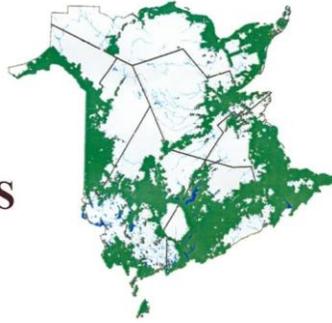


**NEW BRUNSWICK  
FEDERATION OF  
WOODLOT OWNERS**



**FÉDÉRATION DES  
PROPRIÉTAIRES DE  
LOTS BOISÉS DU  
NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK**

## **SILVICULTURE SECTOR WRAPS UP SUCCESSFUL SEASON, THANKS TO FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT**

**March 29, 2010 – FREDERICTON, NB --** The New Brunswick Federation of Woodlot Owners and the seven provincial marketing boards have just wrapped up a successful silviculture season with support from both the federal and provincial governments.

This year marked the first in several where there was a funding partnership with both levels of government.

“The Government of Canada is committed to helping communities recover quickly from the current economic downturn. Our investment in the forestry sector has helped to support that necessary forestry management and silviculture programming measures have been undertaken over the past year, to ensure the viability of the sector for the long term,” said the Honourable Keith Ashfield, Minister of National Revenue, Minister of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, and Minister for the Atlantic Gateway.

“It was tremendous to have the federal government become involved again in private woodlot silviculture in New Brunswick after nine years away”, said Federation President Andrew Clark. “Their investment showed the confidence they have in the New Brunswick private woodlot sector.”

The federal government through ACOA is investing \$3.5 million dollars over two years (\$1.75 million/year). This money was specifically targeted at increasing reforestation efforts through site preparation and planting, but was also used for pre-commercial thinning.

“ACOA Minister Keith Ashfield saw silviculture as an opportunity for an investment in the future of woodlots, the forest industry and as a method of creating immediate employment throughout New Brunswick”, pointed out Clark. “The ACOA investment created employment for 84 New Brunswickers and helped maintain employment for an additional 35.”

The ACOA investment was utilized in all regions of the province.

Alain Landry, Manager of the North Shore Forest Products Marketing Board describes the program as a huge success.

“The ACOA investment allowed our region to plant an additional 1 million seedlings this season”, said Landry. “There was great uptake of this additional investment and woodlot owners are excited about the opportunity again for the upcoming season”.

Just next door, Claude Pelletier, Manager of the Madawaska Forest Products Marketing Board agrees with Landry. “The ACOA investment was put to great use. We put an additional 500,000 trees in the ground this year which is a tremendous investment for the forest sector in north-western New Brunswick.” Pelletier also thanked Minister Ashfield but wanted to recognize another politician as well.

“Senator Percy Mockler, he met with us on several occasions concerning our proposal. He understands the importance of private woodlots in New Brunswick and the forest industry. The Senator was a strong supporter of this project.”

Woodlot owners in the southern part of the province, particularly in the York Sunbury Charlotte Marketing Board area took advantage of the increased funding to do more pre-commercial thinning.

“We don’t do a lot of planting in our area traditionally,” said YSC Board Manager David Palmer. “We used the ACOA funding to pre-commercially thin an extra 155 hectares. The extra funding allowed us to get some backlogged jobs complete, increase the future yield of our woodlots and get people back to work”, said Palmer.

Overall the \$1.75 million in ACOA funding during the 2009 season created employment for 119 New Brunswickers throughout the province. The funding facilitated the site preparation of 530 hectares, the planting of 3,188,000 trees, and the pre-commercial thinning of 250 hectares. The province also funded silviculture on private woodlots with a \$6 million investment in 2009. The provincial funding created 290 jobs and facilitated the treatment of 5,050 hectares of pre-commercial thinning, 1,030 hectares of site preparation and 470 hectares of mechanical plantation cleaning.

For more information contact Troy Lifford or Ken Hardie at 459-2990 from the New Brunswick Federation of Woodlot Owners. Sharon Stanford-Rutter at 451-2677 is the contact person for ACOA.