

Call for Community Vignettes for Book Proposal

Bridging Practice, Research and Advocacy for Community Forests in Canada

Editors:

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Overview:

Canada is experiencing an unparalleled crisis involving forests and communities across the country. While municipalities, policy makers, and industry leaders, among others, acknowledge common challenges such as an overdependence on US markets, rising energy costs, and lack of diversification, no common set of solutions has been developed and implemented. Ongoing and at times contentious public debate has revealed an appetite and need for a fundamental rethinking of the relationships that link our communities, governments, industrial partners and forests towards a more sustainable future.

Among the paths possible, the creation of community forests promises to build resilience in forest communities and ecosystems through providing local control over and access to common forest lands in order to activate resource development opportunities, benefits, and social/environmental responsibilities. Implementing community forests in practice has proven to be a complex task, however. There are no road maps or well-developed and widely tested models for community forests in Canada. In settings where community forests have taken hold, there is a rich and growing body of experience to draw on. However, efforts to coordinate and share thin resources and local stories to support community forests remain in their infancy—but this is changing.

Contributors to this edited book will contribute to a growing national community forest network. They may include leading researchers in a variety of disciplines (geography, economics, sociology, forestry, ecology, political science, anthropology, Aboriginal studies, history, and northern studies among others), practitioners, Aboriginal, government and industry representatives, local advocates, and students who are actively engaged in sharing experiences, resources and tools of significance with forest resource and rural communities, policy makers and industry. Together they will address the emergence of community forests and initiatives to promote them throughout Canada. This edited book will provide a timely resource to advance community forestry as a growing model for collaborative decision-making that links natural

resource and community planning towards environmental stewardship, socio-economic development, and cultural autonomy.

The book will integrate the key themes requisite for a book on community forests (e.g. the origins and evolution of community involvement in forest management; government policy change and implementation challenges; Aboriginal perspectives; forest stewardship and development; and community sustainability) with vignettes that reveal the successes and failures of community forests in Canada and other relevant contexts.

We invite vignettes that tell community stories related to one or more of the following theme areas relevant to community forests in Canada:

- *local control of forests;*
- *cross-cultural collaboration and local capacity building;*
- *environmental change and community adaptation;*
- *enterprise diversification, innovation and social-economic development;,*
- *networking and knowledge sharing, and;*
- *the greatest challenge faced by your initiative*

Any other relevant topics are also welcome.

Vignettes can be submitted by individuals or groups for an existing or developing initiative or one that is being proposed. We especially encourage the inclusion of community voices that tell stories through direct quotes and/or comments. Vignettes should be 500-750 words in length.

Additional guidelines for contributions:

- A brief summary of the story you intend to submit, including a title and full contact information for the submitting author(s), is due April 15th, 2013
- Submissions should be sent to Ryan Bullock (ryan.bullock@usask.ca)

We have confirmed interest from a well-established publishing house and our goal is to work towards a 2014 delivery date.