

Introduction of Speaker, Dr. Cliff Hickey
Valerie Courtois

Dr. Cliff Hickey has been a professor of Anthropology at the University of Alberta for 32 years, until taking early retirement this past July. The reason for retiring is that he enjoys working with the SFM Network and First Nations so much that it was getting in the way of his professional duties. So the choice came down to continue working with aboriginal communities to strengthen their positions on land use and management or teaching Introductory Anthropology. Hello pension!

Actually, this kind of work, and the research he has undertaken over the past 10 years is a big departure from what he used to do. Until the early '90s, Dr. Hickey's work took place in the arctic and included a large portion of archaeology. The focus was on the development of Inuit societies, prehistorically and historically, and also involved ethnographic fieldwork and research in archives. However, as he was involved in the establishment of the SFM Network, he saw that as it developed during its first 5-6 years it began to become more aware of the need to include human beings, and especially First Nations, within its scope. He therefore began to shift his interests to accelerate this trend and feels that the Network is reaching a good balance between the ecological, economic and social/cultural research that is needed to achieve Sustainable Forest Management.

Let us welcome Dr. Cliff Hickey.