

**MARITIME COLLEGE OF FOREST TECHNOLOGY**

**Presentation to the**

**Commission on Post-Secondary Education in New Brunswick**

**April 17, 2007**

## **Vision Statement**

*Building upon the rich traditions of the past, the Maritime College of Forest Technology will embrace new ideas and innovations, to maintain its position as the outstanding technical forestry college in Canada.*

## **Mission Statement**

*Excellence in forest technology, renewable resource management, and environmentally aware training programs are achieved through a 'hands on' approach which fosters the 'unwritten lessons' of self discipline, teamwork, accountability, and punctuality - hallmarks of the Maritime College of Forest Technology.*

## **Core Values**

*Respect for the Individual*

*Integrity*

*Honesty*

*Commitment*

## Introduction

The Maritime College of Forest Technology has successfully trained technically skilled, environmentally aware professionals for the forestry sector for almost 60+ years. The result is a reputation for excellence that has allowed us to survive when similar programs across North America are failing. The college's role is to prepare students to work in the forest environment, not just with a forestry education, but with a strong sense of responsibility and leadership. This approach results in MCFT being recognized as producing high quality, dependable graduates who can be counted on to get the job done.

The values of responsibility and leadership are taught by example as well as through intensive team work, meeting deadlines, mandatory class attendance, and adherence to real-world regulations and requirements. The college is considered a place of work, and as such, students are responsible, and held accountable for their performance as one would in a workplace environment. Experienced instructors provide a high degree of supervision both during and outside of class time. Teaching is an instructor's first priority. Students come first and they are individuals with names. The college focuses on the 'hands on' components of education needed to succeed in a career in forestry. The definition of forestry as it applies to MCFT graduates goes well beyond the traditional forest industry. The forestry sector includes government at all levels, urban forestry, fish and wildlife, parks and recreation, environmental organizations, and supply and services to forestry enterprise. In its many forms, forestry requires professionals who can perform in the physical forest environment – hence the emphasis on 'hands on' training.

The college, formerly known as the Maritime Forest Ranger School, is composed of two separate campuses. The College de technologie foresterie des Maritimes is located in Bathurst, New Brunswick and has offered a one-year, francophone Forest Technologist Diploma since 1980. The Fredericton, New Brunswick campus was established in 1946 and offers a two-year Forest Technologist Diploma since 2003. As well, the Fredericton

campus supports a Continuing Education Department, established in the 1950's (ability to communicate , credibility and knowledge of subject), that offers professional development opportunities. The two campuses have graduated over 2900 technically skilled professionals who have contributed to the economic well being of the Maritime Provinces. The Continuing Education Department has in turn supplied skills upgrading to over 10,000 course participants who have maintained a competitive advantage enjoyed by the Maritime forestry sector. The college has established a reputation that is highly respected and international in scope.

The Maritime College of Forest Technology has many unique attributes. The college is the only post-secondary education institution in Canada that offers forestry as its only course of study. This singular focus benefits both students and employers. The single stream approach allows the college to focus on imparting environmentally sound technical forestry skills. It also provides life long support for graduates and employers. From recruitment to professional development the college offers a comprehensive but focused package. In addition, the Maritime College of Forest Technology is the only college in the Maritimes accredited by the Canadian Institute of Forestry as graduating nationally recognized forest technologists. On an international scale, the college is only one of two in Canada recognized by the Society of American Foresters (SAF).

## **Facilities for Training**

The Maritime College of Forest Technology provides facilities for training forest technology in many forms. Aside from classrooms, libraries and laboratories, forestry students require access to professional and scientific support facilities. Housing and recreation opportunities are a vital part of a successful academic structure. A professional career requires access to life long learning facilities; and perhaps most importantly, a solid forestry understanding is best supported by easy access to a forest environment. MCFT provides these facilities on two separate campuses. We combine the lecture (60) and field experience (40) that is needed by young forestry professionals.

## **FACILITIES**

### **Bathurst Campus**

The Maritime College of Forest Technology's francophone program is located in Bathurst NB. A long standing professional relationship between MCFT and NBCC – Bathurst allows for the rental of classroom, laboratory and administrative space. Specialized equipment, such as Global Positioning Systems (GPS), are shared between MCFT's two campuses. Access to forest land is available through well established relationships with local forest industries.

### **Fredericton Campus**

The English forest technology program is housed at MCFT's headquarters in Fredericton NB. The college is one of four major partners within the Hugh John Flemming Forestry Centre. Established in 1986, and located on the site occupied by the Maritime Forest Ranger School since the early 1950's, the forestry centre represents a single location for all levels of forestry. The major partners aside from MCFT include the Canadian Forest Service, the NB Department of Natural Resources, and the University of New Brunswick's Wood Science and Technology Centre.

### **Regionally No Duplication In Maritimes**

While no other forest technician or technologist schools are located in the Maritimes, there are a number of schools that have programs that draw on our Maritime supply. They include Sir Sandford Fleming College in Ontario, CEGEP in the Gaspé of Quebec (both francophone and English courses are offered) and the University of Maine's technician program in Fort Kent, Maine.

The Nova Scotia Community College in Port Hawkesbury, Nova Scotia is now offering a 2 year Natural Resources Environmental Technology Diploma Program. Any secondary institutions that teach similar (70+%) course materials serve to undermine the supply base for this college.

When MPHEC was established, it was with the understanding that the Maritime Provinces could survive and flourish if they acted as a united unit. The Higher Education Commission recognized that no one province could afford to offer the full line of secondary education that its population needed, and therefore committed shared resources to effectively provide for the educational needs of its people. The rationale behind this decision has not changed and, in fact, is more relevant in today's competitive market. (i.e. Holland College, Nova Scotia Agricultural College, Maritime Forest Ranger School/Maritime College of Forest Technology).

To understand the issue of population and duplication of services one need look no further than Ontario. This province has a population of over 12 million people and has approximately five colleges which provide forest technician/technologist diploma programs. Even with this population level the enrolment in these programs has been dropping and attrition is about 50%. The population of the three Maritime Provinces combined is less than two million. There is little doubt that the Maritimes cannot support more than one forest technician/technologist program and any effort to do so would simply cause the ultimate collapse of both.

### **Board of Governors**

The MCFT is a Maritime College that is made up of a Board of Governors who meet twice a year to steer and advise the Executive Director. The Board is made up of 16 members.

UNB	President, Dean, Faculty of Forestry & Environment Management UNB Secretary
NB DNR	Deputy Minister
NS DNR	Deputy Minister
PEI	Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry
CFS	Director General
Industry	Chief Forester, J.D. Irving General Manager Elmsdale Lumber Stora Enso Port Hawkesbury, Representative

NB, NS Forest Technician Association, Representative  
Canadian Woodlands Forum, Director  
Peter J. Adams, Barrister & Solicitor  
MCFT            Executive Director  
MCFT            Treasure

The Board is a cross-sectional makeup and multi-jurisdictional component of the Maritime Provinces Forest Sector.

This cross section of Maritime parties involved in forestry allows us the ability to add, modify and drop courses as need be in a very expedient fashion. Changes both technological and philosophical are addressed when current. This is very evident in our Continuing Education Department who are able to pull together world class training sessions within weeks of receiving a request on a particular topic.

Our Board of Governors structure allows us the flexibility to adapt quickly to new opportunities and give the students and employers what they need. This structure has served the college, the students and employers extremely well.

We believe that all institutions should have a relevant and representative governing body to ensure quality assurance and accountability.

The objective of an institute must be conveyed straight forward with the clients in mind. At MCFT I have often explained that we have at least two important clients, the students and the employers.

The quality of teaching is extremely important and the people who teach must be effective and qualified teachers as well as extremely knowledgeable in their fields.

### **Articulation Agreement/Collaboration**

Articulation Agreement with the University of New Brunswick Faculty of Forestry & Environmental Management and the Maritime College of Forest Technology was signed on August 31, 2006.

This Agreement recognizes the graduates of the Forest Technology diploma program who meet the admission requirements into FOREM's Bachelor of Science in Forestry (BScF) will be eligible for direct credit transfer providing grades attained in the transferable courses are 70% or greater. In practical terms this would allow a Forest Technician to obtain as much as ~45% of the credits (77) towards a BScF. We are getting students today that come to us first to get the technical expertise then on to UNB to get their degree. Approximately 20 -25% of our graduates go on to UNB. This is a beneficial agreement to both parties and in the end a huge benefit to the future employers who will be hiring these graduates.

With our Bathurst Campus going to a two-year program in 2008 we have already begun to work on a similar Articulation Agreement with the U de M in Edmundston.

We will continue to look at mutually beneficial agreements with organizations in North America and Europe. (Example Maine, Finland, British Columbia)

### **Education Computer Network (ECN)**

A small college such as us greatly appreciates the support and value we get from this Network. It allows us to obtain resources that we could not afford otherwise.

It also allows us to keep up to date with the latest developments and even though we are small we do benefit from this great Network of users.



## **MCFT and the Future**

- Expand our recruitment efforts beyond the Atlantic Provinces and Maine. This would include Quebec and the rest of Canada. This must be done the most efficiently as possible.
- Re introduce our Diploma of Forest Technology in Wildlife if the need is there.
- More Articulation Agreements across Canada and the U.S. and even into Europe.
- On line courses that could be taken before you get here.
- Continuing Education
  - Continue to meet training demands for quality world class training.
  - Continue to explore the possibility of an Aboriginal forest technology program in the Maritimes.

## **Conclusion**

I have tried to summarize our success and explain why we have continued to prosper even when our competition has seen difficult times.

I think part of our success has been through : Board of Governors, One specific specialized course, good knowledgeable instructors with relevant experience, Articulation agreements , and direct interaction and feedback from students and employers.

We want to thank the Post Secondary Education Commission for this chance to discuss our College's successes and it is our belief that the recommendation put forth to government will enable all Post Secondary Education in New Brunswick to succeed.