

Boreal Forum

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Winnipeg, Manitoba

Summary of Proceedings

Manitoba Clean Environment Commission

and

Manitoba Model Forest Inc.

May 2002

Foreword

The Manitoba Clean Environment Commission and the Manitoba Model Forest hosted a public forum on the Boreal Forest in Winnipeg on March 5, 2000. Over 500 participants, including representatives of governments, First Nations, industry, environmental organizations and educational institutions, attended the Forum. They came together to share their knowledge and perspectives on the Boreal and to begin a dialogue on sustainable solutions for the many issues identified.

The proceedings were summarized from recordings made during the Forum and from notes provided by several of the speakers. These proceedings are not intended as a verbatim transcript of the presentations.

We thank the speakers and the participants for their interest and enthusiasm.

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Opening Remarks and Ceremony

Mr. Terry Duguid, Chair, Manitoba Clean Environment Commission

Mr. Duguid welcomed everyone to the Boreal Forum – a one day gathering to share knowledge and perspectives on a very important area of Manitoba. He stated that the Manitoba Clean Environment Commission and The Manitoba Model Forest Inc. were pleased to co-sponsor the one-day event. Mr. Duguid explained that the Commission fosters public involvement in the environmental decision making process through public hearings and meetings, environmental mediation, special investigations and environmental education. He mentioned that in 2001 the Clean Environment Commission and the International Institute for Sustainable Development co-sponsored a similar forum entitled “Climate Change: Beginning the Dialogue”.

Mr. Duguid noted that the Forum might well be one of the largest gatherings respecting the Boreal in Canadian history. He went on to say why the landscape holds such importance to Manitobans. He explained that the Boreal Forest is the largest ecosystem in the Province and it constitutes a natural system that residents depend upon for clean water, clean air, stable climate, recreation and employment. He also remarked that Manitoba is more of a Boreal province than a Prairie province with nearly two-thirds of the land area occurring in the Boreal Forest. Mr. Duguid commented that the landscape has defined the country’s history and shaped the identity of Canadians. First Nations, in particular, developed complex cultures and practices over thousands of years living with the bounty and harsh reality of the Boreal Forest.

Mr. Duguid commented that many of the communities in Manitoba’s north are rooted in the abundant natural resources of the Boreal Forest. Today, the region is important to Manitoba’s environmental health, economy, spiritual well-being and identity. Parks and reserves protect the unique heritage of wild rivers, countless lakes, caribou herds, wolf packs and migratory birds. Manitobans are proud of their heritage and people from all over the World come to marvel at this forested region. Mr. Duguid went on to explain that northern communities see the Boreal as key to their survival with countless livelihoods based upon its natural resources.

Mr. Duguid summarized by stating that there are diverse and increasing demands on the Boreal Forest, and that there are many competing interests and views on its future. He expressed hope that by creating a greater understanding of the Boreal and by sharing perspectives, Manitobans can begin a dialogue on the future of the region. Mr. Duguid also noted that Canada is one of three nations on Earth with a remaining frontier forest and that Canada has a unique opportunity to show the World that citizens can live with the Boreal in a sustainable way while continuing to support and develop its communities.

Mr. Mike Waldram, General Manager, Manitoba Model Forest Inc.

Mike Waldram expressed pleasure to be involved with the Boreal Forum on behalf of the partners, supporters and volunteers of the Manitoba Model Forest. He mentioned that the Forum was timely and went on to state that it is important to identify the different perspectives on the Boreal and to begin working together to resolve differences. That is what the Manitoba Model Forest is all about and what the program is trying to do in Manitoba.

Ms. Velma Orvis and Mr. Michael Pierre, Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources

Elder Velma Orvis lead participants through an opening ceremony and prayer. Michael Pierre sang sacred songs before and after the prayer.

Keynote Address

Ambassador Ola Ullsten (Sweden), Co-Chairman, World Commission on Forests and Sustainable Development

Mr. Ullsten spoke about growing up in the northern part of Sweden and learning about the different kinds of forests and their ecology.

Mr. Ullsten reported that since 1850 about half of the World's forests have been lost. Over the past two decades, depletion of forests has been more rapid with some 50 countries losing all of their forests. It is estimated that by 2010 about half of the World's population will be living in countries with no forest cover. Mr. Ullsten went on to mention that 40% of the remaining frontier forests are under threat for various reasons including increased ultraviolet radiation, acid rain and climate change.

Mr. Ullsten mentioned that when conferences such as the Boreal Forum were held 25 to 30 years ago, the main themes were economic issues such as timber harvesting and participants at these conferences were predominately foresters, bureaucrats and traders. The approach is now different in that forests are recognized to have many different functions.

Mr. Ullsten explained that forests form the basis of a huge global industry. He went on to explain that the forests also have spiritual, cultural and recreational dimensions. Forests provide a range of ecological services without which society and the World cannot live. They stabilize the landscape, control erosion, reduce sedimentation, protect rivers and coastlines, control chemistry of groundwater, rivers and lakes, protect fish and fisheries, collect and store water, and produce local rains. Forests also contain at least two-thirds of the Earth's plant and animal species on land.

The Boreal Forest also has an important impact on the global climate since it fixes and metabolizes carbon. As much as 25% of greenhouse gas build-up in the atmosphere may come from deforestation. The climate also has an impact on the forest. Mr. Ullsten recognized that global warming will take place and will result in large-scale disruption to forestry, extinction of many plant and animal species, changes to rainfall patterns, loss of large tracts of coastal lands, less access to reliable water supplies and adverse effects on human health.

It is now known that climate change will hit first and hardest in the northern hemisphere where the Boreal Forest exists. The species in the Boreal Forest have a unique adaptation to the climate, which makes them very sensitive to even the slightest increase in the average annual temperature. Increased fire frequency and outbreaks of pests, triggered by a warmer climate, will cause extensive and perhaps catastrophic biotic change. Conditions for growth of many Boreal tree species will change many times faster than the capacity of these species to migrate to other areas, resulting in the potential disappearance of the Boreal Forest.

Mr. Ullsten referred to the Report of the Manitoba Climate Change Task Force (2001) in which it is suggested that if nothing is done to reverse climate change trends, the southern portion of the

Boreal Forest in Manitoba will decline and disappear while the northern edge will not be able to extend into the Tundra ecosystem due to poor soil conditions.

Mr. Ullsten spoke about climate change as a man-made disaster. He discussed the role of fire as a natural process but with a 40 to 50% increase in frequency, fires become destructive. Similarly, insects serve an important role in forest ecology but if insect attacks increase they can be very harmful to forests. It is likely that the process has already started – warm, dry summers are increasing, strong wind storms are becoming more frequent, water tables have declined, and wetlands and small streams have dried up.

Mr. Ullsten asked about how we could cope with these changes and what could we do. He stated the main reason for these changes is the burning of fossil fuels. To combat the potential destruction of the forests, existing energy policies have to be reviewed and fossil fuels phased out. The problem is not technical as there are alternative energy sources available and there are different ways of increasing the efficiency of energy use.

Mr. Ullsten commended Manitoba for taking a global outlook and focusing on what can be done locally. He also referred to the work of the Canadian Council of Ministers of Forest that recognized the need to take pressure off pristine forests and to meet competition from other countries. These other countries can produce forest products much cheaper than Canada with plantation forests. He quoted a statistic that 3% of the World's land area is taken up by plantation forest and that area produces 22% of the World's wood. In Canada, hybrid poplar can yield from 10 to 35 m³/ha/y depending on site conditions. If 2 million ha of hybrid poplar were planted today on suitable land, the harvest would substitute 20% of Canada's fibre supply in 20 years. Mr. Ullsten suggested harvesting forest plantations instead of cutting down old growth forest.

Mr. Ullsten noted that we have known about non-wood and non-timber services provided by forests for many years. We have taken them for granted and have not linked them to the use of natural resources for economic activities. There are human needs and there are nature's needs. In the past, nature used to take care of it's own but we no longer live off the proceeds of the stock of natural resources. Instead, we are using up the capital stock of resources. This is true for all forms of natural resources. Mr. Ullsten concluded that it is no longer important to make a distinction between human needs and nature's needs. Combating climate change is an important human need as is the right to burn fossil fuels. He stated that this is what sustainable development is all about – how the economy and environment relate to each other. As long as the environment is seen as a subset of economy, development will never be sustainable.

Mr. Ullsten mentioned that environmental indicators (ways of measuring what is happening to the environment) are needed to complement those used to measure the economy. The indicators have to be updated and reported on regularly. They may serve as a continuous "call to arms" against environmental complacency. There is a need for quick and understandable information for policy makers and there is a need to know what is happening over time and across economies. He stressed the importance of developing similar indicators for ecological capital. We need to know what is happening to our renewable resources in relation to how they are being managed. Signals are needed when there is a crisis looming and guidance is needed on changes to achieve sustainability.

Mr. Ullsten referred to the World Commission on Forests and Sustainable Development with respect to the need for policy and decision makers in government and business, and the public to have access to easily understood and compelling information on forests. He mentioned a Forest Capital Index, which is based on a series of indicators representing both the physical stock of

forests and the various services that the stock supports. The Commission left it to scientists to find out how such an index could be established and efforts are currently underway in this regard. The purpose of the index is to support the sustainable use of forests.

Mr. Ullsten concluded by referring to the children of future generations enjoying the Boreal Forest thanks to the wisdom and responsible thinking invested in good ideas such as the Forest Capital Index and the willingness of farsighted governments to make use of them.

Dr. Wayne Lynch, Photographer and Author

Dr. Lynch narrated a slide presentation entitled "Images on the Boreal".

Panel – Understanding the Boreal Forest

Moderator: Dr. Richard Westwood, Associate Professor of Biology, University of Winnipeg

Dr. Westwood introduced the panel members and set out the format of the panel sessions.

Dr. Jan Volney, Canadian Forest Service

Dr. Volney's presentation was titled "Boreal Forest Policy and Sustainability: Art, Alchemy or Science?" He outlined four things to be addressed during his talk: 1) the ecology of forests and how they function, 2) how sustainability can be achieved in Boreal or northern forests in terms of intensive forest management, 3) the downside of forest management practices and provide plausible solutions, and 4) describe the biogeographic politics of resource use.

Dr. Volney mentioned that different natural disturbance agents could be used to illustrate principles that we should be aware of in managing forests. In the case of damage caused by a hurricane, different successional stages result in a forest mosaic. Successional sequences and the dispersion and colonization characteristics of the species are essential elements to consider. Dr. Volney also mentioned that insects cause stand-replacing disturbances and that closely related species as spruce budworm and jackpine budworm often react similarly.

Knowledge of stand dynamics is essential in structuring management prescriptions because it constrains the schedule and array of products that can be derived from the system. In terms of jackpine stands, they are not even-aged if fire is excluded from the system. The numbers and types of species, life history characteristics, natural enemies, natality and mortality schedules all contribute to this description. He explained that insect outbreaks serve to influence the ages of individual trees in jackpine stands and possibly the stands of other species as well.

Dr. Volney spoke about fire as the largest major disturbance in the western Boreal Forest. Various problems result when fire is excluded from the landscape. He mentioned substituting harvesting for fire to create a different type of forest.

Dr. Volney went on to speak about policy and historical aspects of forest management. He mentioned that policy initiatives could have dramatic influences on the natural systems being managed. Often the impacts of these initiatives can only be assessed historically. Nevertheless, there are several examples available and understanding the consequences of these initiatives is required to manage risks effectively. He described a lodgepole pine forest that is maintained in poor condition by a wildlife policy. Despite attempts to regenerate the forest, the animals have

been successful in maintaining a large grazing reserve. Dr. Volney noted that maximizing the yield of single product might not be the best policy if resiliency of the system is to be preserved.

Dr. Volney described global changes in climate, populations and markets, and how they affect the underlying assumptions upon which predictions are based. Many species have adaptations that have permitted their survival to the present. However, the current pace of change may be outside the adaptive capabilities of many species. Any attempt to manage for the long-term must understand the nature of the changes and the opportunities for mitigation. Dr. Volney also discussed the role of insects in monitoring biodiversity and integrity of systems. This cannot be done by birds that migrate or mammals that are sparsely distributed. He explained that if one wants to determine whether an ecosystem is functioning one should look at the organisms that are not being managed.

Dr. Volney discussed intensive forest management as an extreme situation and contrasted the practice to systems where little or no effort is made to change the resource. He explained that it is essential to have opportunities to make these contrasts if the effectiveness of management systems is to be evaluated scientifically. This is not necessarily the only criterion for evaluating effectiveness.

Dr. Volney used a Finnish example and explained that they have done an excellent job of transforming their landscapes for intensive timber production. He explained the results of studies on the management of sawtimber spruce and noted that with intensive management maximum production was achieved after 40 years instead of 95 years with no management. The average yield ($\text{m}^3/\text{ha}/\text{y}$) was 6.81 for managed stands and 2.81 for unmanaged stands. The 2.81 value is about twice the average for forest stands from Manitoba and most of Canada. He also explained that the gross yield included thinnings that would otherwise have been dead wood in the unmanaged system. The yields of the managed stand were well above those of a natural system and six times the national average for unmanaged stands in Canada.

Dr. Volney provided a comparable example of what is possible in Canada using New Brunswick. He explained that site capabilities in the Finnish and New Brunswick situations are virtually identical. The yields ($\text{m}^3/\text{ha}/\text{y}$) were 6.81 for Finland and 9.17 for New Brunswick. There is a suggestion that the New Brunswick sites can out perform the Finnish sites. This does not apply to all of Canada, but the rate of return appears attractive for timber production.

Dr. Volney explained the ecological downside of intensive forest management in Finland where only 3 to 4 percent of the landscape is protected. Major tree species are threatened, the ecological core (Aspen) is virtually extinct, there is a suspicion that 250 forest dwelling species are threatened and there is an unknown effect on mushrooms. The Finns have invested heavily in assessing the impact of timber production on forested lands.

Dr. Volney mentioned that to maintain productivity one has to protect yield, site productivity, land base and economic flexibility and, at the same time, maintain species diversity, habitats and ecosystem processes. One possible solution advocated to manage these trade-offs is the TRIAD approach. It involves establishment of: 1) reserves and protected areas, 2) extensive forest management areas, and 3) areas of intensive forest management. It is a controversial approach but it illustrates the nature of land use policies that could address some of the current management issues.

Dr. Volney noted that the management problem is a very difficult one to solve. One way of approaching the question of how much land to allocate to each TRIAD component is to look at the

resource capability. We are unable to manage each species in the ecosystem so some alternative must be found. An example that embodies economic and political constraints is to look at how forests in Canada are depleted. Dr. Volney went on to discuss the annual allowable cut, insects and disease, fire and harvest as parts of total forest depletion. He discussed balancing a depletion equation to achieve policy targets for sustainability.

Dr. Volney went on to speak about bio-geopolitics in terms of monopolies, resource exploitation – past, present and future. He expressed concern about the Russian fibre flowing into Europe and affecting Western fibre markets, the effects of fossil fuel use and the generation of CO₂ in the atmosphere.

Mr. Wellington Spence, Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation

Mr. Spence spoke about the sacred land of the First Nation people. He explained why the land is sacred and how the Great Spirit put everything on the land for everyone's survival. Mr. Spence said that just by looking at the land we can see how beautiful it is.

Mr. Spence mentioned that the land is provided for us to use and to take what is needed. The rest has to be left for the next generation to come. He noted that this does not seem to be happening in that there are a few people who get rich on the land while the rest stay poor. Mr. Spence suggested that everyone has to learn to share the resources from the land. He also mentioned that many are dishonest and selfish, and commented that it is sad that only a few benefit from the beauty of the land.

Mr. Spence spoke about sharing resources from the land and commented that First Nations do not get the benefits of the resources taken from their lands. He stated that he would like to see that changed to make the lives of people more comfortable by sharing better.

Mr. Spence went on to speak about pollution of the land and mentioned that he cannot drink the water in his area. He spoke about health concerns and the need to start cleaning up the environment. He also suggested that other land users need to be taught how to clean up after themselves.

Mr. Paul Cormier, Parks Canada Agency

Mr. Cormier's presentation, entitled "Approaches to the Integration of Traditional Ecological Knowledge", consisted of: • personal background, • description of Parks Canada's organization and the relationship with Aboriginal people, • description of the challenges of the Manitoba Field Unit, • discussion of traditional knowledge in Pacific Rim National Park Reserve, • explanation why traditional ecological knowledge is important to Parks Canada, and • how Mr. Cormier "bridged the gap". Mr. Cormier explained that he is Aboriginal and discussed growing up off-reserve.

Mr. Cormier went on to describe the mandate of the Parks Canada as the protection and preservation of our heritage for the future. He explained that there are national parks, national historic sites and marine conservation areas. Mr. Cormier outlined Parks Canada's priorities in terms of working with Aboriginal groups, and noted that national parks and historic sites across Canada are in close proximity to communities. That brings everyone together and forces people to look at each other's perspectives. Parks Canada is also a major player in land claims and treaty negotiations in the north with the establishment of new national parks. He noted that one-third of national parks have cooperative management boards that include First Nation and

Aboriginal people. There is also a national historic sites cost share program that focuses on the integration of Aboriginal perspectives and a new jointly developed tourism strategies program that promotes authentic visitor experiences.

Mr. Cormier provided an overview of the Manitoba Field Unit and explained that it encompasses all program areas in Manitoba excluding Riding Mountain National Park. The Field Unit has many unique challenges but there are also some commonalities across the country. One of the top issues is respect for Aboriginal views and concerns. Mr. Cormier explained that past research did not use traditional knowledge to compliment scientific knowledge and to do so requires respect for Aboriginal beliefs, traditions and culture.

Mr. Cormier spoke about why traditional ecological knowledge is important to Parks Canada. He explained that traditional knowledge compliments and verifies scientific knowledge. Mr. Cormier explained that traditional ecological knowledge provides opportunities for Parks Canada staff to learn and it provides Aboriginal people with a voice in the management of national parks and sties. It also offers different historical perspectives and helps with park or site planning, zoning and management.

Mr. Cormier summarized by discussing “bridging the gap” through respect, a holistic approach, history, context and common interests, and concluded by relating what the Boreal Forest means to him personally.

Mr. Mike Waldram, General Manager, Manitoba Model Forest Inc.

Mr. Waldram’s presentation introduced the concept of Canada’s model forest program and highlighted activities being undertaken by model forests across the country including issues being addressed, and research and development that is taking place. The presentation also included an introduction to the partners of the model forest in Manitoba, highlights of some of the research and development programs being carried out and plans for the next five years.

Mr. Waldram explained that Natural Resources Canada, through the Canadian Forest Service, took the lead in 1991 in establishing Canada’s Model Forest Program inviting Canadians to integrate the concept of sustainable development at the local level. He explained the model forest program is the World’s largest initiative to develop innovative approaches for sustainable forest management. It addresses the need to shift from the theory of sustainable development to its practice, and encourages local partnerships to identify forest values important to communities and to develop ways to ensure their sustainability. It also develops models for partner-based, multi-stakeholder decision making. There is a network of 12 model forests that represent the range of Canada’s forest regions, land tenure arrangements and socio-economic conditions.

Mr. Waldram explained the vision of the Model Forest program as “A national network of Model Forests at the leading edge of sustainable forest management in Canada”. He went on to review the objectives of the Model Forest program as: 1) encourage development of forest management systems that demonstrate practical application of sustainable forest management, 2) encourage incorporation of broad range of forest values into each Model Forest, 3) encourage Model Forest participants and organizations to work together as a network, 4) promote dissemination of the results and knowledge gained through the Model Forest program at local, national and international levels, and 5) establish acceptable local indicators of sustainable forest management, including measurements and monitoring systems and reporting mechanisms that can measure performance relative to the Model Forest’s goals and objectives

Mr. Waldram showed the locations of the 12 model forests across Canada in relation to different forest types and focused on those in the Boreal Forest. He went on to speak about research and development aids produced by the Model Forest Program including “Biodiversity: Information Kit Prepared for the Canadian Model Forest Network” and “A User’s Guide to Local Level Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management”.

Mr. Waldram reviewed research and development activities in the model forests across Canada including the study of landscape thresholds for the Newfoundland marten and landscape modelling in Western Newfoundland Model Forest, forest tenant farming system management in the Bas-Saint-Laurent Model Forest of Quebec, soil disturbance and harvest and regeneration protection system logging method (HARP) in Ontario’s Lake Abitibi Model Forest, integrated forest management planning in the Prince Albert Model Forest in Saskatchewan, grizzly bear research in the Foothills Model Forest in Alberta and scenario planning using visual models in British Columbia’s McGregor Model Forest.

Mr. Waldram spoke about the Manitoba Model Forest as a non-government, non-profit organization that is funded by various sources including government and industry. He reviewed membership on the Board of Directors that includes government, industry, First Nations, universities, non-government organizations, associations and unions, and explained that the Manitoba Model Forest deals with many other organizations. Mr. Waldram went on to speak about the location and nature of the research programs being carried out. The programs mentioned included different harvest methods, emulation of wildfire through logging, caribou research, computer program for capturing local knowledge.

Mr. Waldram concluded by outlining Manitoba Model Forest themes for the next five years, which include sustainable forest stewardship, woodlot management, local level participation, education and training, and international program.

Discussion

A representative of the Sagkeeng First Nation mentioned that there is a mill that is owned and operated by Tembec. She asked how the community would be provided with clean water and how a proposed road to the north would affect First Nation communities. She went on to ask who is going to help the community, why there is only one unionized Aboriginal person in the mill and what kind of partnership is being proposed. She called for solid employment, which is not going to hurt the land.

The moderator explained that there was no one on the panel from Tembec to address the concerns. Mike Waldram described Manitoba Model Forest programs dealing with water quality relative to forest harvesting but there are no plans to look at water quality relative to the mill. He indicated that Tembec is required to monitor water quality and report the results to the government. With respect to the road, Mr. Waldram mentioned that everyone is aware of the proposal and noted that Manitoba has set up a planning process to address the road and other proposals.

Ms. Caroline Bruyere, Sagkeeng First Nation mentioned that she is very glad to see that there are many First Nation people and a large number of youth at the gathering. She observed that there are more people from industry on the panel than there are people dealing with the damage that has been done. She also mentioned the low employment level in Sagkeeng. Ms. Bruyere asked for assurance that the east side of Lake Winnipeg will be properly planned, designed and managed,

and that it will take traditional land use abilities into account. She went on to mention ownership of natural resources and sharing the benefits of those resources.

Mr. Cormier expressed his sympathy about the situation and referred to the difficulty of living in two separate Worlds as an Aboriginal person. He stated that his traditional education stopped when his formal education began. Mr. Cormier went on to suggest that there is an opportunity for a solution when the two Worlds come together which starts with education and communication.

A participant spoke about the value of the tropical forest and the onslaught that has occurred with respect to those forests. He went on to note that there has been ongoing concern about the drastic reduction of forests in Canada and other countries. He asked if Canada's Boreal Forest is sufficiently protected and if we are exploiting the forest to the extent that it can still sustain itself or should there be some rethinking about the annual allowable cut.

Dr. Volney responded by referring to depletions in contrast to the annual allowable cut, which relates to continuous yield over time. He mentioned that this is no longer adequate and that people need to look at setting aside territory for protected places. He also noted that these areas have to be larger. Dr. Volney recommended intensive forestry on abandoned lands and development of new genetic stocks as part of intensive forest management as strategies to meet present and future demands. He mentioned that we are interfering with the life support system of the planet and that we better be very certain that what we do is sustainable in terms of economics and allows the biological integrity of the systems to persist.

Dr. Volney added that Canada is a World leader in criteria and indicators of sustainability, and supported efforts to translate indicators into real ecological measures that track the footprint of people on the landscape and the integrity of the ecosystem.

Lunch Speaker

Mr. Stuart Elgie, Executive Director, Canadian Boreal Trust Foundation

Mr. Elgie introduced the Canadian Boreal Trust Foundation as a new organization founded in 2001 with the goal to conserve Canada's Boreal Forest ecosystems. He explained the goal means more than just protected areas – it means sustaining communities and sustainable development in local communities, particularly First Nations.

Mr. Elgie explained that the Boreal Trust works in three main ways: 1) it provides information to inform the debate about the Boreal Forest, 2) it brings different interests together to reach solutions on how to manage the Boreal Forest, and 3) it provides funding to First Nations, scientists, conservation groups and others interested in Boreal conservation. Funding for the Boreal Trust comes from different foundations throughout North America.

Mr. Elgie mentioned that the Boreal Trust operates from Labrador to the Yukon but there is particular interest in Manitoba because of the leadership opportunities that exist in the province. He went on to describe how frontier forests have changed due to exploitation, and stated that only 20% of the World's frontier forests remain and Canada has 25% of these forests. He went on to explain why Manitoba has such a great opportunity and how it may be realized. Mr. Elgie pointed to the east side of Lake Winnipeg as example of how land-use decisions will affect the future of the Boreal Forest.

Mr. Elgie concluded by summarizing three points: 1) learn from the mistakes of other jurisdictions across Canada in terms of how to do large land use planning, 2) do land use planning right by sharing power and responsibilities, and 3) take advantage of the growing interest in Manitoba's Boreal Forest to accomplish sustainable forest management.

Hon. Oscar Lathlin, Minister of Conservation

Mr. Lathlin spoke about the government's priorities on issues that affect the Boreal Forest and other forests in the province. He observed that the large attendance indicates the high value placed on the forests and discussed the importance of Manitoba's forests for wildlife, watersheds, air quality and way of life. The forest also supports many people in northern communities who depend upon its resources to sustain themselves. Manitobans also appreciate the recreation, relaxation and beauty that the forests provide.

Mr. Lathlin discussed the important role of forests in Manitoba and recognized the need to ensure that they thrive into the future. He outlined three primary goals to sustain Manitoba's forests: 1) protect forest ecosystems throughout the province, 2) increase employment and co-management opportunities for Aboriginal communities, and 3) make Manitoba a leader in promoting a sustainable forest economy. He also stated that achieving these goals has never been so important, particularly for the Boreal Forest.

Mr. Lathlin referred to Manitoba's climate change task force report in terms of the Boreal Forest and mentioned that the southern portions of the forest may disappear while the northern edge may not be able to extend into the existing Tundra. He called for creative strategies to sustain ecological functions and biological diversity of the forests as well as sustainable economic benefits. Mr. Lathlin mentioned the Canada Forest Accord and indicated that the government is working toward implementing the Accord and provincial forest policies through Manitoba's forest management plan.

Mr. Lathlin went on to refer to the Consultation on Sustainable Development Implementation Report (COSDI) recommendations for large area planning and working cooperatively with Aboriginal communities. He mentioned creation of the Aboriginal Resource Council to provide advice to government and establishment of the Aboriginal Relations Branch in Manitoba Conservation to develop a protocol for co-management of resources. In addition, he mentioned active recruitment of Aboriginal people for resource management programs. Mr. Lathlin noted that sustainable forest management practices are also being undertaken in Manitoba's forestry sector.

Mr. Lathlin stated that more work has to be done to achieve the goal of maintaining sustainable forests and communities. He went on to highlight five priorities that are necessary to a long-term forest management policy in Manitoba: 1) increase scientific and traditional knowledge of Manitoba's forests, 2) enhance stewardship of forest by making sure that Manitobans have a commitment to renewal through activities like tree planting, 3) work to increase employment and co-management opportunities alongside Aboriginal communities, 4) promote a sustainable forest economy both through traditional products and by expanding opportunities for non-timber forest products and eco-tourism, and 5) update and improve legislation and guidelines through a new Manitoba Forestry Act.

Mr. Lathlin concluded by announcing the release of "Next Steps: Priorities for Sustaining Manitoba's Forests", a document outlining the direction for government, industry and First Nations to help Manitoba's forests thrive in the future.

Panel – Sharing Perspectives I

Moderator: Mr. Ed Huebert, Executive Vice-President, Mining Association of Manitoba

Mr. Huebert introduced the panel members and the format for the panel session.

Ms. Gail Whelan Enns, Manitoba Director, Wildlands Campaign, Canadian Nature Federation

Ms. Whelan Enns started by talking about the action plan for Manitoba's network of protected areas, which has been public policy since 1990 and has been adopted by the current government. She went on to speak about protection standards being equivalent to national park standards and referred to the vision statement and principles within the province's action plan.

Ms. Whelan Enns mentioned that there are a variety of public policy reports that confirm Manitoba's commitment to a network of protected areas. She referred to a report produced at the end of the endangered spaces campaign, which reaffirms Manitoba's objectives to protect representative examples of the province's diverse landscapes. Ms. Whelan Enns also mentioned Manitoba's natural regions framework. She went on to show World Wildlife Fund maps from the end of the endangered spaces campaign beginning in 1990 and illustrated results of decisions made on protected areas over the 1990s. She noted that the percentage of protected areas increased from 0.5% in 1990 to 8.6% in 2000.

Ms. Whelan Enns discussed Manitoba's natural region grid and noted the various protected area designations. She mentioned that there are currently 160 areas of special interest under review in the province. Ms. Whelan Enns noted that the mining sector has supported completion of the protected areas network for four years and showed a map illustrating areas endorsed by that sector. She noted that the protocol and model used in consultations to accomplish this is ahead of the rest of the country.

Ms. Whelan Enns concluded by speaking about a report card grade that is issued each spring on how the government is doing in fulfilling its commitments.

Mr. Don Sullivan, Boreal Forest Network

Mr. Sullivan's presentation, entitled "The Northern Edge: Our Vanishing Halo", dealt with: • Boreal Forest Network, • circumpolar Boreal, • Boreal Forest region of Canada, • forest under threat in Canada, • Boreal Shield Ecozone, • internal and external stresses, • indicators of change and • what needs to be done.

Mr. Sullivan explained that the Boreal Forest Network is the North American affiliate of the Taiga Rescue Network, which was founded in 1992 and consists of an international network of 150 organizations from North America, Europe and Russia. The network is the only international body working to protect the World's remaining high conservation value Boreal Forest. The goals of the network are to promote socially, economically and ecologically sound management of the Boreal Forest and to ensure that Indigenous Peoples rights are respected. The methods are education, advocacy, campaign coordination, research and policy analysis.

Mr. Sullivan discussed the circumpolar Boreal a halo around the northern hemisphere and explained that the Boreal Forest is the single largest terrestrial ecosystem in the World – the

northern lungs of the planet. He went on to describe the six terrestrial ecozones of the Boreal Forest region. Mr. Sullivan commented on medium to high-threatened frontier or high-conservation value forests under threat in North America based on a map produced by the World Resource Institute.

Mr. Sullivan described the Boreal Forest region and provided the following highlights: covers 20% of Canada's land mass and is the single largest terrestrial ecosystem in Canada, stretches 3,800 km from the eastern tip of Newfoundland to the northeast corner of Alberta, less than 3% of the Boreal Shield is protected from all forms of industrial resource extraction activities, contains 43% of Canada's commercial forest, accounts for 22% of Canada's freshwater, contributes almost \$50 billion to Canada's GDP (hydro - \$16B, mining - \$6B, forestry - \$5.9B), and home to 3 million people and accounts for 15% of the resource based employment for the nation.

Mr. Sullivan discussed internal and external stresses on the Boreal Forest. Internal stresses described were forestry, mining and hydroelectricity while the main external stress was climate change. With respect to climate change, Mr. Sullivan indicated that the Boreal Shield and wetlands are likely to be highly vulnerable to the effects of global warming. Changes in lakes and rivers in the Boreal Shield have already been observed in Experimental Lakes Area since the 1970s. He explained that a temperature increase of 1.6 degrees C and a 40% drop in precipitation has led to shorter ice cover period on lakes, a decrease in dissolved organic carbon and phosphorus and a decrease in phytoplankton

Mr. Sullivan went on to discuss indicators of change including forest fires, insects and contaminants. Forest fires – records show an upward trend in both fire occurrence and area burned in recent years. Insects – outbreaks in the Boreal Shield have increased in area and duration over the past 25 years. Contaminants – many fish species throughout Ontario and Manitoba contain dangerously high levels of mercury, resulting in warnings regarding the amount of fish that can be safely consumed by humans.

Mr. Sullivan concluded by outlining major actions that need to be undertaken as follows: 1) more of the Boreal Shield needs to be protected from all forms of large-scale resource development activities, 2) governments need to increase monitoring and baseline data on the Boreal Shield, 3) governments need to conduct land use planning that accounts for all uses and protects ecological integrity prior to allocating resources, 4) granting of tenures and other forms of resource allocations need to be transparent and include public input at the earliest stage of the process, 5) governments need to enact legislation that protects species habitat, 6) full cost accounting needs to be employed when governments set Crown royalties for resources extracted on Crown land, 7) Crown must develop a consultation policy that passes the legal test of meaningfulness with regard to their obligation when infringing on Aboriginal treaty rights, and 8) procurement of forest products from the Boreal Shield should come from Forest Stewardship Council certified forest.

Chief Vera Mitchell, Poplar River First Nation

Chief Mitchell's presentation, entitled "Protection of Traditional Lands for Future Generations", consisted of a slide show on the Poplar River First Nation and a discussion on the Poplar/Nanowin Rivers Park Reserve.

Chief Mitchell spoke about the Poplar/Nanowin Rivers Park Reserve and the initiative that has been taken by the First Nation and the government. She commented that the Park Reserve is part of the fourth largest piece of undisturbed territory in the World. First Nation people have lived in that natural environment for generations and have sustained families on the land. She does not

see the devastation like there is across Lake Winnipeg or to the north. There is no pollution, the trees are still their natural state, the forests are intact, all living things are well and they want to keep it that way.

Chief Mitchell mentioned that it took a long time to get the province to do something about conservation but they are now at the stage where they are taking action to protect the Boreal Forest for everyone's sake. She commented that no one has looked at First Nation land rights since the *Natural Resources Transfer Act* was signed in 1930 and that the natural resources have never been shared with First Nations. She gave credit to the province for taking a serious look at traditional land designations.

Chief Mitchell stated that if the Poplar River First Nation did not take a stand to protect their traditional territory, they would be left with nothing. The ecosystem is still in its natural state and they want to sustain the land so that their children and grandchildren can enjoy the environment as well. She noted that people in Poplar River still live off the land and enjoy the abundant life that the land gives them. They are the keepers or stewards of the land that was given to them by the Creator.

Chief Mitchell concluded by stating that everyone needs to stop talking about the problems and to start doing something about them. She recommended that Manitoba start with small pieces and parcels of territory that are still undisturbed so that the land can stay in that state.

Mr. Barry Waito, Woodlands Superintendent, Louisiana Pacific Canada Ltd.

Mr. Waito spoke about the importance of the Boreal Forest and the forest industry, current issues and commitments, present practices undertaken by the industry and suggestions for a path forward.

Mr. Waito noted that the Boreal Forest is important to everyone. For the forest industry the Boreal Forest has been important for its availability of fibre to meet growing market demands. It also provides employment and benefits in communities that often have few opportunities. He commented that the land base is faced with a number of issues and challenges such as the uncertainty of land base withdrawals due to species at risk legislation, protected area initiatives and park management plans.

Mr. Waito commented on the challenge due to existing timber-based inventories, which are now out of date. These inventories have been the basis for calculating the allowable annual cut. As new inventories are developed and ecosystem based management principles are applied, there may be challenges to existing annual allowable cut levels. Mr. Waito noted that Louisiana-Pacific and other companies are doing a significant amount of research across the Boreal Forest. It is often just as much effort to translate the results of this research into measurable field practices.

Mr. Waito spoke about the challenge of understanding First Nations issues and processes. He mentioned that it would be desirable to see Treaty Land Entitlement negotiations completed in a reasonable timeframe. The company has continued involvement in Forest Management Plans but is challenged by how to utilize the knowledge and to integrate traditional uses within present structures. Mr. Waito mentioned that most companies have stakeholder advisory committees in place that include representatives of all outside interests who assist in development of plans and minimize conflicts from operations.

Mr. Waito also spoke about how non-timber forest products are becoming a significant business in some parts of the Boreal Forest. He noted that these products provide challenges and that they can impact forest management planning and harvest plans. Mr. Waito also spoke about ongoing discussions on the effects of global warming and climate change. He noted that there is still uncertainty about the effect of climate change and its effect on the Boreal Forest, and how to utilize the information from modeling exercises. Mr. Waito also spoke about conducting public education through open houses and field tours as a necessary part of forestry operations.

Mr. Waito went on to mention that to achieve sustainable forest management it is necessary to address the balance among ecological, social and economic issues. While these issues cover a large spectrum there is only a small area that actually fits within sustainable forest management. Anything outside of this area may meet a particular need, but it may not address sustainability adequately.

Mr. Waito also spoke about integrating natural disturbance concepts including insects and fire into forest management planning. He went on to note that the forest industry has been actively involved in various legislative updates such as: *Species at Risk Act*, endangered spaces and protected areas initiatives, *Forest Act* amendments, *Environment Act* amendments, national forestry strategy, criteria and indicator review, *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* amendments as well as emerging initiatives such as climate change.

Mr. Waito mentioned that the forest industry is in various stages of implementing practices such as developing partnerships with First Nation communities in harvesting and other related activities, collecting and utilizing detailed site-specific pre-harvest surveys, and proactive involvement in research organizations or co-operatives. He mentioned some of the research initiative including Duck Mountain Forest Bird Monitoring Project, Ducks Unlimited Western Boreal Forest Initiative and sustainable forest projects. He also mentioned additional forest research and monitoring projects, such as developing forest management plans in co-operation with First Nations and various stakeholders, development of forest management plans utilizing a local level indicator approach within a criteria and indicator framework. In Manitoba, Louisiana-Pacific has partnered with the Manitoba government to undertake a multi-million dollar forest land-use inventory project in the Mountain Forest section.

Mr. Waito concluded by speaking about the opportunities that exist to form better partnerships with Model Forests outside their present boundaries, work closely with research networks, develop solid local land indicators within a criteria and indicator framework, design better ecosystem based management approaches based long term plans, and work together to identify alternative sources of fibre through initiatives such as Forest 2020. He mentioned that no single person or group has the solution for the numerous issues facing the Boreal Forest today or in the future and that "none of us is as smart as all of us".

Discussion

Mr. Bud Ewacha asked Ms. Whalen Enns what is being done to protect other important areas such as the Gull Lake wetlands in terms of orchid and other species. Ms. Whalen Enns discussed the protected areas initiative for this area and noted that it requires approval by the First Nation community.

Mr. Al Mackling expressed concern about statistics presented that indicate that there were no protected lands in Manitoba prior to 1990.

He mentioned that there were small parcels of land that were protected by specific pieces of legislation and other protected areas of the province contained residual land uses. Ms. Whalen Enns accepted the correction and went on to review the history of park establishment in Manitoba.

Mr. Paul Chief, Brokenhead First Nation asked how many in attendance live in the Boreal Forest. He then went on to ask what is being done to clean up Winnipeg's social and ecological issues and suggested that people clean up their own mess before giving advice to others. Mr. Chief also commented on protected areas and suggested that proper consultations should take place for their establishment.

Elder Lawrence Smith, Brokenhead First Nation asked how Mother Earth is going to be sustainable in the future. He mentioned that a lot of money was spent on environmental studies but not much has happened in terms of cleaning up the mess that has been created.

A participant asked if any research has been done on industrial hemp as a fibre product to relieve stress on the Boreal Forest. Mr. Waito responded that Louisiana-Pacific does not currently use the product but the company is looking into the matter.

Ms. Caroline Bruyere, Sagkeeng First Nation observed that Manitoba Hydro and the Mining Association are not on the agenda. She commented that First Nations want their Aboriginal and treaty rights respected and that these rights need to be enforced in Manitoba.

Elder Lawrence Smith, Brokenhead First Nation commented that the Boreal Forum is a starting process to educate one and other and to come together to find a solution for each of us. The land we live on is the land of the Aboriginal people.

Panel – Sharing Perspectives II

Moderator: Moses Okimaw, Manitoba Clean Environment Commission

Mr. Moses Okimaw introduced the panel members and outlined the format of the panel session.

Mr. Tim Gray, Executive Director, Wildlands League, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society

Mr. Gray's presentation, entitled "Setting the Stage: Land-Use Planning in the Boreal Forest" addressed: • Canada's Boreal Forest values, • land-use planning: driving forces, • land-use planning goals: the conservation givens, • land-use planning: the "no" list and the "yes" list, • questions to be answered, and • steps to good land use planning.

Mr. Gray reviewed ecological values of the Boreal Forest and mentioned that it is a globally significant forest with millions of hectares of spruce, tamarack, fir and jackpine – most still in a wild state. Mr. Gray mentioned that the "managed half" still maintains almost complete species assemblage, and that fire and wind are still important renewal factors. Significant protected areas are present in parts of this region. In the "wild half" fire and wind and natural renewal remain unimpaired and most waterways run free. The Boreal Forest is also a key carbon sink and is sensitive to climate change.

Mr. Gray went on to discuss social, cultural and economic values related to the Boreal Forest and mentioned that the northern portion is populated largely by First Nations. There are many social

and economic challenges and a rapidly expanding population. Trapping and fishing are still an important way of life but there is a strong desire for additional economic development. “Managed” portions are home to large industrial and post-industrial cities. He also mentioned that the Boreal landscape defines Canada. Economic values include the core of lumber production in Canada (about 80% of Ontario’s timber harvest comes from currently “managed” section). Extraction of minerals (e.g. gold, diamonds) and oil and gas continue to grow and open markets in electricity are encouraging new hydro developments. Tourism is also of growing importance.

Mr. Gray discussed the driving forces for land-use planning. He mentioned that society has poor appreciation of limits to growth. Forest harvest rates are still climbing and it is assumed that there is no limit to consumption. There is increased emphasis on fossil fuel burning by U.S., which leads to climate change and land development pressure, and there is greater resource scarcity, competition and land-use conflict. Mr. Gray went on to discuss the growing international and domestic concern (including consumers) about the fate and value of the Boreal Forest. Awareness and openness to conservation has increased in some industries (forestry), and ENGO and First Nation experience has improved over previous years. There is also some awareness in government on the need for improved land use planning before resource licensing.

Boreal Forest land use planning goals, “The Conservation First” givens, should be: 1) to complete, an ecologically representative protected areas system throughout the Boreal Forest, 2) resource management practices that maintain full species assemblages and populations, and 3) land and resource plans and agreements that provide sustainable economic and social benefits to First Nations. He went on to discuss Boreal land-use planning goals: The “no” list included no resource allocation before land-use planning in “wild Boreal” and no new industrial expansion without making room for protected areas and sustainable use in the “managed” Boreal. The “yes” list included participation in land-use planning, forestry that is ecologically sustainable, and mining, oil and gas, hydro in areas where appropriate.

Mr. Gray listed a number of questions to answer in relation to strategic goals and driving forces: 1) what should our protected areas system look like in the Boreal Forest, 2) what are “ecologically sustainable forestry practices”, 3) what sort of forestry tenure model would advance conservation and provide options for First Nations, 4) what sort of oil and gas, mining and hydro development is appropriate given current knowledge, 5) what is the role of the Boreal Forest in climate change, and 6) can we define aspects of the future economy that re-enforces and supports sustainability?

Mr. Gray summarized his presentation by listing the steps to good land use planning outcomes as: 1) to finalize and clarify planning goals before land use planning process starts, 2) to ensure round table members are committed to these goals, 3) to provide resources (human, financial) to ensure that land-use options come with clearly identified impact/benefit analysis, and 4) to finish land use planning before resource allocation begins.

Mr. George Kemp, Interim President, First Nations Limited Partnership

Mr. Kemp spoke about the First Nations Limited Partnership as a company set up to negotiate a joint venture with Tembec. He went on to describe the area, which includes both sides of Lake Winnipeg, Interlake Region and Southeast Region up to Berens River, and ownership of the licence area currently held by the Pine Falls Paper Company. Mr. Kemp discussed the partnership arrangement and what it means to the First Nation communities.

Mr. Paul Chief, Grand Chief, Kiiwetino Ma“iingan

Mr. Chief spoke first about Kiiwetino Ma“iingan – a shared forest stewardship company. It involves shared caring for the land through a community-based focus. It incorporates traditional land use, knowledge and respect into plans and operations. Both the First Nations Limited Partnership and Pine Falls Paper Company placed their respective proposals together for Kiiwetino Ma“iingan so that there would be equal ownership by both parties. The company would create 200+ new woodlands jobs, such as harvesting, renewal, trucking, road building, planning and administration.

Mr. Chief went on to speak about Gaa-bi-mooka”ang Ltd. – a sawmill company. It involves equal ownership by First Nations Limited Partnership and Pine Falls Paper Company and equal representation on the board of directors. The First Nations Limited Partnership will have the right to 100% of sawmill ownership. It will create 125 sawmill jobs with 2 shifts and 160 jobs with 3 shifts. There will be an equal employment policy through a joint hiring committee. Both parties will have equal equity in a \$70+ million capital investment. A portion of the lumber will be made available for First Nation housing. The partnership creates a foundation for future First Nation forest product ventures. Mr. Chief also described the area of the First Nations Limited Partnership and the operating arrangements.

Mr. Al Benoit, Manitoba Metis Federation

Mr. Benoit outlined the purpose of his presentation, which was to describe the Manitoba Metis Federation history and structure, outline some Metis issues regarding lands and resources, and share information pertaining to current Metis land use.

Mr. Benoit described the Metis as one of three distinct “Aboriginal peoples of Canada”. They are recognized under Section 35 (2) of Canada’s *Constitution Act* (1982). Aboriginal peoples include the Indian [First Nations], Inuit and Metis. The Metis people were born from the marriages of Cree, and Anishnabe women, and the French and Scottish fur traders. The Metis homeland encompasses: Saskatchewan, Alberta, Manitoba, north-central U.S., and parts of British Columbia, Northwest Territories and Ontario.

Mr. Benoit describe the Metis culture which includes the Metis attire such as woven sashes, embroidered, quilted and beaded bags, jackets, leggings and saddles, the York Boat, and language called Michif. He went on to describe fiddle music and the Red River cart. Mr. Benoit also mentioned that the Metis nation developed a unique political and legal culture with strong democratic traditions. The nation had elected councils, laws to organize hunts and managed resources. By 1816, the Metis challenged the Hudson Bay Company monopoly and created provisional governments in 1869-70 to negotiate Manitoba’s confederation.

Mr. Benoit went on to describe the Manitoba Metis Federation today as the representative of the Metis Nation within Manitoba. The Federation’s mandate is, in part, to promote and protect the full participation of its members in the community at large, and the political, social and economic interests of its members. He also reviewed the Federation’s structure. The Board and the elected executive of 140 Locals, serve over 100,000 Manitoba Metis, including approximately 40,000 adult voting members.

Mr. Benoit discussed outline some Metis issues regarding lands and resources including the *Manitoba Act 1870* – Metis Treaty, Dumont vs. Attorney-General of Canada, *Dominion Lands Act 1879*, *Dominion Lands Act 1906* and Order-in-Council 1459, Royal Commission on

Aboriginal Peoples – Lands and Resources, and Aboriginal Justice Implementation Commission. He concluded by noting that 15% of the Metis in Manitoba are employed in natural resource industries, many are still involved in resource harvesting activities and most believe that Metis should be directly involved in decision-making, planning and management.

Discussion

Ms. Donna Danaluk asked what her role, as a Winnipeg resident, should be in protecting the Boreal Forest. Mr. Chief responded by stating that First Nations need help but they do not need to be told what is right. First Nations need support to become part of the solution and not part of the problem.

Ms. Sylvie Heibert responded to Ms. Danaluk's question by suggesting that people in Winnipeg can help the Boreal Forest by reducing fossil fuel consumption, recycling, reusing and reducing materials, reducing water consumption and reducing electricity consumption.

Ms. Caroline Bruyere asked about the sawmill and employment opportunities, particularly who will get the homes in the communities. She also asked how long it will take to consult with the First Nation people and to see the documents in draft form.

Mr. Chief responded by stating that the document is a recommended agreement and the only document signed was an interim licence. A harmonization agreement was also signed among all eleven First Nations so that they could work together. The unions are very concerned but they support jobs for First Nation members. Lumber for houses would be provided on a per capita basis with larger communities getting more houses. Regarding consultation with First Nations, an 8 to 14 month consultation process will be undertaken once the licence is submitted.

A participant (unidentified) asked how the increased allowable cut will be carried out to sustain the forests and whether there will be clear-cutting with the increase. Mr. Chief responded by stating that currently one tree species is utilized but the sawmill will use both tree species. He explained that the increase is because both species will be used instead of one. Mr. Chief stated that they do not want to clear-cut and that alternative methods will be used that incorporate traditional ecological knowledge.

Mr. Gerald McIvor, Sandy Bay First Nation, expressed concern about reducing treaties to partnerships. He went on to quote Chief Dan George by saying that when they pollute the last drop of water, when they cut down that last tree and when they catch that last fish, they will realize that is too late because they cannot eat the almighty dollar.

Forum Summary

Dr. Art Hansen, International Institute for Sustainable Development

Dr. Hansen provided summary observations and comments on the Boreal Forum. He first noted that a major message emerging from the Forum was to "walk softly on the Boreal Forest" and to respect the ecosystem and each other, while developing a much deeper ecological and social understanding. Dr. Hansen referred to several descriptions of the Boreal Forest including: 'The Halo'- the World's largest terrestrial ecosystem surrounding the North Pole, 'The Boreal Forest' – full values are not widely recognized or even its extent in Canada, 'Home' – places of mystery,

majesty, sacred values, and 'The Forest' – place that we always want to be and meeting many needs.

Dr. Hansen noted that Canadians have a special global stewardship role. It is unique in terms of managing intact northern forest landscapes, which is under the scrutiny of both the Americans and the Europeans. He asked whether there will be conflict or cooperation, and will the funds be spent working against each other or in support of broadly supported sustainable solutions. Dr. Hansen suggested that choice is in our hands.

Dr. Hansen stated that the Boreal excites us ecologically as shown by Dr. Lynch's wonderful slides, economically with \$50B in Canada and forest-related employment in Manitoba, and socially with spiritual and homeland values. But, warning signs are clear including climate change, increasing annual allowable cut, cumulative development pressures, and ecological and social changes.

Dr. Hansen observed that there was a remarkable convergence of views at the Boreal Forum about principles and tools. The principles discussed included integrated planning before allocation with adaptive management afterward, full participation by First Nations – ecologically, socially and economically, and local to global perspective such as Manitoba's initiatives on climate change. The tools included GIS, incorporating traditional ecological knowledge, protected areas, dialogue mechanisms, partnerships for expanded economic development and accelerated negotiation of land claims and treaty rights.

Dr. Hansen noted that we should not downplay the enormity of the tasks ahead. Each of the topics discussed at the Boreal Forum demand leadership from our governments and at each level of our communities and industries. He commented that when we explore our differences about how to use and protect the Boreal Forest ecosystem, it would be well for us to remember Paul Cormier's phrase "Two Worlds coming together ... trying to get to the same place". That place is a sustainable planet where our grandchildren and their grandchildren can enjoy a healthy Boreal Forest. Dr. Hansen observed that even the seventh generation is less than two full cycles of old growth for some Boreal tree species.

Dr. Hansen congratulated Terry Duguid and Clean Environment Commission members, Mike Waldram from the Manitoba Model Forest, and participants on a successful forum for learning about the Boreal Forest. He observed that no matter what the view, participants have had an opportunity to broaden perspectives and to ask not what can you do for the Boreal Forest but what can we do together to ensure sustainable use of this wonderful and valuable forest ecosystem. Dr. Hansen ended with a quoting Barry Waito – "None of us is as smart as all of us".

Mr. Terry Duguid, Chair, Manitoba Clean Environment Commission

Mr. Duguid thanked Dr. Hansen for his summary words. He also thanked the Manitoba Model Forest for their support, cooperation and financial contribution. Mr. Duguid thanked the speakers and the participants for their interest and participation. He expressed optimism that everyone will continue the dialogue on the Boreal and noted the future of the Boreal Forest is in everyone's hands.

Mr. Wellington Spence, Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation

Mr. Spence led the participants in a closing prayer.