

# Mi'kmawey Forestry

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Mi'kmawey Forestry Development Officer

Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq

# Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq

- Tribal council since 1986 representing 8 mainland Mi'kmaq communities
- Mission-***“To proactively promote and assist Mi'kmaw communities' initiatives toward self determination and enhancement of community.”***
- Programs ranging from Commons Services, Governance, Environment & Natural Resources, History & Culture

# Mi'kmawey Forestry Projects

- Mi'kmaw Forestry Initiative
- Indigenous Protected & Conserved Areas
- Indigenous Guardians
- Community Trail building
- Species at Risk
  - Mainland Moose
  - Black Ash
- Non-Timber Forest Products Cooperative

# Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) Cooperative

## Cooperative model

- Members hold a share in the business
- Opportunity for pickers, gatherers & artisans to pool resources
- Low capital approach- website, tradeshow
- Marketing outlet- not all artists & pickers are marketing experts

# Getting Creative: NTFPs

- Forest products other than the wood and paper products we associate with the forest industry
- Limited only by imagination and marketing skills
- Indigenous and Sustainable = valuable brand (Europe especially) for the Co-op



# Woodenware and Art

- Small in NS; huge potential
- Dozens of possibilities
- Quality and marketing essential
- Success Story: Larch Wood Enterprises
  - 300 cds tamarack/ yr; 20 people working; exporting to Europe



# Firewood

- Compared to hardwood pulp, highly value-added!
- Variety of processing methods = easy entry business + easy to scale-up





# Foods, Body Care, Aromatics

- Very small in NS currently
- Potential: mushrooms, berries, teas, balsam fir resin, birch bark oil, balsam fir needles, pine needles, birch syrup, birch wine, maple products





# Ecotourism

- Unconventional forest 'product'
- Outdoor activities + educational workshops + food + accommodations = much potential!
- Europeans keen to learn about Mi'kmaw traditions, crafts, culture



# The best product in the world won't sell itself

Websites: Story of the  
product and the maker  
(Manitobah Mukluks eg)

Trade Shows: Heart of  
Marketing

Brokers and Trading  
Companies



# Value-added: more than products

## Community Benefits:

- More employment from the forest
- More involvement with traditional crafts
- Closer connection to nature
- Chance to use & conserve forests
- Increased skills and knowledge
- Integrated economic activity = dollars stay in community
- More non-Mi'kmaq learn about Mi'kmaq

# Challenges / Opportunities

1. Sufficient supply of quality products?

- Capacity of product production

2. Successful branding

- Opportunity to establish an Indigenous and sustainable brand

### 3. The right staff person

- Need to find a capable manager with a diversity of skills

### 4. Dedicated board of directors

- Lots of passion to see the Co-op through growing pains common to all businesses

# Key Strengths:

1. Opportunity to use a unique brand: Mi'kmaw-made sustainably sourced products.
2. Opportunity to acquire high-quality products from member producers.
3. Opportunity to show-case well-cared for forests.
4. Opportunity to acquire some raw materials from MFI forests.
5. Opportunity to demonstrate sustainable & diverse utilization of non-timber resources.



# Next Steps:

- Continue pursuing business entity
- Capacity development into NTFP foods
- Inventory of species & location of species
- Management implications
  - Two-eyed seeing

# Thank you!

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