

*IT  
okay.*

**Newfoundland and Labrador  
Environment Network  
Youth Caucus  
Forest Futures Youth Project '97**

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**FOREST FUTURES YOUTH  
PROJECT!**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Our principle objectives of this project was to produce a comprehensive guidebook to forestry issues and concerns, hold a youth forestry retreat in the model forest area to examine our values and to paint a mural which expressed those values, and to explore a cross-cultural exchange between us and native youth of Labrador.

We wrote a proposal for funding of this project and hired three youth, an outreach coordinator (for the camp), an information coordinator (for the guidebook), and a artistic director (for the mural).

We produced a guidebook to distribute to youth groups and schools on forestry issues, environmentalism and youth. We held a youth forestry retreat where we explored our values in the forest, learned a lot from the native youth who participated and worked together to paint a mural.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

The Forest Futures Youth Project Coordinators would like to thank the following people for their help with the project . . .

Lori March (for putting up with us), Model Forest decisions making group, our parents (for helping us out), Camp participants (George Nuna, Stacie Janes, Joshua Mansfield, Jenafer Brammer, Jason Fitzgerald, Sheila Antuan, Natalie Fost, Chris (some kid we met), Shana and Heather), the New Hampshire couple at camp that kept us dry (thank you!!!), Clayton Laing at Lomond River Lodge, Bruce Boland(for helping us with our research), Brian Murphy, Home Hardware, Witondale Lumber, the Conservation Corps, Jim Taylor, Greg Mitchell, George Van Dusen, Martin Von Mirbach, Amelia Clarke, and Gareth Davies.

We apologize if we forgot anybody!

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**Introduction:**

The Forest Futures Youth Project

Information Coordinator-Steve Oldford  
Outreach Coordinator-Melissa Mansfield

Project Location-Newfoundland and Labrador Environment Network

**Project Description:**

This all started when the Newfoundland and Labrador Environment network Youth Caucus coordinator Jenafer Brammer decided the nlen-yc should have a summer project, she and some other youth caucus members put their heads together and came up with an idea. They found that there was a need for an easy to follow, interesting guide book on Newfoundland forestry issues and practices. A proposal was submitted to the Western Newfoundland Model Forest office for funding. They approved the proposal and we agreed to do the following: We would produce a youth guidebook on forestry to be distributed to youth groups and schools. We also agreed to organize a hands-on youth forestry retreat in the model forest area. Two native youth from Labrador would attend and ten from around Newfoundland. Finally, we would produce a mural expressing our concern for the forest. All too often youth have a hard time getting adults to listen to their concerns. Also, the only information youth can get on forestry is usually in big text books which are difficult to understand. This can be discouraging and is where most youth get turned off from forestry. Really, they should be getting involved. This was our initiative in starting the project.

## MAIN TEXT

### FORESTRY RETREAT

From August 10th to the 13th the Forest Futures Youth Retreat was held. Prior to this retreat the participants attended the Newfoundland and Labrador Environment Networks's Annual General Meeting. This meeting was held at the Kill Devil camp grounds in Gros Morne National Park and was very close to where the Forest Futures Retreat would be. (This way we got a free ride to the Forest Futures retreat).

In all, there were 12 participants who were interested in the forests and attended our forestry retreat. At the camp one could reflect on their own forest values while being able to talk with others and appreciate their values in the forest.

For the most part participants were from Corner Brook. We did have one from St. John's, two from Trout River, and two Innu youth from Sheshatshit (Labrador). We tented at Lomond River Camp grounds which is about 8 km west on highway 431 from Wiltondale in the Western Newfoundland Model Forest area. The Model Forest is a forest area where sustainable forest practices are used and tested.

We began the camp by talking about the project, and what values we each held with regard to the forest. The basic common value shared by all was, if we did not have a forest we would not be able to go to camps like ours and reflect. We had a nature scavenger hunt as an icebreaker and to get to know the camp grounds.

During the retreat we planted trees on a nearby hill. This site was used because the soil on the hill was being washed away. At one time there were trees growing there and they held the soil with their roots, by planting new trees the soil will have a better chance of staying in one place. Some children who were camping at Lomond helped us and in all we planted about 75 Black Spruce seedlings. These were supplied by Corner Brook Pulp and Paper.

One of the Conservation Corps Green Teams came out and spoke to us about the Pine Marten. They were very informative and did not force any opinions on us. Instead they gave us the facts and let us decide why the Pine Marten was going extinct. They were very honest.

Steve brought us on a nature hike and interpretation along the Stuckless-Wigwam hiking trail. The trail started along a boggy area where stunted tamarack and black spruce grew. There were many different kinds of flowers, grasses and woody plants growing in the boggy area. Next the trail took us into the forest consisting of mainly balsam fir, black spruce and white birch. This trail led us to our next stop which was at a bridge which crossed the Lomond River. This river is used by Salmon as they moved to their spawning grounds. We continued on a little bit further until we saw a huge white spruce tree. This tree was so big that it took two people to get their arms around it. We then walked along the same trail to where we started.

In Wiltondale there is a family owned saw mill. They gave us a tour of their operation and showed us the benefits of a family owned business. We saw the stages wood goes through a log to when it is a finished piece of lumber. At the saw mill they use the entire log. The main part of the log is used for lumber. Even the small leftover pieces are cut to make lobster traps. The outside slabs are used for firewood and the sawdust is used on farms. The whole operation seemed quite efficient and there was lots of work to be done.

A lot of the time at the camp was spent painting the Forest Futures mural. All participants

no matter what their artistic ability, had a chance to paint. We plan on displaying the mural in the new forestry building.

During the night hours we had camp fires. There we talked about the forest, roasted marshmallows and hotdogs and sang songs.

The camp was a great success, everything ran smoothly and everybody learned from each other. Especially we learned from the Innu youth. They brought a different culture and shared it with us. In their culture they use the forest to satisfy their needs. They only take what they need from the forest. Maybe that's an idea we should put into our own forest.

## **GUIDE BOOK**

In our project we produced a booklet for youth on forestry issues in our province, an easy to understand guide to forestry, ex. What is silver culture, why are old growth forests necessary, alternatives to clearcutting and paper making. Also, interviews with various people involved in forestry and descriptions of our project, ex. Camp, mural etc. This book was made to go to high schools around Newfoundland and Labrador as a supplement to level 3 Biology and Environmental Science to explain forestry and forestry issues in an easy guide. In addition, we saw it as a great way to get youth interested and involved. To obtain a copy of this book please contact:

NLEN youth caucus  
c/o Melissa Mansfield (coordinator)  
P.O box 944, Corner Brook, NF  
A2H 6J2  
709 634 2520  
nlen@nf.sympatico.ca

## **MURAL**

The mural was painted on a large piece of canvas. This way it could be framed and moved fairly easily. The picture shows two young people tenting in the forest at the edge of a lake. The guy is sitting by a fire and the girl is walking toward him as she sets over the hills. She is carrying some fish for supper. There is a canoe on the shore and wildlife all around.

The painting of the mural was planned for the camp. That way people could get together and work as a group and we could do it outside. However mother nature didn't agree with us and it rained, so the mural took longer than we anticipated.

There is symbolism in the mural. One of our favourites is the anti-stereotypical picture you see of the guy waiting by the fire for the girl to come back with the meal.

The two main cultures of Newfoundland and Labrador are represented as was the case at camp. The canoe shows an environmentally friendly kind of transportation that mother nature has provided for us. Finally, the two people are young. They are out on their own showing their independence and that is what the project is all about.

**What went well:**

We all had an unforgettable summer. We learned a lot about forestry, and met tons of people. Here is what we particularly enjoyed.

**Office:**

- Lori March, was great and mentored us the whole time.
- Group dynamics were good
- Had many resource people to help us along
- Info for the booklet was easy to find
- We had many great interviews with various people
- We raised awareness on Forestry issues
- Communications were ready at hand (computer, phone, fax, photocopier)
- We had our own office space to use
- More and more youth became involved

**Forestry Retreat:**

- All the participants attended Newfoundland and Labrador Environment Networks Annual General Meeting which was held in Gros Morne directly before our retreat. (So we got a free ride), and were able to attend the Forest Caucus meeting.
- Melissa's parents lent us their car so we could get around.
- The two native youth from Labrador worked out well, a lot was learned, on both sides, and friendships were made.
- A couple from New Hampshire lent us a huge tarp to cover our tents so we kept dry.

**Booklet:**

- Steve's father helped in the making of the booklet.
- We were able to use the WNMF photocopier.
- It covered a variety of forestry issues
- It shows both sides of forestry issues.
- Information was easy to find

**Mural:**

- We worked on it as a team
- Ignores all of the normal stereotypes of people
- We believe it strongly reflects what we value in forestry

**What did not go well:**

Unfortunately, we all have to make mistakes in order to learn from them. Some of the things were not avoidable. Underneath explained how we handled or could have handled the situation.

**Office:**

- Working too much together, too closely. It caused stress among us at the start of the project.
- \*We took a break from one another. This helped a lot in the long run of the project.
- Toward the end of the project, some of us became slack. Needless to say, this caused problems.
- \*We could have been more clear to one another on project requirements.
- Deadlines, sometimes our expectations were too great.
- \*We learned more about time consumption and toward the end of the project tried to become more realistic.
- We found the WNMF contract hard to understand at some points
- \*We could have mentioned it earlier, it could have been made youth friendly

**Forestry Retreat:**

-The camp site was not suited to our needs.

\*We could have put more energy into planning the camp site itself.

-It was very rainy, this caused problems in the painting of the Mural

\*We should have thought ahead to have something planned "just in case."

-We were insensitive to the culture difference between us and the Native youth.

\*Although it worked out in the end, we should have planned to make the Native youth feel more comfortable.

**Booklet:**

-The only problem was with photocopying photographs of our project.

**Mural:**

-The only problem was the rain.

\*The manager at Lomand let us put inside to dry.

**CONCLUSION:**

The information in our guidebook is aimed to spark an interest in young people. Hopefully, it will encourage them to find out more about forestry before making up their minds on the future of the forest. We think that it was an extremely worthwhile project and that youth have an important role to play in the future of our forest. It is the way the forest is managed today that will reflect the way we manage the forest of tomorrow. Hopefully, the articles and opinions of the project expressed in our guidebook will encourage more young people to get involved with sustaining our country's beautiful forests.

## FOREST FUTURES YOUTH PROJECT BUDGET

Steve Oldford: \$225 wk x 8 wk = \$1800  
Melissa Mansfield: \$125 wk x 8 wk = \$1000  
Meghan McMaster: \$50 wk x 4 wk = \$200  
Guidebook: \$305.45 (incl. Mailout, printing, photocopying)  
Communications: \$275.80 (fax, e-mail, phone)  
Camp: \$ 919.05 (travel, food, misc.)  
Admin. Fee to Lori: \$250  
Mural: \$125 (paint, brushes, canvas, framing)  
Refund to Meghan, Melissa, Steve for AGM registration:  
Steve-\$30  
Melissa-\$55  
Meghan (to NLEN)- \$40  
  
Revenue over expenses-\$00.30!!!!

# **FOREST FUTURES YOUTH PROJECT!**

## **Camp Schedule:**

### **SUNDAY, Aug. 10:**

12 pm: AGM ends, camp participants leave for camp site

2 - 6: set up tents, get organized, free time, prepare supper

6 - 7: Supper

7- 8: Intro to camp & Campfire

8 - .... : free time

### **MONDAY, Aug 11:**

9-10: breakfast

10 - 12: workshop ( open to participants!!! Please let us know )

12:30 - 2: Lunch

2 - 5: Forestry hike

5:30-6:30: supper time

7 - 8: Reflections around fire

8 - .....: free time

### **TUESDAY, Aug. 12:**

9-10: breakfast

**TREE PLANTING**

12 - 1: Lunch

TOUR; sawmill, clearcut, etc.

6-7: Supper

7:15-8:30- writing for Guidebook  
Evaluation, How to stay involved

8:45...: dance at the fire ( Bring your instuments!!! )

**WED. Aug. 13:**

9-10: breakfast

10 - 12: pack up and clean up

12: back home!!!!

**Release, acknowledgment and assumption of risk**

We (both the Forest Futures participant and parent giving consent if participant is under the age of 18) understand that while the organizers of the Forest Futures Youth Camp have taken precautions to minimize the chance of accident or injury to participant at camp and the transportation to the camp, such accidents or injuries could still occur.

We acknowledge that outdoor and group activities involve a certain degree of risk and we hereby assume all of the risks arising out of the participant's attendance at camp. We hereby release the Forest Futures Youth Project Organizing committee, the directors, the employees, the owners of the site, and volunteers and participants associated with the camp from any and all liability and any and all claims, demands and causes of action of every kind and nature which I, my family or executors may have as a result of \_\_\_\_\_'s participation in this event.

I \_\_\_\_\_ the participant, and I \_\_\_\_\_ the parent/guardian verify that the participant is responsible, in part, for his or her own safety, and agrees to comply with the instructions and direction of the staff members at camp, in particular when those directions concern the safety of this or other participants. If the participant has any psychological challenges that might impair their judgment in matters of safety, or any other health condition or allergy, I hereby state that I have disclosed these to the camp staff in the following space:

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I have read and understood this statement and agree to the terms of this release, acknowledgment and assumption of risk.

Participant's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(if participant is under 18)

Dear Forest Futures participant.

The Forest Futures Youth Camp (FFYC) is fast approaching, and we're getting pretty excited here in Corner Brook at the thought of meeting all of you.

I will be in contact with each of you to arrange travel. Hopefully you are all also going to the Newfoundland and Labrador Environment network annual general meeting (NLEN-AGM). Please bring these things to the Forest Futures camp in addition to what is specified in your NLEN-AGM registration package.

- \_tent (if you can)
- \_plate/bowl/cutlery/mug
- \_roll of toilet paper (everyone's will be pooled for use in the washroom)
- \_raingear (including foot wear)
- \_bathing suit and towel
- \_hat to keep the sun off
- \_soap/shampoo (biodegradeble prefered)
- \_your MCP card
- \_sleeping bag
- \_flashlight
- \_letter of permission (if under 18)
- \_anything else you think you might need for a week of fun!!!

This is a paperless camp!!!!

**NON PRESCRIPTION DRUGS AND ALCOHOL ARE NOT PERMITTED!!!!!!**

**If you use these substances you will be asked to return home at your own expense.**

Please find enclosed a *tentative* agenda for the FFYC and a non tentative agenda for the NLEN-AGM, a youth advertisement for the NLEN-AGM, a letter of permission, and info. about the Forest Futures Youth Project (FFYP). As it stands there is no fee for the FFYC. There is however a \$55.00 fee for the NLEN-AGM. You can bring that to the AGM and pay there. I will register you for the AGM once I get a definite answer from you on whether or not you are coming. In case you need ideas about fundraising for the \$55.00 dollars, I am inclosing a list of ideas you might consider. We are fundraising too, in the hope of lowering the NLEN-AGM camp fee but we can not promise anything.

I hope you feel like you know what to expect at the FFYP and that you have enough information. If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to call or fax me at work ( 709 634 2520 ) or call at my home ( 709 785 2065 ). I can be reached by e-mail at [nlen@nf.sympatico.ca](mailto:nlen@nf.sympatico.ca).

Talk to you all soon.

Melissa Mansfield  
Forest Futures Youth Project Outreach Coordinator