

## Evaluation of the Implementation of the Ecological Forestry Model

The Department of Lands and Forestry is adopting the model of ecological forestry as recommended in Bill Lahey's *Independent Review of Forest Practices in Nova Scotia*, and at the department's request Professor Lahey has agreed to lead an evaluation of the Province's implementation efforts.

The evaluation will have two components:

- 1) A **one-year assessment** of the Province's progress;
- 2) A **longer-term framework** to guide the preparation of on-going evaluations to assess progress towards achieving the ecological model of forestry management in Nova Scotia as envisioned in the Review.

Professor Lahey is being assisted by a team of experts, including three who assisted him in the initial review:

**Al Gorley, RPF** (president of Triangle Resources Inc.; former assistant deputy minister, BC Ministry of Forests; former chair of the BC Forest Practices Board)

**Dr. Malcolm Hunter** (professor of wildlife ecology and Libra Professor of Conservation Biology, University of Maine)

**Dr. Peter Duinker** (professor emeritus, School of Resource and Environmental Studies, Dalhousie University)

Plus three new team members:

**Dr. Laura Kenefic** (Research forester and team leader, US Forest Service—Northern Research Station, Penobscot Experimental Forest)

**Rob Assels** (Research Director, Malatest Program Evaluation and Market Research)

**Jane Barker** (Co-Director, Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute)

For the **one-year assessment**, Professor Lahey and his team will review a progress report prepared by the Department of Lands and Forestry for activities completed and underway up to December 2019 and seek the input of the recently created **Ministerial Advisory Committee on Natural Resources**.

The **longer-term framework** will focus on assessing the department's progress on achieving the over-arching goals of the review report, in particular:

- 1) Adoption of the ecological forestry paradigm
- 2) Implementation of the triad model of ecological forestry
- 3) An institutional framework and culture based on transparency and accountability
- 4) Transition to an outcome-based approach for administering forestry on Crown land

In conducting this work, Professor Lahey will also be reaching out to various groups and individuals who contributed to the original review for their input, as well as other independent advisory groups that have been created by the Department of Lands and Forestry, including the **Forest Biodiversity Science Advisory Committee** and the **Biodiversity Council**.

The evaluation team may also seek the advice from other members of the initial review team where their expertise is determined to be required and where their role in giving advice to the department does not preclude their providing advice to the evaluation process.

Both reports will be public. Professor Lahey and his team are working to have their work completed in the spring of 2020.

Any questions related to the evaluation process can be directed to Professor Lahey, via the Department of Lands and Forestry, at [FPRevaluation@novascotia.ca](mailto:FPRevaluation@novascotia.ca) .