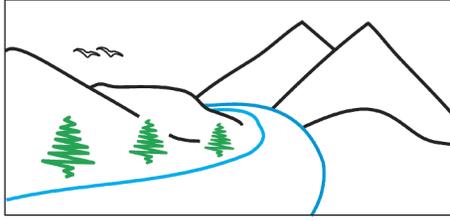


NRESi



"Our environment is our future"

For **ELluminatE** information and link to the webcast: http://www.unbc.ca/nres/nresi_webcast.html

RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM SERIES

Dr. M.A. (Peggy) Smith RPF

Assoc. Professor, Faculty of Natural Resource Management
Lakehead University



Friday

Nov. 4, 2011

3:30 - 4:30

LECTURE THEATRE

8 - 164

EMERGING PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN MUNICIPALITIES & FIRST NATIONS: COMMUNITY-BASED FOREST MANAGEMENT IN NORTHERN ONTARIO

The forest industry has been the backbone of local economies in many communities in northern Ontario and across Canada. Focused on commodity products such as pulp, paper and lumber, the industry thrived until the early part of this century. However, in recent years it has faced a major downturn that has resulted in extensive mill closures and unprecedented job losses. The emergence of several community-based forest management (CBFM) initiatives in northern Ontario as potential new institutional arrangements for the management of Crown forests will be discussed.

The CBFM approach puts special emphasis on improving the economic and social circumstances of forest-dependent communities in the region. The new institutional arrangements under CBFM involve partnerships between municipalities and First Nation communities dependent on forest resources. Both types of communities have historically experienced a lack of meaningful input to forest management decision-making which has been exclusively controlled by the provincial government, which grants long-term, large area licenses to timber on public lands to forest industry companies.

The CBFM initiatives are being proposed as a response to a provincial-led reform of the forest tenure system to address the faltering forestry sector. The CBFM initiatives are described in relation to proposed governance, First Nation/settler (municipalities) collaboration founded on respect for Aboriginal and treaty rights, and associated community forest-based enterprises.