



Learning to tango: Social Issues and Community Forestry in Canada

Luc Bouthillier
Université Laval

55th Forest Industry Lecture
Edmonton, March 9, 2006



Forestry for what and for whom?

- In Canada, forest policy aims at wood production for the processing industry
- Decades of achievement
- World leader in forest products
- In 2004
 - Harvest: 195 M m³
 - Export revenues: 44.6 G \$
 - Jobs: 361 000 y.-p.

Canadian forest policy: like a tango

- State
- Industry
- Heavier regulation
- Ecosystem complexity
- Increasing social demand



Source: Fabian Perez



Two phenomena affecting forestry

- Social demand diversity that must be addressed implicitly
- Harshness of productivity race in a global economy

An outburst of values ?

- Wood
- Habitats
- Landscape aesthetics
- Ecosystem functions



Photo: P.Roland Johansson

Biodiversity

- Protected areas
- Maintenance and restoration practices
- How much ?
- At what costs?



Photos: H. Sundkvist and Niall Benvie



The race to Industry Rationalisation: A Quebec - Sweden comparison (2003)

	Harvest	Jobs	Export value	Mills nb
Quebec	40M m³	105 K	12 G\$	288 L 62 p&p
Sweden	69M m³	90 K	20 G\$	160 L 60 p&p

La Baie



**ACI
Plant
in La
Baie**

**Street
gathering
Jan 2005**



Photos: Jeannot Lévesque

Legitimacy crisis

The movie



The Coulombe Commission

Questioning the state of the forest



“Forest dependant communities feel like watching the show of their death”

**Anishnabe
community
of Lac Simon**

**Euroamerican
community of
Grande-Vallée**



Photos: H. Jacqmain et S Côté



Community forestry

- The institutional answer as an alternative to corporate forestry (Beckley and Krogman 2002)
- Alleviate poverty in community upset by external project (Colfer 2005)
- Figure out tradeoffs between production and conservation (Glasmeier and Farrigan 2005)



Community forestry: definitions

- Active management of forest through direct participation of local people (Arnold 1992)
- A tree-dominated ecosystem managed for multiple community values and benefits by the community (Duinker et al. 1994)
- A state achieved when a given forest is managed in partnership with a community (Beckley and Krogman 2002)

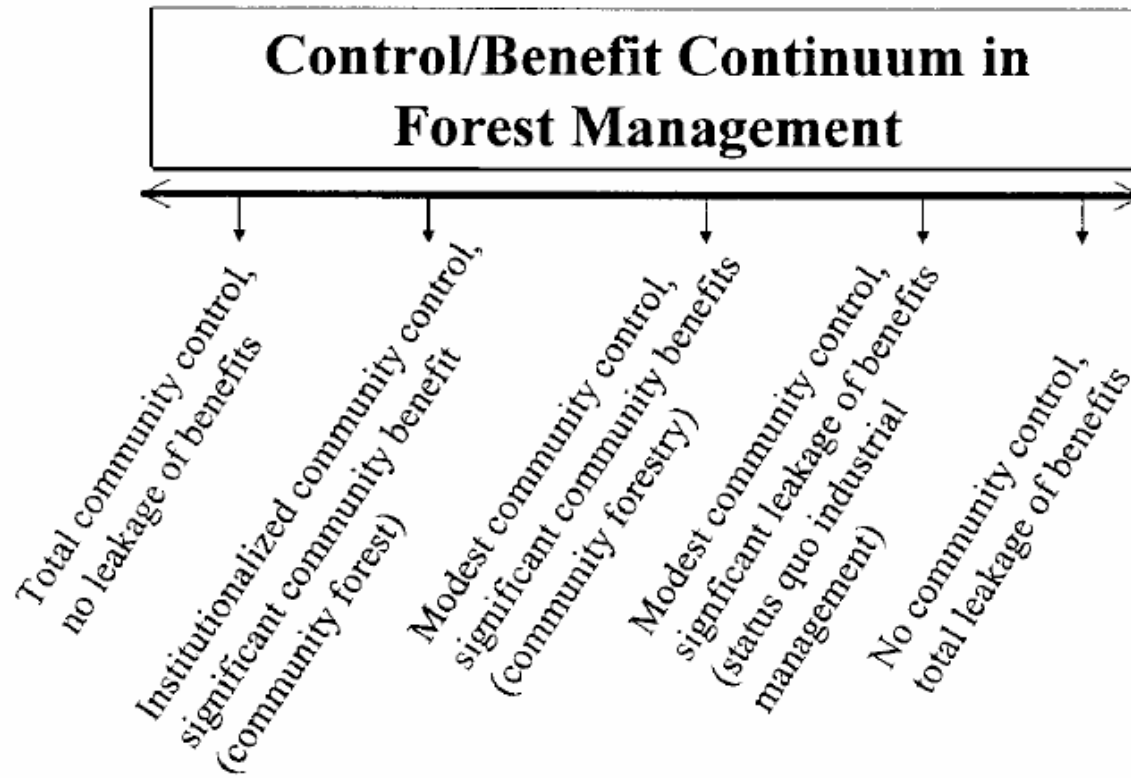


FIGURE 1 Control/benefit continuum in forest management.

The Beckley - Krogman Model



A word of caution

- Community's view of development is not necessarily consistent to generate local benefits and achieve conservation goals (Berkes 2004)
- Common property institutions
- Shared environmental ethics
- Collective vision



Public participation

- “A social regulation process using public debates to facilitate choices in forest management and to increase their political legitimacy”

Bouthillier, 2001



Two types of participation

- Type I

- A set of means used to justify a project or a development policy (Canter, 1996)

- Type II

- A communication approach aiming at empowering civil society groups to take an active role in their development (Buchy et Hoverman, 2000)



To sets of practices

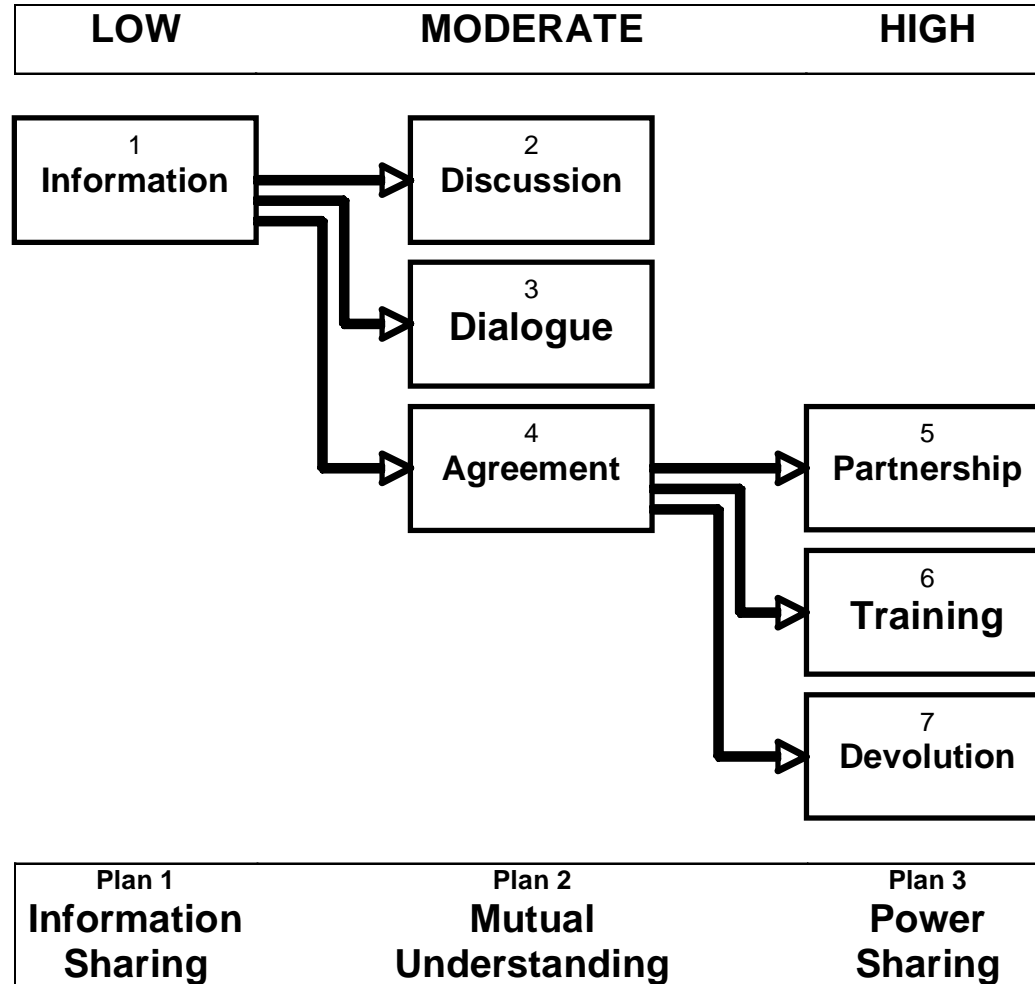
Type I

- Knowledge sharing (Sadar et Stolte, 1996)
 - Issues
 - Environmental components
 - Impacts
- SENSIBILISATION
- INFORMATION

Type II

- Capacity development (Gibson *et al.* 2000)
 - Competences improvement
 - Responsibilities sharing
 - Power redistribution
- CONCERTATION
- PARTNERSHIP
- DEVOLUTION

A scale to clarify intends behind participation





Social learning: A process of social change

- Exchange of information among participants to a civic dialogue mechanism which improves their mutual capacities to interact (Bouthillier 2004)
- Interaction among stakeholders to identify diversified ways of getting things done (Mutimukura et al. 2004)

Social learning: Some results from a Mauricie experiment

Us	nil	low	average	strong
Industry	-	65%	35%	-
Gvt	-	45%	35%	20%
Others	15%	-	35%	50%
Them				
Industry	-	-	20%	80%
Gvt	-	-	80%	20%
Others	-	-	55%	45%



The issues at stake for cognitive social learning

- Forest Law and Regime
- Forest Industry
- Silviculture
- Logging
- Wildlife Habitat
- Aboriginal identity ???
- Biodiversity (NO)
- Forest structure (NO)



Aboriginal forestry in Quebec

- Aboriginal people have inherent rights.
- Aboriginal people have a specific role to play in natural resources management:
 - **Increasing participation to development**
 - **Harmonisation between traditional way of life and development activities**
- Mandatory cultural encounter that should be observable in language

WEMOTACI in Nitaskinan



Photos: Michel Mongeon



Two ways of thinking

Practical issues I

- **Logging operations**
 - Logging operations have impacts that could be mitigated
 - **Roads**
 - First step to logging operations
 - **Landscape**
 - Logging modifies landscape for the time regeneration takes to reach FTG
- **Logging operations**
 - It modifies notcimik and it lowers chance to reach nehirowisi
 - **Roads**
 - It improves access to notcimik, but increases non Atikamekw presence
 - **Landscape**
 - After harvest, notcimik is different and « knowledge » is lost



Two ways of thinking

Practical issues II

■ Consultation

- Foresters look for information to improve their planning and to meet QMNR regulations

■ Expectations

- Wealth creation and enhancement of Atikamekw's participation to forest industry.

■ Consultation

- Tipahiskan is based on information sharing and collective decision making

■ Expectations

- More jobs and revenues and, adapted forest practices



Directions for foresters in aboriginal forestry

- Notice the *Other's* reality
- Compare to *your* reality
- Apprehend real issues within the realm of these comparisons
- While implementing forestry projects, satisfy three conditions



Three conditions for aboriginal forestry

- **Free and informed consent**
- **Harvest and silviculture practices harmonised with traditional way of life at a community level**
- **Training and empowerment for aboriginal communities in forestry**
- **In other words: Look at community forestry**



Back to community forestry

- Poverty alleviation through value added by growing and processing raw material
- Economic diversification
- Empowerment of the excluded
- Self-awareness of community members to sustainable outcomes nurturing a new forestry
- Development of feasible solutions matching conservation and development



Take home messages

- Be prepared for a new breed of forest policies
 - Accommodate a diversity of values
 - Face directly aboriginal issues
 - Implement forestry at a landscape level ecologically and socially

That is sustainable forest management!



Take home messages II

- Get ready to community forestry
 - Local leadership
 - Boundaries congruence
- Be part of the development process at a community level
 - Social capital to learn, decide and act
 - Collective ability to monitor and adapt

Be willing to learn dancing with social issues in forestry





photo: José Luiz Pedemneiras

Thank you!