increasingly uneasy and even distressed about the future of the forest ecosystem and people don't want to see the Island stripped bare. Again, the challenge is to devise a way to change the behaviour of those who are doing things wrong and to educate people about what is acceptable forest practice.

The dominant societal non-timber benefits attributed to the forest ecosystem by those who provided input to council are groundwater protection, wildlife habitat conservation and landscape diversity. Many said, in different ways, that these benefits will not be recognized until principles like 'full-cost accounting' and 'preserving natural capital' are accepted and applied consistently in the development of public policy, including forest policy. While council understands these concepts and agrees that woodlot owners deserve to be compensated for providing free benefits to society, we believe government will be hard-pressed to find a way to do so in the short term. Our strong sense is that the threats to domestic drinking water may be the first to trigger a move in this

direction. In the case of municipal water supplies, the establishment of well field protection zones is already required by law. How this will translate into a financial return to the woodlot owner is unclear. Council was unable to find examples of approaches we think would work here.

Preserving Wildlife Habitat and Biodiversity

A popular theme in presentations to council was the importance of the forest to species other than humankind. One presenter put it this way: “In our consuming arrogance we have considered woodlands to be ‘uninhabited,’ if the human species was not present” and “The reality is that nothing is ever ‘useless’ in nature.” Many echoed the words of W. H. Auden who wrote: “A culture is no better than its woods.” Another presenter summed up the difference between unploughed forest and old fields as follows: “The unploughed forest is a big repository of native wildlife, including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, plants and insects. In contrast, the plowed forest that has grown up in white spruce lacks many of the native plant and animal species that once inhabited it before it was clearcut, stumped and soils disturbed. Try converting your lawn to native forest and you will soon see that many elements are missing.”



Council heard that, to conserve a diversity of biota and keep species from disappearing, a comprehensive approach is required, including:

- Make the unploughed forest a top priority for conservation programs, including preserving unploughed forest on all public lands.
- Provide incentives to woodlot owners to do things that mimic natural disturbance.
- Treat hardwood stands by techniques other than clearcutting.
- Target Forest Enhancement incentives toward treatments designed to re-establish structural diversity in stands.
- Encourage the use of riparian zones and hedgerows as wildlife corridors.

One organization suggested that government modify the definition of ‘undertakings’ in the *Environmental Protection Act* to include hedgerows, to make an environmental review mandatory before they are removed. While council is not inclined to get into this level of detail in its recommendations, we do agree that the tools available to the Forestry Division need to be modified in ways that will protect and enhance wildlife habitat and biodiversity.

Adjusting to Climate Change

Council mentioned climate change earlier in relation to strategic objectives and seedling production. In the course of our policy review, it became issue #7. Climate change is not highlighted in the discussion paper but, based on information provided by the Forestry Division, the Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry and the Canadian Forestry Service, enough is known about the global warming trend and its impact on the distribution of tree species that the Forestry Division would be wise to adjust its strategy accordingly. This would not be difficult to do and would involve encouraging silvicultural treatments that favour ‘winning’ species rather than the ‘losers,’ and establishing long-term tests of species and provenances (areas of origin) better equipped to thrive in a warmer, drier climate.

Favouring Incentives Over Regulations

Council received a strong message from woodlot owners that behaviour is best influenced through education, recognition and incentives. Although many expressed the need for change in the way our forests are managed, very few advocated for stronger regulations. In fact, with respect to enforcement, the comments most commonly heard were that government can’t enforce the rules on the books now, and when it tries to do so, some rules, particularly those protecting aquatic habitats, are found to be unenforceable. Although council did not conduct a thorough investigation into regulatory regimes in place in other jurisdictions, we are led to believe that, on paper at least, Prince Edward Island’s laws and regulations are as tough as those to be found anywhere in Canada. Council does not see how it would be possible to exercise greater control over forest practices without a major change in woodlot owner attitudes. As several people told us: “If government wants to tell me what to do on my land, let them start by buying it!”

Woodlot owner rights are tightly guarded and government must, we feel, tread very carefully in this area. Perhaps municipal governments, with local support and through zoning rules made under the authority of the *Planning Act*, could play a role in future land-use planning. Such an approach was recommended by the 1990 Royal Commission on the Land and by the 1997 Round Table on Resource Land Use and Stewardship. It is an approach strongly endorsed by this council as well. However, the fact that absolutely no progress has been made tells us that there is neither the groundswell of public support nor the political will to impose province-wide zoning and the mandatory land-use planning that goes with it.

In practical terms, this leaves council with no alternative but to encourage government to look to education, recognition and financial incentives as the preferred means of influencing woodlot owner behaviour.

On the related topic of land ownership, council was advised that current limits under the *Lands Protection Act* should be adjusted for two reasons:

- The 3,000-acre limit for corporations does not allow organizations like the Island Nature Trust to expand its work of protecting and preserving natural areas.
- The 1,000 and 3,000-acre limits have forced farmers who wish to increase agricultural production to clear forest land instead and to convert it to farmland.



Council believes government should re-examine earlier studies calling for changes to the *Lands Protection Act* and permit organizations like the Island Nature Trust to exceed current land ownership limits. Council also believes that farmers who practice good land stewardship and, in particular, good woodlot management, should not have to clear woodland in order to expand agricultural production. Woodland conversion is still occurring despite the poor financial performance of most farm commodity sectors, and it is occurring in watersheds already under severe stress from a combination of deforestation and intensive agriculture. We are not sure that the factors which influence these decisions by farmers are well understood; perhaps more research aimed at understanding these might help.

Defending Clearcutting and Plantations

The substantive and emotional outpourings made to council in public meetings around the related topics of clearcutting and plantation establishment clearly opposed large-scale, indiscriminate mechanical harvesting operations, especially where these are followed by softwood monoculture plantations released from competition with the aid of chemical herbicides. We support the view that this is not the model to follow. However, as with much of what council heard, this is not a black and white issue nor a simple one either.

Council believes strongly that there is a place for clearcutting and plantations and that these well-established silvicultural treatments must remain part of the manager's toolkit. We were swayed in this direction by a number of convincing arguments:

- Mechanized harvesting can be done economically on a smaller scale than currently practiced in large-scale, old-field white spruce clearcuts.
- Mechanization can be applied to less invasive silvicultural treatments like strip and patch cutting, and pre-commercial and commercial thinning.

- Local manual cutters are getting harder to find and there is no indication that this trend will change unless dictated by such outside forces as certification.
- Plantations need not be monocultures, not at the time of establishment, and certainly not as they mature.
- The plantation management philosophy of the Forestry Division has changed to the point where the goal is to produce an uneven-aged mixed stand of primarily commercial species which has the potential to regenerate itself naturally.

Before the current market boom in softwood lumber, the purchase and operation of large, mechanized harvesters could not be justified. Today, they are a vital part of the industry and provide safe, good-paying, year-round jobs. Council has no doubt that, used improperly, these machines can do great damage. Is there a place for them in the long term? We doubt it, since the stand type that allows their owners to make money is disappearing. Some existing contractors have adjusted their business model in anticipation of a change in the resource and council believes the market will favour them in future. As softwood supply declines, large-scale harvesting operations will surely become uneconomic. Should government now turn its back on woodlot owners who have been enticed by offers of top dollar for their wood and a low-cost planting program, as some would suggest? Council will have more to say in answer to this later.

What Council Proposes!

After having studied many proposals and observations gleaned over the period of three months, council has attempted to organize these into a logical series of recommendations in six main areas: private forest, public forest, balancing competing interests, the forest industry, the Forestry Division and, education, training and certification. The sections which follow outline council's reasoning in more detail.

Private Forest

It was made clear to council at a number of public meetings that past attempts to regulate forestry practices on private land have not been forgotten – or forgiven. There is still strong resistance to regulation, harvesting controls and any other form of 'stick' government might use to influence behaviour. We reminded people that the majority of spending by the Forestry Division has been directed to the Private Land Program since it began 25 years ago and that private land forest policy for the past 50 years has definitely favored the 'carrot' over the 'stick.' To be clear, council does not believe any good will come from additional controls on the activities of private woodlot owners.

Recommendation #1

That government focus its regulatory efforts on enforcing existing legislation as it pertains to forestry activities on private land, placing primary emphasis on the protection of watercourses and aquatic habitat, and that government attempts to influence woodlot-owner behaviour in a positive way be based on incentives.



On the other hand, we often heard that present legislation is not adequately enforced, and when it is, fines are not high enough to be an effective deterrent. Moreover, fines are not the only means to ensure proper compliance: tax relief, incentives and other benefits may be linked to legislation in cross-compliance.

Recommendation #2

That government increase minimum fines, bring in a progressive fine system with higher fines for repeat offenders and implement cross-compliance measures allowing access to incentive programs only to those who practice good forest stewardship.

Regarding the relative importance of the Forest Renewal and Forest Enhancement components of the Private Land Program, council believes more emphasis must be placed on forest restoration efforts as generally described in the Enhancement component. Those many woodlot owners who wish to carry out silvicultural treatments aimed at restoring some semblance of the Acadian Forest on unploughed forest land should be encouraged to do so through more generous incentives. Consideration must then be given by the Forestry Division to what incentive levels are required to entice contractors by ‘priming the pump’ as it were, because we were told present levels are not sufficient. Better recruitment, training and retention efforts will also be required to remedy the current shortage of silviculture workers.

Recommendation #3

That the Forestry Division set firm targets to shift emphasis in the Private Land Program in favour of Forest Enhancement treatments so that they account for 50 per cent of total incentives paid out to woodlot owners by the end of fiscal year 2009-2010.



Council recognizes that more money will be required to do this. Some of our recommended changes such as removing the incentive for chemical herbicide treatment and increasing the woodlot owners’ contributions to plantation establishment, will have a positive impact on the funds available for the Private Land Program. Modified planting densities could help as well as more efficient use of natural regeneration. Additionally, council encourages the Forestry Division to examine internal restructuring that would increase funds available for Forest Enhancement treatments. While we believe strongly that the emphasis must shift from planting to other forms of silviculture treatment over the longer term, reducing the planting program in the short term is not the best way to accomplish this. We agree with those who say that planting only 20 per cent of clearcuts is an inadequate response and that seedling production and reforestation should be increased. Better harvest planning and use of natural regeneration will help but, until these techniques become more widely accepted and used, it is important to restore the reforestation program to historic levels.

Recommendation #4

That the Forestry Division maintain seedling production and plantation establishment at a minimum level of 2.5 million seedlings per year.



Council agrees with those who recommend eliminating incentives for chemical herbicide treatments used to release planted softwood seedlings from unwanted hardwood competition. We note with great satisfaction that the 2004 moratorium on the use of herbicides on public forest has been extended; it should be made permanent. The numbers show that in the five years from 2000 to 2004, over 10 per cent of the \$4.5 million paid out in incentives under the Forest Renewal component of the Private Land Program was for ‘chemical maintenance.’ Council believes this money could be spent better elsewhere and that funding for this treatment should be eliminated immediately. Woodlot owners who choose to release their plantations from competing vegetation with herbicides can continue to do so, providing they bear the full cost.

Recommendation #5

That chemical plantation maintenance be eliminated from the list of eligible treatments under the Private Land Program, and that the Forestry Division encourage woodlot owners to pay greater attention to required pre-planning before rich sites are harvested so that competing vegetation is less of a factor in plantation survival and growth.

Continuing on the theme of incentives for plantation establishment, council has difficulty understanding how government can justify paying 70 per cent of the cost while the private sector contributes only 30 per cent, particularly following lucrative softwood clearcuts. Furthermore, we were reminded that the \$100 per hectare charged to the owner represents considerably less than the 30 per cent private sector contribution, the balance being funded through the \$2 per cord checkoff paid on harvested wood. Whether or not one agrees that clearcutting is sensible, one thing is clear to us: the woodlot owner receives significant revenue from the sale of wood harvested through a stumpage fee and should pay a greater share of replanting costs even on sites that are cheap to replant.

Council believes woodlot owners can and will pay more for plantation establishment, and the amount they contribute should be tied to the estimated cost of bringing the plantation to the so-called ‘free-to-grow’ stage. We recommend that the base level for plantation establishment be raised from the present \$100 per hectare to \$150 (equal to \$60 per acre), and leave it to the Forestry

Division, in consultation with woodlot owner and industry groups, to work out the details for the recommended higher levels of woodlot owner contribution.

Recommendation #6

That the minimum woodlot owner contribution for plantation establishment be increased from the present level of \$100 per hectare to \$150 per hectare and that the present one-level system be changed to a three-level system: the lowest level of woodlot owner contribution (\$150 per hectare) for plantations requiring manual site preparation; an intermediate level for planting done under the Forest Enhancement component; and the highest level for clearcuts requiring extensive site preparation and for single-species plantations.



There are those who will object to a higher minimum and a three-level system, claiming it is not fair, that it undervalues the woodlot owner's contribution through the checkoff, and that it will negatively affect the planting program. Possibly true, but council also heard that the present demand for seedlings cannot be met and that there is a long waiting list for plantation establishment. We also believe woodlot owners could be convinced of the value of the program through a better communication and education program directed toward woodlot owners by staff of the Forestry Division and private consultants.

Also on the topic of plantation establishment, council heard that the philosophy of the Forestry Division has changed – for the better, in our view. We heard from many people, even those opposed to the 'clearcut-and-replant' model, that this is a positive development. One presenter even described a recent walk through a plantation and what he saw bears repeating here:

“Yesterday, I was walking through a plantation and I couldn't help but note the stark contrast of this area to the 'monoculture plantations' that many ... spoke about. This area was planted with Japanese larch (a non-native species) 10 to 12 years ago. White pine was also planted at intervals throughout the area. The stand found here today has 10-metre tall Japanese larch with excellent form and growth. The white pine are approximately nine metres tall and are doing very well. There are white birch naturals (provided by a seed tree left in the last clearcut) approximately eight metres tall throughout. There is also pin cherry, grey birch,

white spruce and poplar throughout the stand... In case you think that all I noted was trees and potential timber I will also tell you the wildlife I noted in my short time on this area. The area that was ‘devastated’ by clearcutting and replanted with a ‘monoculture’ and characterized by many as an area that does not have any diversity sufficient to provide any value contained the following: snowshoe hare tracks, chickadees, fox tracks, a pair of ruffed grouse and a hairy woodpecker. By planting species that mature at different times we might actually be able to start to change some of our forests to a more uneven-aged situation and the next generation will have more options than we have.’²

The presenter’s words reflect the choices woodlot owners can make in the establishment phase of plantations. More and more woodlot owners are recognizing that multiple thinnings combined with forest biodiversity treatments represent a powerful tool to restore the Acadian Forest as diverse, uneven-aged stands of trees, shrubs, and many other plants and animals. This series of choices by owners would mean there would be no need for a ‘clearcut’ at age 40 as feared by many presenters at the public meetings. Instead, a series of progressive partial thinnings would create the forest light and soil conditions needed to direct natural regeneration and to allow for the establishment of shade-tolerant tree seedling and shrub species. The Forestry Division could begin by steering people away from single-species plantations by increasing the level of woodlot owner contribution for these as was suggested in Recommendation #6.



Recommendation #7

That the Forestry Division communicate clearly that the goal of the Forest Renewal component of the Private Land Program is to produce an uneven-aged mixed stand of primarily commercial species – taking into account predicted climate change and its effect on individual species performance – and which has the potential to regenerate itself naturally.

² Lowell Stevenson, Common Sense is Not as Common as It Once Was. Received March 10, 2005.

Public Forest

Over the years, what were once scattered blocks of unwanted woodland have become the “peoples’ forest” and the public has grown attached to it. A number of presenters agreed with the Round Table’s conclusion in 1997 that public forests are “The Island’s best-kept secret!” One presenter stated: “Public lands should remain public. *Never* sell them. Lease or transfer them for public use when appropriate (maintaining public ownership) and only with clearly stipulated uses.”³

Council agrees with those who believe government should maintain and increase present holdings; only a tiny minority thought government should divest itself of any amount of public forest. Council does not agree that any public land, forested or otherwise, should be sold or leased without first giving the public an opportunity to comment and challenge the decision to do so.

Recommendation #8

- a) That government maintain present holdings of public forest land and add to them new properties which are contiguous to existing blocks, which preserve unique forest ecosystems, or which protect watersheds under extreme stress due to excessive land clearing, and that government do a better job of identifying where public forests are located and how they may be used.*

- b) That government put in place a system requiring mandatory public review and invitation to comment before public forest land is offered to the private sector or not-for-profit organizations through sale, lease or any other form of transfer.*

Islanders who shared their views with council believe generally that the public forest has great social, aesthetic, recreational and environmental value and that economic return should be considered secondary. With this in mind, council would encourage government to move away from the cost-recovery model for Forestry Division operations on public land. We believe the budget of the Provincial Forests Program would be better spent on education, research, demonstration and developing community partnerships. As many people suggested, the public forest should be a model of best practice and show what a well-managed forest looks like.

³ Edgar Dewar, As a Concerned Landowner, February 20, 2005.

Recommendation #9

That the objectives of public forest programs should be education, research, demonstration of good forestry practice, and the encouragement of access and compatible recreational uses in public forests.



A number of presenters to council voiced their dissatisfaction with the existing tendering system and the fact that it seems constrained by the principle of cost recovery and the commodity-based clearcut and replant model.

Recommendation #10

That the Forestry Division devise ways to open up the present tendering system so that it offers new opportunities for value-added and non-timber forest products, and for services like ecotours.

With regard to partnerships with appropriate not-for-profit community groups, council heard that people are generally supportive of the Macphail initiative. There are two very good reasons for government to seek more of these opportunities:

- Community not-for-profit organizations discover innovative ways to fund their activities and can count on the input of volunteers.
- Partnerships create a sense of shared ownership and responsibility; they will strengthen the identity of public forests and reduce the likelihood of them being sold to private interests.

Recommendation #11

That government build on the government-community partnership model as a way of sharing responsibility for managing public forests in a manner consistent with achieving the objectives of education, research, demonstration, restoration, conservation and recreation, providing these arrangements also respect the principles of public access and good stewardship.



Finally, council does not buy the argument that the primary purpose of public forests must be revenue generation. A strong majority of people we heard from believe public forests have the potential to provide important and enduring benefits to society if they are just left alone. As one person remarked: “What’s so wrong about letting trees die? Give the public forest a rest and let nature do its thing.” While we are not advocating complete hands-off management of public forests, council agrees that this approach has its place.

The Balancing Act

The topic of land use continues to be of great interest to Islanders and their government, and what it always comes down to is finding the right balance between the individual rights of landowners and the collective right of all members of society. The Island has witnessed more than its share of battles over land tenure since the arrival of Europeans almost three centuries ago. By 1900, 70 per cent of the Island’s original forests had been cleared. Today, forests cover 45 per cent of the Island or about 257,000 hectares. According to numbers contained in the discussion paper, 58 per cent of the forest cover (149,000 hectares) is on unploughed land and the remaining 42 per cent (108,000 hectares) is on land once cleared for agriculture. Most of the softwood harvested is white spruce from old field sites, and this resource is declining rapidly; according to the discussion paper, old-field white spruce covered 42,000 hectares in 1990, down from 58,000 hectares a decade earlier. Much of the controversy over clearcutting and its impact on aesthetics relates to the harvest of old-field white spruce. The good news is that the harvest will decline as it gets harder to find commercial stands as will the reason for much of the controversy. This is council’s hope.

Council has little to offer in terms of helping advance the debate on land use and where forestry sits in the overall picture. We believe that, taken together and implemented judiciously, our recommendations for changes to the private and public land Forestry Division programs will bring about a gradual change in behaviour and a consequent improvement to the landscape. Council believes that society will eventually have to compensate landowners for maintaining forest cover because of its increasing importance in protecting domestic and municipal sources of drinking water, as well as aquatic and wildlife habitats. We also believe the real estate market will soon begin placing a higher value on managed woodlots, thus encouraging owners to practice better silviculture for financial gain.

Although council asked for specific ideas on how to preserve and enhance the forest landscape, few were forthcoming. The most common were property tax incentives and there were two main forms of these:

- one based on a tax credit for maintaining land in permanent forest cover to be paid through the provincial property tax system; and

- one based on a deferral of provincial property tax for as long as the woodlot is managed according to a government-approved plan.

While both notions are interesting, we don't find either one to be practical. A property tax credit on the average Prince Edward Island woodlot would amount to \$35 to \$40 per year, hardly enough to influence behaviour. Tax deferral is an interesting idea but it might prove far more expensive to administer than other approaches. As well, council was reminded on several occasions of the futility and utter uselessness of covenants attached to property deeds where land is leased or ownership transferred. Nevertheless, and despite our limited knowledge in this complex and evolving area of public policy, links between taxation and land use and protection cannot be summarily dismissed. This is why council believes more research is called for in order to identify potential approaches.

Recommendation #12

That government commission a study into how changes to the tax system could be employed to influence landowners' behaviour in a way that rewards them for providing societal benefits in the form of well-managed woodlots.

So, other than putting its faith in education and incentives as proven ways to influence behaviour in a positive sense, council is unable to provide a recommendation which we can defend. The only way might be through province-wide zoning and we hesitate to recommend this course for reasons already explained. Also, based on information provided to council, even the strongest restrictions on land use, made with broad community support as a way of protecting one of the last pristine rivers on Prince Edward Island can be gotten around, if one is persistent enough. We are speaking of the Morell River and its Conservation Zone established under the *Planning Act*. Council was very disappointed to hear that even this bastion has been breached.

There is one area where government could help, and that is by responding to pleas for changes to the *Lands Protection Act*. We agree with many that the time has come to increase the limits. Another pressing requirement is to devise a practical means under the *Lands Protection Act* for farmers to use protective covenants or 'non-development agreements' as a way to protect forest cover and stop the indiscriminate conversion of woodland to farm land.

Recommendation #13

That government amend the Lands Protection Act so that organizations such as the Island Nature Trust can hold title to more than 3,000 acres and so that farmers stop converting forested land to agriculture in order to stay within the 1,000 and 3,000-acre limits.

The Forest Industry

According to the discussion paper, the forest products industry on Prince Edward Island contributed \$40 million to the economy in 2000. As pointed out in the paper, these economic returns are artificially high and will decline as softwood supply declines. Also, between 1990 and 2000, while the volume of the softwood harvest doubled, employment dropped from 1,200 to about 600, much of this due to the replacement of manual cutters by mechanical harvesters.

The idea put forth by many of turning back the clock to a time when the harvesting industry consisted of hand cutters and low-impact extraction equipment has a certain appeal. As explained earlier, council believes the days of the large, mechanized harvesting operation are numbered and that smaller, diversified contractors are better positioned for the long term. But, some form of mechanization will remain, quite simply because the days of the lumberjack are gone. It is a hard, dangerous, seasonal, low-paying profession and, with a tighter labour market, it will not attract or retain enough people to sustain the industry. As well, changes to provincial and federal occupational health and safety legislation have strongly influenced decisions by contractors to move toward the safer, mechanized equipment.

While the public wants to see a shift in emphasis toward more Forest Enhancement work, council cautions that this cannot happen without more silviculture workers. Recruitment and training efforts will be necessary, in addition to adjustments to incentive levels to make it a worthwhile endeavour for the worker and the contractor both.

The future, council believes, lies in secondary and tertiary manufacturing, high-value species, both hardwood and softwood, and in non-timber forest products. The largest hardwood mill on the Island generates \$2 million per year in revenue from just 1,700 cords (3,900 cubic metres) of raw wood. This is equal to a negligible 0.6 per cent of the volume of wood harvested, yet this mill alone accounts for five per cent of the total value of the Island forest industry! That this mill turns firewood into flooring, moulding and other higher-value products which are exported to countries around the world only adds to council's conviction that the future of the industry lies in value-added products.

As further proof, we learned that the roadside value of a cord of wood purchased by this mill for \$50 is multiplied 24-fold through manufacturing, and much of that \$1,200 stays here in the form of wages and other purchased inputs. Compare this to the value of a cord of softwood studwood or pulpwood which is sent off-Island in unprocessed form.

Support for the value-added processing sector starts with a program that encourages healthy mixed-wood forests on private and public land. Shifting emphasis to the Private Land Program must involve more than providing additional financial support to contractors and woodlot owners; it also must include education, training, extension services and professional development opportunities for Forestry Division staff. Council outlined its recommendations in this regard earlier and we will have more to say on how government can help in the section on the Forestry Division.

In its role of providing support to Island businesses, the provincial government, in partnership with the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), needs to take a closer look at opportunities in the forestry sector. However, regarding the hardwood sector, council would advise government to carefully examine any expansion plans and to make sure the same mistake is not made as in the softwood sector. In other words, make sustainability guidelines an integral part of program design.



Recommendation #14

Provided these are founded on the principle of sustainable use, that government take steps to encourage expansion in the value-added forest products sector by doing the following: support advancements in processing technology; support businesses which purchase and process Island wood; encourage business owners to expand their production development, manufacturing and marketing knowledge; and provide training incentives to help fill existing and predicted demand for skilled workers in value-added processing.

Council learned of the potential economic value of non-timber forest products through its work on the topic of ground hemlock. To open the door to new opportunities in an organized fashion, better information is required, and that is why we recommended government encourage business owners to expand their product development, manufacturing and marketing knowledge. Council believes entrepreneurs are better at finding opportunities than are governments, and that governments can

help best through research and technology transfer. Prince Edward Island has a well-defined and growing biosciences sector which may soon discover commercial opportunities for non-timber forest products.

As for the commodity forest products sector, in council's view it should be allowed to stand on its own. It has far less to offer in terms of lasting economic development and has done great damage to the resource, to the landscape and to the image of the industry. Governments, through reforestation incentives, have invested heavily in producing softwood fibre to feed the commodity sector and, while council does not advocate abandoning this important component of the product mix, we believe better returns can be achieved elsewhere.

The Forestry Division

Generally speaking, feedback received from the public regarding the quality of service provided by Forestry Division staff was positive. Staff were well represented at the public and stakeholder meetings and provided valuable input to the process. Those in attendance never hesitated to answer difficult questions from council and members of the public and they responded well when challenged. The question becomes then, could they adjust to the program changes council is advocating if government were to accept these? We believe the answer is yes, and that many would welcome the challenge.

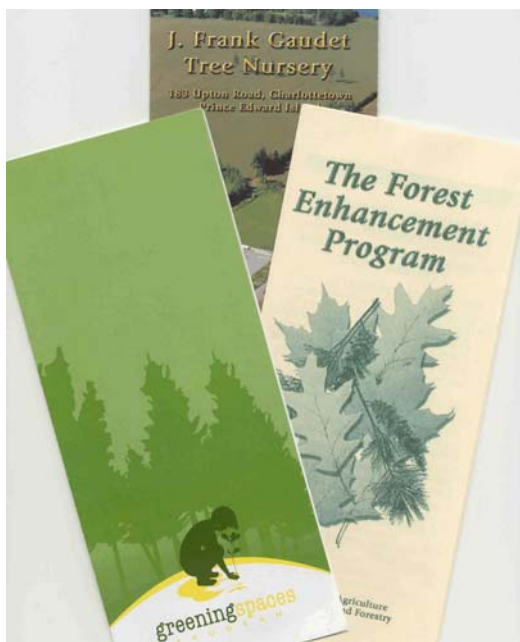
At the time of writing, the complete impact of government's program renewal initiative on the Forestry Division was not evident. Council was told that \$198,000 was cut from the Provincial Forests Program representing one-half of the seasonal employee budget, that \$66,000 was cut from the Greening Spaces component of the Forest Environment Program, bringing it down to the amount actually spent in fiscal year 2004-2005, and that the \$25,000 grant to the Forest Improvement Association will be discontinued. All told, the cuts, in council's view, will not have a serious impact on these programs. Further budget cuts would be hard to swallow for a division which has the potential to contribute so much to economic development and maintaining a healthy environment and we hope government will recognize this reality.

Council's previous recommendations have touched on the Private Land and Provincial Forests Programs and will, we recognize, have major impacts on Forestry Division personnel. Regarding division management and forest fire protection, council sees no reason why major changes should be made. We do think the division needs to do a better job in the areas of communication and education and perhaps this can be done using staff involved in the Private Land and Provincial Forests programs. We are convinced that the division needs to do a far better job of promoting its programs and services and be more effective in woodlot owner education.

Recommendation #15

That the Forestry Division increase the emphasis on communication and woodlot owner education.

With regard to seedling production and tree improvement, together called the Production Development Program, we have earlier commented favourably on our assessment of the quality of service provided through the J. Frank Gaudet Nursery. In keeping with what council heard, we would recommend a shift in production focus toward more late-successional hardwood and softwood species typical of upland sites in the Acadian Forest and most likely to thrive under the predicted global warming scenario. We also believe the nursery should reinstate the production of proven exotic species.



Recommendation #16

That the J. Frank Gaudet Nursery move away from the current heavy emphasis on white and black spruce toward species which have the potential to thrive under a predicted warmer, drier climate, and that the nursery place a much stronger emphasis on growing hardwood species so that these account for 10 per cent of total production by 2009-2010.

With regard to the Tree Improvement Program, council believes it has proven a good investment and should be continued within a slightly altered strategy. Knowledge gained can be used in the testing of species which show the potential to adapt to climate change.

Recommendation #17

That the Tree Improvement Program place additional emphasis on testing species and provenances that show the potential to adapt to the predicted warmer climate.



Council heard nothing in reference to the Resource Inventory and Modeling Program and the Forest Environment Program. The latter, called ‘Greening Spaces,’ is described as:

“Appropriations provided for activities to involve and engage Islanders in tree and shrub planting for the environmental and non-timber values of forests. Initiatives will involve promoting and participating in Arbor Week plantings, partnership with schools and community groups, and involving Islanders in hands-on planting activities at the community and individual level.”

Providing the program is evaluated on an ongoing basis and is achieving the results intended, we have no reason to believe it should be changed. The word ‘partnership’ usually conjures up opportunities for cost-sharing, and we hope the Forestry Division will take full advantage of these to make remaining dollars go further. With regard to the Resource Inventory and Modeling Program, we have seen evidence of the high quality of service offered in the form of accurate and timely information on forest biomass inventory and agricultural land use trends and believe it deserves government’s continuing support.

As stated earlier in this section on the forest industry, we believe government should devote more resources to assisting entrepreneurs in the value-added forest products sector. Because of council’s limited knowledge of the inner workings of government, we are not however in a position to determine whether this is best done by the Forestry Division or by other agencies responsible for business development. Regardless of the approach taken, council believes all Forestry Division staff need better information and guidance so that they can shift their thinking away from the old softwood commodity model and toward a value-added industry model.

Recommendation #18

- a) That the Forestry Division encourage the development of a formal training and professional development program for those staff who interact regularly with the private sector.*

- b) That all staff of the division be provided with training intended to demonstrate the advantages of replacing the old forest-renewal-commodity-softwood philosophy with a new silviculture approach which favours managing for value-added products through forest enhancement and restoration.*

Education, Training and Certification

With the notable exception of frequent complaints regarding harvesting practices by contractors and the absence of a reliable contractor rating or certification system, none of these topics figured prominently in what council heard and learned through the public consultation process. But they are worthy of mention in this report. Education and training were promoted by many as ways to influence woodlot owner and contractor behaviour in a positive way, although there is not universal agreement on the messages to be conveyed. We mentioned earlier council's view that public forests should be used more for education through research and demonstration. We also mentioned the value of teaching woodlot owners about Acadian Forest restoration through Forest Enhancement incentives and the need for the Forestry Division to allocate more resources to getting the message out.

There is one new and original idea that we believe merits further consideration, and that is the establishment of a Centre of Excellence in Ecological Forestry. Such a centre would build on the tremendous store of knowledge developed here by the Forestry Division, the Macphail Woods Ecological Forestry Project and other Island conservation groups in the unique and emerging area of restoration silviculture. It would teach the practice of forest restoration, forest ecology, water and soil conservation, forest modeling, biology and related topics. It would provide an alternative to the Forest Technician program offered by the Maritime College of Forest Technology which is based largely on teaching the softwood commodity production model. Based on the information provided to us, council has reason to believe there would be demand for a certificate or diploma program, not just from potential graduates but from people interested in a combined tourism and learning experience.

Recommendation #19

That government actively pursue the establishment of a Centre of Excellence in Ecological Forestry on Prince Edward Island.

Certification of woodlot owners and harvesting contractors is the latest market trend. Council heard that it is having an impact here already as suppliers of building materials to large retailers are being told to prepare for new demands, or else they will be unable to ship their product to certain markets. Industry and woodlot owner representatives here have held a number of meetings to discuss the implications and how they can best prepare to meet new product standards. Council was led to believe that the general tone of these discussions has been healthy thus far and that industry is more inclined to accept the changes when they are driven by consumer demand and not government edict. Forestry Division staff are monitoring these developments. We agree that the proposed contractor certification should include monitoring by industry of compliance with best practices.

Recommendation #20

That the Forestry Division continue to monitor developments in woodland, woodlot owner and contractor certification with a view to assisting industry to adjust, where feasible.

Conclusion

After attending a number of public and sector meetings, reviewing reams of material presented at meetings and through the on-line discussion forum, and witnessing firsthand the passion with which people articulated their view of the forest, one questions:

“Are we asking too much of our forests and of the people who own them?”

This is, of course, the classic rhetorical question. Council comes away from this experience convinced of at least one thing. *Islanders are far more knowledgeable about the forest and its place in Island society than they were in 1987 when the current forest policy was developed.* This observation applies equally to landowners and non-landowners and to rural and urban residents. It applies to people who make their living from the forest and to people who don't, and it applies equally to those who adhere to the commodity model and to those who don't.

As much as some people insisted that council try to see things as black or white, we have not given into the temptation to do so except in a couple of areas. In the words of the Forestry Division's resident poet:

*“There's not one prescription for action
For there are too many stakeholders involved
And tho' some don't own any woodland
'Tis no reason to leave their needs unsolved”⁴*

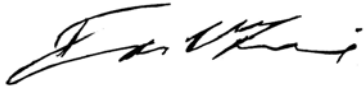
Council has done its best to listen, question, ponder and, finally, to decide. Where there was consensus among the various interests, we usually supported the prevailing view. Where there was not, we have taken a position through this report. Many times, we were guided by the wise words of the poet:

*“May your decisions reflect Solomon's wisdom
With reality playing an important part
Respect views to the left and right of you
If you can do then you've made the right start”*

Honourable Minister, you may also find these words inspiring. We, the members of the Public Forest Council, thank you for placing your confidence in us. We have enjoyed the experience tremendously and wish you well in your deliberations leading to Prince Edward Island's new forest policy.

⁴ Paul McKnight. Forest Policy Poem, March 11, 2005.

Endorsement by the Private Members of the Public Forest Council



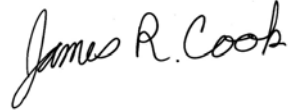
Dr. Ian MacQuarrie, Chair



Lily Baker, Member



Carol Livingstone, Member



Jim Cook, Member



Gerald MacDonald, Member

Methodology

Council began its work in the fall of 2004 after receiving its mandate from the minister. It was decided to use the discussion paper prepared by the Forestry Division as the basis for dialogue with the public and stakeholder groups. Council retained the services of Jean-Paul Arsenault, a former director of the Forestry Division, to assist in planning the consultation process and to act as a moderator for the public and stakeholder meetings. Ken Mayhew of the Forestry Division acted as council secretary and was instrumental in looking after logistical details and taking note of all discussions. Other Forestry Division staff, Paul McKnight, Dan McAskill and Brian Brown, attended a number of meetings and responded to many questions on a variety of forestry topics. District staff were also in attendance at local meetings and were called upon from time to time to provide input. Council thanks all of these people for their interest and the high quality of their work.

Council originally laid out a consultation plan consisting of six public meetings and four stakeholder meetings. All public meetings were well advertised in local newspapers. The forest policy review process was the subject of a television ad which appeared regularly on the supper-hour news program, *Canada Now*. We decided to add a fifth stakeholder meeting for government staff who are in some way involved with the management of public forests. Because of the unexpectedly high level of interest shown by people wishing to make presentations to council, it was decided to hold second meetings in Montague and Charlottetown. Finally, council added a ninth public meeting in Charlottetown to enable us to explore more fully the topic of climate change and its potential impact on the distribution of tree species and, by extension, Forestry Division long-term planning.

The schedule of public and stakeholder meetings is shown in **Table 1** and the list of presentations is shown in **Table 2**. In total, 87 individuals and groups made formal presentations to council and most of them were kind enough to provide us with a written record of their thoughts and suggestions. Council arranged to have the resulting 300+ pages summarized in the form of abstracts to enable us to deal more efficiently with the sheer volume of material. Council has captured these presentations on a compact disk which is included in this report. Although most public and stakeholder meetings featured a number of presentations, time was allotted for a moderated discussion period. Notes from these discussions were also summarized for use by council in the preparation of this report. In all, we estimate that 500 people attended the public and stakeholder meetings making this, in council's view, a successful consultation process. While we are the first to agree that not all views were heard, council members and support staff made themselves available and no one was turned away. Despite the strength of opposing views

expressed, participants at public and stakeholder meetings demonstrated patience and respect for one another and no one was heard to say that they did not feel comfortable expressing their opinion.

In preparing this report, council was assisted by an outside consultant. Earlier outlines and drafts were refined through a process of open discussion and using the principle of consensus which, applied at the individual level, council members took to mean: “I may not be in complete agreement with each section of this report but, overall, I can live with it.”

Table 1
Schedule of Public and Stakeholder Meetings

Date	Location	Target Group
December 10	Brookvale	Forestry Division staff
January 7	Charlottetown	Staff of various provincial government departments
January 10	O’Leary	Public meeting
January 19	Wellington	Public meeting
January 26	Hunter River	Public meeting
January 31	Montague #1	Public meeting
February 3	Charlottetown	Environment and tourism stakeholders
February 8	Fortune	Public meeting
February 12	Summerside	Woodlot owners
February 15	Charlottetown #1	Public meeting
February 17	North River	Contractors and sawmillers
February 28	Montague #2	Public meeting
March 2	Charlottetown #2	Public meeting
March 7	Charlottetown	Special meeting – climate change

Table 2
List of Presentations

Brookvale – December 10 – Forestry Division staff

Jon Hutchinson
George Coade
Mary Myers
Dan McAskill
Walter Townsend
Sid Watts

Charlottetown – January 7 – TPW, AFA and EEF staff

Katherine Clough

O’Leary – January 10 – Public Meeting

Dave Biggar (on behalf of O’Leary Chapter, PEI Wildlife Federation)
Ralph Clark (Ravenwood Stairways)

Hunter River – January 26 – Public Meeting

Jaan Ranne (Woodlot Improvement Consulting)
Ian Dennison
Raymond Loo (on behalf of Certified Organic Producers Co-op)
Phil Corsi (text not received)
Malcolm MacFarlane (text not received)

Montague – January 31 – Public Meeting #1

Gaia Group
Melissa Mullen
Sebastian Manago
Kate Poole
Teresa Doyle
Mary Baird
Martinus Rose #1 (Royalty Hardwoods)
Michael Page #1
Ruth Richman
Calloway M’Cloud
Margie Loo
Scott Sinclair

Charlottetown – February 3 – Environment and Tourism stakeholders

Bill Glen

Fortune – February 8 – Public Meeting

Brian Brown (text not received)
John MacDonald

Charlottetown – February 15 – Public Meeting #1

Gaia Group
Joan Doyle (on behalf of Earth Circle of the Sisters of Saint Martha)
Don Mazer
Irene Novaczek (on behalf of Institute of Island Studies)
Tony Reddin (on behalf of Sierra Club of Canada)
Gary Schneider (Macphail Woods Ecological Forestry Project)
Fiep DeBie (Scott Walking Adventures)
Marion Copleston
Rob MacLean

North River – February 17 – Contractors and Sawmillers

Martinus Rose #2 (Royalty Harwoods)
Ralph Clark (on behalf of Wood Products PEI Inc.)
Jason Price (J. D. Irving Ltd.)
Bruce McCallum (on behalf of Woodlot Stewards Co-op)
Allison Coles (Coles Door Systems)
Richard Gill (text not received)

North River – February 23 – Council Meeting

Steve Alford and Wanson Hemphill (on behalf of Forest Improvement Association)

Montague – February 28 – Public Meeting #2

George Matheson
Richie Matheson (text not received)
Michael Page #2
Gary Waterman (text not received)
Reg Phelan

Charlottetown – March 2 – Public Meeting #2

Jack MacAndrew (on behalf of Ruffed Grouse Society)
Dénise Lajeunesse (on behalf of Parks Canada)
Christian Lacroix (on behalf of Island Nature Trust)
Rob Sharkie
Daryl Guignon
Dwayne Oakley (on behalf of Natural History Society of Prince Edward Island)
Alexander Larter
Aledia Twetan

Charlottetown – March 7 – Special Meeting – Climate Change

Peter Salenius (Canadian Forest Service)
Bill Glen

On-line Discussion Forum

Rosemary Curley	Shaun MacNeill
Herb Isherwood	Edgar Dewar
Edwin Gillis and Herb Isherwood	Andrew Morrow #2
David Carmichael	Jocelyn Chandler
Elizabeth Glen	Environmental Health Cooperative
Glen MacDonald	Tourism Industry Association of PEI
Bruce Gillespie (on behalf of Indian River Watershed Association)	Lowell Stevenson
Peter Baker	Paul McKnight
Bernard MacDonald	Federation of Labour
Richard Wright #1	Gary Torlone
Max Newby	PEI Wildlife Federation
Richard Wright #2	Tom Schultz
Ducks Unlimited	
Gary Griffin	
Steve Knechtel	
Andrew Morrow #1	
Tony Morrison (Renewable Energy Systems)	

**Copies of the Discussion Paper
Prince Edward Island Forest Policy**

Creating a Vision for the Future

**can be obtained online at
www.gov.pe.ca/go/forestpolicy**

**or by contacting the Forestry Division
at (902) 368 6450.**