



The *Ministère des Ressources naturelles, de la Faune et des Parcs* publishes the *Newsletter from Québec – Forests* on a quarterly basis to inform the international community about its achievements in the forestry sector. This publication, dealing primarily with various aspects of forest management in Québec, enables the Department to keep in touch with its partners abroad.

Summary

December 2003

- More than 4000 people took part in discussions about the future of forests at the XII World Forestry Congress.
- A commission to review public forest management
- Knowledge... within reach



More than 4000 people took part in discussions about the future of forests at the XII World Forestry Congress

(Source: XII World Forestry Congress)

The XII World Forestry Congress, held from September 21 to 28, 2003 in Québec City, drew 4061 people from more than 140 countries. Participants, who represented a cross-section of the international community concerned with forests, included people from rural communities, private forest owners, forestry workers, Native peoples, youth, representatives from industry, NGOs, the scientific and academic communities, various levels of government, and international organizations.

A wide range of issues were considered in the context of the Congress' theme: *Forests, source of life*, in three program areas: *Forests for People; Forests for the Planet; People and Forests in Harmony*. The Final Statement, issued at the end of the gathering, represents the views of the Congress. It identifies priority sectors and is intended to encourage decision-making and action by those concerned by various aspects of forestry and forests, as well as in related sectors.

The full text of the Final Statement is available at the following Internet site:

http://www.wfc2003.org/images/upload/Final_Statement.pdf



The Minister of Natural Resources Canada, the Honourable Herb Dhaliwal, and Quebec's Minister of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Parks, the Honourable Sam Hamad, adjourned the gathering at 11:37 a.m. on Sunday, September 28, in the presence of Mr. Jean-Louis Kérouac, Secretary-General of the Congress, and of Mr. Hosny El-Lakany, FAO Assistant Director General, head of the agency's Forestry Department
Photo: XII World Forestry Congress



A commission to review public forest management

On October 23, 2003, the Minister for Forests, Wildlife and Parks, Mr. Pierre Corbeil, announced the government's decision to appoint Mr. Guy Coulombe to chair the scientific, technical, public, and independent commission mandated to review public forest management.



Mr. Guy Coulombe has held several positions as a public administrator, including as Director General of the city of Montréal, Director General of the Sûreté du Québec, President and CEO of Hydro-Québec, and as senior government official under Robert Bourassa and René Lévesque, to name but a few.

On December 18, 2003, Mr. Corbeil announced the appointment by the Government of the six members of the commission. They are:

- Mr. Jules Arsenault, Rector of the Université du Québec in Abitibi-Témiscamingue;
- Mrs. Marie Anick Liboiron, professional forester, former director of the Bas-Saint-Laurent Model Forest;
- Mr. André Bouchard, professor at the Département de sciences biologiques of the Faculté des arts et des sciences of the Université de Montréal;
- Mr. Jean-Thomas Bernard, professor at the Département d'économie of the Faculté des sciences sociales of the Université Laval;
- Mr. Jean Huot, professor at the Département de biologie of the Faculté des sciences et de génie of the Université Laval;
- Mr. Eric Bauce, professional forester, professor at the Département des sciences du bois et de la forêt of the Faculté de foresterie et de géomatique of the Université Laval.

Mr. Jean Huot will be vice-chairman of the commission. Mr. Gérard Szaraz, professional forester, who worked as an organizer for the XII World Forestry Congress, was appointed secretary of the commission.



The commission that Mr. Coulombe will be heading will be responsible for reviewing the state of the public forest in the context of integrated resource management. This analysis of the forest issue will need to be handled from a sustainable development perspective, taking into consideration wildlife and ecosystem concerns as well as factors related to economic development and the regions.

The commission will be holding public consultations in all the regions concerned. It will be receiving papers and may decide to hear any person or organization that wants to submit a point of view about public forest management.

In this context, the commission will examine issues such as the administration of the Québec forest system, the scientific bases for allowable cut calculations, the quality of forest management plans and of forest inventories, methods for controlling and verifying the harvest and forest management work, as well as any other question relating to the economic, environmental, wildlife, social, and regional aspects of the management of Québec's forest heritage. It will then make any recommendations it deems necessary to the government in order to promote the best possible management of Québec's public forest.



Knowledge... within reach

More than thirty researchers from the *Direction de la recherche forestière (DRF)* (forestry research directorate) of Québec's *Ministère des Ressources naturelles, de la Faune et des Parcs* took advantage of the XII World Forestry Congress to share their vision of the forest.

They therefore drafted a series of eleven papers for the event, which was held from September 21 to 28, 2003, in Québec. They combined their expertise to discuss subjects as varied as silviculture, forest yields, forest environment, forestry work, and reforestation.

These papers are now part of the collection of *Notes de recherche de la DRF* (research notes) and French and English versions are available free of charge in PDF format at:

www.mrnfp.gouv.qc.ca/alias/cfm2003.html

Feel free to take a look at them!