

INTEGRATING FIRST NATIONS KNOWLEDGE

Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities want the local forest lands to be managed sustainably and for the betterment of their community and families. Consequently, it appears prudent these communities build on one another's strengths and work collaboratively.

Keith Atkinson outlined the history and value of First Nations' traditional knowledge in land stewardship. First Nations have a legal standing regarding their Rights and Title but at the same time want to work with neighbouring communities to ensure the environmental, economic, social and cultural needs are shared. An opportunity exists for this sharing by creating an integrated local vision for the forest lands upon which the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities depend. A vision of this type is expected to create viable and sustainable communities consisting of diversification of related products and services available from the local forest lands.

The integration of First Nations' traditional knowledge with western science is thought to realize the benefits of both sets of knowledge and information to provide the products that contribute to community diversification and economic sustainability. Tim Brigham and Brian Belcher have identified the long standing expertise and interest by First Nations regarding non-timber forest resources. First Nations are interested in the management of both timber and non-timber forest resources as identified by Keith Atkinson. Conducting forest management such that the benefits of all these resources from the local forest lands would seem to be the most beneficial to both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities.

- [Importance of Sustainable Resources Conservation and Management to Aboriginal Communities](#)
- [Managing Non-timber Resources to Meet Multiple Goals: Current Status](#)

Challenge

How can a collaborative working relationship be created and maintained between local Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities to deliver an integrated vision for the local forest lands?