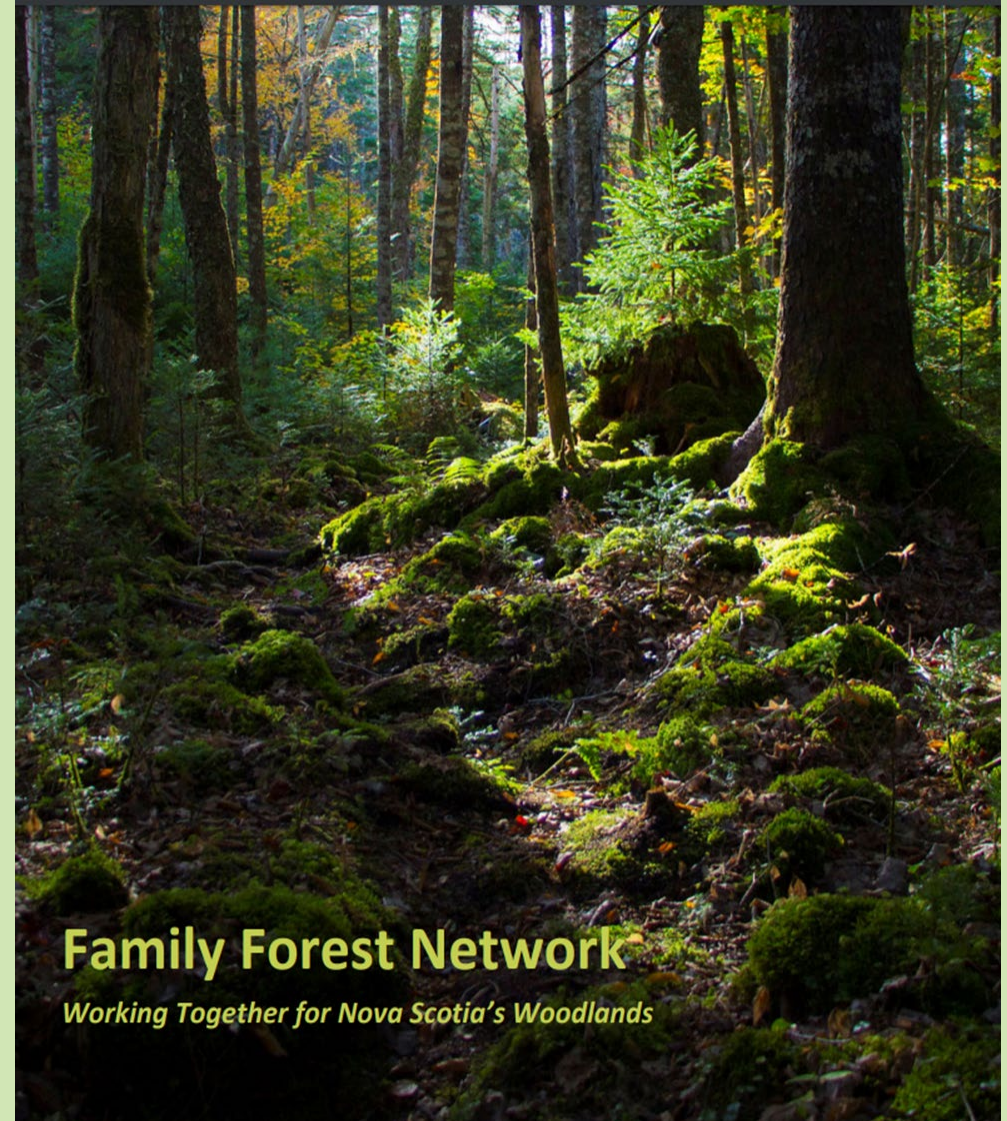


# The Family Forest Network of Nova Scotia

A Presentation to the Spring  
Woodland Conferences

April 2022



# Agenda

- The Partnership
- Project Goals
- The Pilot
- New Collaborations
- William Lahey Endorsement
- Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq Endorsement
- For more information

# The Partnership

➤ Under the sponsorship of the Nova Scotia Woodland Owners and Operators Association, the Family Forest Network's steering committee includes:

- Jane Barker, Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute, Kempt
- Greg Watson, North Nova Forest Owners Co-op, Wentworth
- Pat Wiggin, Federation of Nova Scotia Woodland Owners, Brookfield
- Ian Ripley, Athol Forestry Cooperative, Amherst
- Patricia Amero, Western Woodlot Services Co-op, Church Point
- Peter Burchill, Nova Scotia Landowners and Forest Fibre Producers Association, Port Hawkesbury
- Kirsten Campbell, Cape Breton Privateland Partnership, Port Hawkesbury
- Mary Jane Rodger, Medway Community Forest Cooperative, Caledonia
- Leif Helmer, Nova Scotia Community College, Dartmouth
- Ashley Childs, Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq, Millbrook
- Zach Melanson, Community Forests International, Sackville, NB
- Andy Kekacs, Nova Scotia Woodlot Owners and Operators Association, Truro

# Project Goals

- **Advance the adoption of ecological forestry on non-industrial, private woodlands through outreach, demonstration and research**
  - Develop a steward-led network to address the key challenges facing family forest owners
  - Create a large-scale pilot to quantify and promote the benefits of innovation in forest management through the adoption of ecological forestry
  - Extend the reach of ecological forestry by working together to create financially viable solutions through strategic partnerships
  
- **The Family Forest Network will support:**
  - Healthy and productive woodlands that are managed in accordance with ecological principles
  - Robust and sustainable contributions by the forest sector to the economy of Nova Scotia
  - Fair compensation for products and services, including for the stewardship of healthy and productive woodlands

# Project Goals (II)

## ➤ **Fostering collaboration**

- For the first time in the history of the province, 11 organizations that serve forest stewards are working together to develop a Family Forest Network in Nova Scotia.
- Additional partners will be welcomed as the project progresses.

## ➤ **Through the Family Forest Network:**

- **Landowners** will get the information, advice, services and market access they need to be exemplary stewards and profitable managers.
- **Service providers** will have the workers and training they need to help these stewards to achieve their goals while earning a fair return for their work.
- **Forest products firms** will benefit from a stable supply of high-quality raw material from well-managed woodlands that support a broad-based and resilient rural economy.
- **Nova Scotia** will be a global model for ecologically sensitive, economically productive and socially responsible forest management.

# The Pilot

- **Over the next five years, FFN will conduct a large-scale pilot of ecological forestry on approximately 200 woodlots throughout Nova Scotia**
  - FFN was awarded a total of \$9.8 million for the pilot and associated activities.
  - The pilot will work only with willing landowners who volunteer to participate. In addition, forest stands to be included in the research must meet selection criteria that will be established by foresters and forest researchers.
  - It will show “how forestry is best managed and practised in Nova Scotia within an ecological forestry paradigm” (Lahey review).
  - The project aims to demonstrate that there are economically viable and ecologically preferable alternatives to intensive management.
  - The pilot will quantify the economic, environmental and social benefits and costs of ecological forestry, and produce evidence-based recommendations for conducting ecologically sensitive management on small woodlands across a wide range of forest conditions.

# The Pilot (II)

## ➤ **Evaluating success**

- The project will have a rigorous evaluation process in place, including data collection, target-setting, performance measures and tracking.
- We believe the FFN's approach will encourage more small, private owners to participate in the forest economy, which would have a significant, positive impact on the supply of wood for local forest-products firms.

## ➤ **Building a foundation for ecologically sensitive forestry**

- New ways of operating, creativity in the use of equipment, robust data collection that informs good decision-making, and “on-the-ground” advice will incentivize woodlot owners to adopt eco-forestry practices.



# New Collaborations

- As a result of a special session called by the Forestry Innovation Transition Trust in July 2021, FFN partnered with five additional organizations to advance an integrated solution.
  - **Biodiversity (MTRI) and Carbon (Community Forests International)**  
Biodiversity and carbon assessments will be performed on every parcel in the pilot. The data collected will inform the forest treatments chosen, the layout of roads and trails that may be needed, and other aspects of the harvest.
  - **Nova Scotia Working Woodlands Trust**  
The Working Woodlands Trust, a project of the Medway Community Forest Cooperative, offers an alternative for stewards who are looking for responsible ways to manage succession.
  - **Internships for NSCC Students**  
The Nova Scotia Community College system will play a leading role in creating a workforce that can profitably and effectively perform ecologically sensitive management. FFN will provide valuable learning opportunities for interns from NSCC in forest management, biodiversity assessment, mapping and other areas.
  - **Partnership with CMM**  
FFN has partnered with the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq to directly involve a Mi'kmaw naturalist in the work of the steering committee, the final design and conduct of our harvesting pilot, and in our public and professional outreach events. The Council of Chiefs has endorsed the project.



# William Lahey Endorsement

“... [T]he application promises to address key questions about the feasibility, potential and practical value of the ecological forestry which is the core recommendation of the Forest Practices Report in protecting and enhancing ecosystems and biodiversity, improving forests, sustaining the forest economy, and supporting careers, families, and communities. It is, without question, the most exciting development I have seen in three years of watching unfolding responses to the Forest Practices Report, which have been long on verbal commitments and planning exercises but short on putting the recommendations of the report to the test in the forests.”

-- William Lahey

# Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq Endorsement

“The Family Forest Network’s pilot project is consistent with Mi’kmaw values regarding responsible forest use and management. The inclusion of a Mi’kmaw naturalist on the steering committee will help to ensure that Mi’kmaq perspectives remain in the forefront during the final design and delivery of the project. This collaboration among forest stewards is a necessary step in the transformation of the forest sector in the province.”

-- Letter of Support approved 21 Sept. 2021  
by the Council of Chiefs, Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq

# For more information

Thank you for the opportunity to present information about this project.

I'm sorry that I can't be there in person to take questions, but you can learn more about the Family Forest Network at [www.nswoods.ca/family-forest-network](http://www.nswoods.ca/family-forest-network), where you can also request updates about the project. If you might be interested in participating in the pilot or working with us as a forest professional or contractor, please sign up for more information.

You're also welcome to send questions to me at [andy.nswooa@gmail.com](mailto:andy.nswooa@gmail.com).