



2014 KEY to the Forest student participants

## Manitoba Model Forest 2014-15 Annual Report



June 2015

# Table of Contents

<b>Executive Summary .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Activity and Project Reports .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<i>Committee for Cooperative Moose Management.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Eastern Manitoba Woodland Caribou Advisory Committee (EMWCAC).....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Education for Sustainable Development.....</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>MBMF Core Operations.....</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>National-Level Partnerships.....</i>	<i>16</i>
<b>Annual Financial Report.....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Staff and Contractors.....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Manitoba Model Forest Board of Directors (2014-15).....</b>	<b>20</b>

## Executive Summary

The 2014-15 year was a busy one for the Manitoba Model Forest (MBMF). Even though the federal funding program to model forest organizations in Canada came to an end in the previous year, bringing with it significant financial challenges, the MBMF adjusted to our new fiscal realities, while still maintaining successful programs and developing new ones.

The Committee for Cooperative Moose Management (CCMM) of the MBMF was particularly busy assisting the Province of Manitoba in developing and implementing recovery actions for the moose population in Game Hunting Area 26 (in the MBMF area). The CCMM utilized real-time GPS collars on moose and wolves to understand how these animals use the forested landscape and the complex predator-prey interactions. Satellite collar data from wolves helped quickly identify potential kill and feeding sites. Immediate investigation of these sites provided much information on the type of prey chosen by wolves, as did an on-going study using stable isotope technology to examine the proportion of various prey species (deer, moose, caribou, beaver, etc.) in the diet of wolves. The CCMM also provided recommendations to the Province of Manitoba regarding aspects of moose management in relation to a new all-weather road system being built on the east side of Lake Winnipeg. The CCMM provided recommendations on reconfiguring the boundaries of GHA17 and extending the existing Chief George Barker Wildlife Refuge in relation to the new all-weather road.

Education (both of students and teachers) has been a large part of the MBMF programming over the last decade. In 2014-15, the MBMF partnered with the Lord Selkirk School Division to redevelop a trail system at Albert Beach, on an 80 acre forested property that the school division owns. The trail system was brushed and GPSd. A forest inventory was developed for the site and a gravel pad installed for a future picnic shelter. Picnic tables were also purchased for the site. Curriculum materials for the site will be developed in 2015. The MBMF held its popular Summer Institute for Teachers program at Shoe Lake, Nopiming Provincial Park. The 3-day professional development workshop allows teachers of all grade levels and subject areas to learn about boreal forest ecology and management in a hands-on way, while being completely immersed in a remote, boreal forest setting. Teachers also learn how to integrate MBMFs various natural resource curriculum supplements in their day-to-day lesson plans. For the second year since its inception, the MBMF held its KEY (Knowledge, Environment, Youth) to the Forest program at Shoe Lake. This 1 week program provides training and education to high school students in various aspects of environmental monitoring. Students use the latest scientific equipment to learn how to conduct monitoring studies on wildlife (caribou, moose), water quality, fisheries and forest vegetation. Finally, the MBMF made in-school presentations on boreal forest ecology and management and provided field trips to more than 475 students and 112 teachers.

The MBMF also took on a significant challenge in 2014-15. The Canadian Model Forest Network (CMFN) moved their national office from the Ottawa capital region to Pine Falls. Effective April 1, 2014, the MBMF became the new home of the CMFN office

and the MBMF took over the operations and administration of the national network. Brian Kotak, the General Manager of the MBMF, also became the new General Manager of the CMFN. As part of his work with the CMFN, the MBMF led a new project to establish a new model forest organization in Indonesia, in cooperation with the Indonesian Ministry of Forestry.

## **Activity and Project Reports**

The following section provides a summary of each of the projects and/or activities that were undertaken by the MBMF in 2014-15. For each project, the purpose and a description of the activities and achievements are provided, as well as a summary of each project budget and contributing partners.

## Committee for Cooperative Moose Management

**Purpose:** To provide support for the on-going meetings of the MBMF Committee for Cooperative Moose Management

### Description of Activities and Successes:

Over the last 20 years, the MBMF has established several multi-stakeholder and community committees in the model forest area, which provide an important vehicle for public input into the management of natural resources. These committees also conduct research on the boreal forest and use that information to develop natural resource management tools and strategies, which have played a significant role in shaping natural resource management policies in Manitoba. A focus of the moose committee over the past several years has been to provide recommendations to the Province of Manitoba for actions to reverse the declining trend in the moose population in Game Hunting Area (GHA 26)

The activities of the moose committee in 2014-15 included:

- The Moose Committee held 2 meetings throughout the year and focused most of their attention on continuing to provide input into the development and implementation of strategies to assist with the recovery of the moose population in Game Hunting Area (GHA) 26
- Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship began the development of a moose population model, which will provide guidance for the development of a regional moose recovery strategy
- A total of 2 new Iridium GPS collars were deployed on moose in GHA 26 in an effort to understand habitat use and movement patterns in the region, as well as 4 collars on wolves, to provide data on home ranges and predation. Funding from Sierra Club International allowed for the purchase of 2 of the new wolf collars. An additional 20 wolf collars were purchased by Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship, to be deployed at a later date.
- The use of real-time GPS collars on wolves have provided the opportunity to identify when wolves kill their prey, and through near-immediate field investigations, identify the types of prey hunted by wolves and the original condition of their prey (e.g., age, health, etc.). Over 200 wolf kill and resting sites were investigated
- Preliminary results of an on-going wolf diet study in GHA 26 using stable isotopes indicates that wolf diet in the winter includes deer, moose, beaver and hare (in descending order of proportion in the wolf diet). Woodland



caribou make up a small proportion of the diet. Summer diet of wolves is more evenly distributed among deer, moose and beaver.

- A moose population survey was planned for GHA 26 during the 2014-15 winter. A wolf distribution survey was also planned. Unfortunately, both surveys were cancelled due to a lack of sufficient snow conditions. Both surveys are planned for the winter 2015-16.
- The moose committee continued to provide recommendations for the reconfiguration of the boundaries of GHA 17. This very large GHA is being bisected by a new all-weather road up the east side of Lake Winnipeg, and the division of the GHA into 2 smaller areas will allow for better moose management in the future.
- The committee also provided recommendations for the extension of the Chief George Barker Wildlife Refuge from the communities of Bloodvein to Berens River.
- As a result of a number of actions of the Province of Manitoba (all based on recommendations from the moose committee), such as road and access decommissioning, reduction in wolf population through use of local trappers, a prohibition of moose hunting to licensed and Aboriginal peoples in key areas of GHA 26, increased hunting opportunities for deer (in an effort to reduce the deer population and the transmission of brain worm from deer to moose), and others, Natural Resource Officers and members of the moose committee and First Nation communities are seeing more moose in the area. The aerial survey in 2015-16 will be important to corroborate these observations.
- Natural Resource Officers indicate that compliance with the moose conservation closures by licensed and Aboriginal hunters has been very good.
- The moose committee submitted a funding application to the Habitat Stewardship Program, titled “Saving Eastern Manitoba Moose Populations Through Cooperative Conservation Strategies with Aboriginal Peoples and Stakeholder Organizations”. Unfortunately, the funding application was not successful.
- Brian Kotak, Chair of the moose committee, made presentations on cooperative moose management at 2 forums in 2014-15: University of Winnipeg Environmental Studies Speakers Series, and at the Community Forest Canada Symposium



### Expenditures and Contributions:

<b>Project Expenditures</b>	<b>Cash</b>	<b>In-Kind</b>	<b>Total</b>
Project Activities	\$6,440	\$23,400	\$29,840
<b>Project Contributions</b>			
Sierra Club International	\$6,000	-	\$6,000
MB Conservation	\$800	\$16,800	\$17,600
MB Trappers Assoc.	-	\$600	\$600
Black River First Nation	-	\$1,200	\$1,200
Sagkeeng First Nation	-	\$1,200	\$1,200
MB Lodges and Outfitters Association		\$600	\$600
MB Metis Federation	-	\$300	\$300
Lac du Bonnet Wildlife Assoc.	-	\$600	\$600
Pinawa Game & Fish Assoc.	-	\$600	\$600
Brokenhead Game & Fish Assoc.	-	\$300	\$300
MB Wildlife Federation	-	\$600	\$600
University of Manitoba	-	\$300	\$300
Maskwa Ecological	-	\$300	\$300
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,800</b>	<b>\$23,400</b>	<b>\$30,200</b>

Funding of \$800 from MB Conservation represents a carry forward of funding received in a previous fiscal year

## Eastern Manitoba Woodland Caribou Advisory Committee (EMWCAC)

**Purpose:** To provide support for the on-going meetings of the Eastern Manitoba Woodland Caribou Advisory Committee

### Description of Activities:

Over the last 2 decades, the “caribou committee” has played a significant role in shaping natural resource management policies in Manitoba, particularly with respect to forest management and caribou conservation. However, the EMWCAC has not been very active in the last 4 years, but did meet once in 2014-15.

The activities of the caribou committee in 2014-15 included:

- The caribou committee met once to hear an update from the Province of Manitoba regarding caribou recovery actions and plans in eastern Manitoba. The Province released its Manitoba Boreal Woodland Caribou Recovery Strategy in 2014.
- The caribou developed and submitted two funding proposals to the Habitat Stewardship Program: “Monitoring and Assessing Recruitment and Winter Occupancy for Boreal Caribou in the Owl-Flintstone Range” and “Developing a Land Cover Classification from Satellite Imagery for Use in Habitat Assessments”. The latter proposal was approved for funding in 2015-16.



### Expenditures and Contributions:

<b>Project Expenditures</b>	<b>Cash</b>	<b>In-Kind</b>	<b>Total</b>
Project Activities	\$263	-	\$263
<b>Project Contributions</b>			
MB Conservation	\$360	-	\$360
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$360</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$360</b>

Funding of \$360 from MB Conservation represents a carry forward of funding received in a previous fiscal year

## Education for Sustainable Development

**Purpose:** To support the continuation and expansion of MBMF education programs

### Description of Activities:

Over the last decade, the MBMF has developed several successful and innovative education programs, created numerous educational products (e.g., provincially accredited curriculum supplements on boreal forest ecology and natural resource management) and facilitated a greater understanding of our forest environment in thousands of students of all ages, and hundreds of teachers. Our educational programming is focused on education for sustainable development.

Activities in 2014-15 included:

- Manitoba Envirothon: Several members of the MBMF Board of Directors assisted at the Manitoba Regional Envirothon competition, held in Rennie, MB. The Manitoba Envirothon is administered by the Manitoba Forestry Association.
- Albert Beach Trail: Over the past year, the MBMF as worked with the Lord Selkirk School Division to redevelop their Albert Beach Trail, an 80 acre parcel of forested land owned by the school division. In 2014-15, the MBMF undertook the following activities
  - The original trail and site, which had not been used for years, was brushed.
  - The entire trail was GPS'd
  - A forest inventory was completed by the Manitoba Forestry Association
  - A gravel pad was installed in preparation for the construction of a picnic shelter
  - Picnic table kits were purchased and assembled by students
  - An inventory of activities for a variety of grade levels and subject areas was developed for teachers to use
  - A meeting was held with a project steering committee of the school division
- Summer Institute for Teachers: The MBMF held our Summer Institute for Teachers professional development workshop at Shoe Lake (Nopiming Provincial Park) July 2-4, 2014. The 3 day workshop provided the opportunity for teachers in a variety of grade levels and subject areas to learn about the boreal forest and how to use the MBMFs natural resource management curriculum supplements in their teaching activities.
  - Five teachers from urban and rural Manitoba schools



attended.

- The teachers learned about rocks and minerals while hiking on the Ancient Mountains trail, undertook caribou monitoring at Black Lake and undertook forest vegetation monitoring.
- Key to the Forest: The MBMF held our KEY (Knowledge, Environment, Youth) to the Forest program at Shoe Lake from July 6-12, 2014. The unique 1 week training program introduces high school students to the science of environmental monitoring by training the students on various environmental monitoring techniques and natural resource management topics.
  - A total of 7 students from urban and rural Manitoba high schools participated
  - Each day, the students undertook training and field work on different aspects of environmental monitoring:
    - Map, compass and GPS orienteering (including geo-caching)
    - Forest vegetation monitoring and management
    - Caribou monitoring and management
    - Fisheries management (including beach seining and gill netting)
    - Water quality sampling
    - Basic canoe techniques
  - Natural Resource Officers from Manitoba Conservation visited and gave a presentation on careers in natural resource enforcement
  - Based on his participation in Key to the Forest, one student has registered for a forestry degree at Lakehead University (Thunder Bay)
  - An article about the Key to the Forest program was published in Manitoba Hydro's internal newsletter "Hydro gram"
- An educational field brochure was produced with Lafarge Canada, for their Stead pit
- Brokenhead Wetlands: For several years, Debwendon Inc (a non-profit organization of which the MBMF is on the Board of Directors) has been developing an interpretive trail next to the Brokenhead Wetlands Ecological Reserve. The project cost is more than \$1million, provided by the Province of Manitoba. The site contains many of the province's rare orchid species. In a previous year, a parking lot, trail system and boardwalk were constructed. In 2014-15, the following activities were undertaken:
  - Design work on interpretive signs and a brochure was initiated. This will be completed in 2015-16.
  - A washroom facility was installed
  - An article on the wetlands and interpretive trail was published in the Winnipeg Free Press (July 5, 2014)
  - The grand opening of the trail is anticipated later in



2015

- The MBMF Education Coordinator gave in-school presentations and field tours to more than 475 students and 112 teachers. He also facilitated professional development workshops on natural resource management for teachers and also students in their final year of the Faculties of Education at the Universities of Manitoba and Winnipeg
- The MBMF Education Coordinator assisted in the development of an outdoor monarch butterfly garden at Beausejour Early Years School
- The MBMF assisted the Manitoba Forestry Association with the development of an on-line firewood course



**Expenditures and Contributions:**

<b>Project Expenditures</b>	<b>Cash</b>	<b>In-Kind</b>	<b>Total</b>
Project Activities	\$33,880	\$57,000	\$90,800
<b>Project Contributions</b>			
Manitoba Hydro	\$24,500	-	\$24,500
Lafarge Canada	\$1,500	\$5,000	\$6,500
MBMF	\$6,105	-	\$6,105
Education Program Registrations	\$2,150	-	\$2,150
MB Conservation and Water Stewardship	-	\$30,000	\$30,000
Debwendon Inc.	-	\$14,000	\$14,000
Miette Environmental	-	\$8,000	\$8,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$34,255</b>	<b>\$57,000</b>	<b>\$91,255</b>

Funding of \$1,500 from Lafarge Canada represents a carry forward of funding received in a previous fiscal year

## MBMF Core Operations

**Purpose:** To provide for the core operations and functions of the MBMF organization

### Description of Activities:

The Core Operations provides for the proper functioning of the MBMF organization, including contracts, office costs, accounting fees, communications, travel and meetings of the MBMF Board of Directors. In addition, the MBMF received a final funding installment from the Winnipeg River Community Adjustment Corporation (WRCAC), for use on projects directed towards regional economic development. The projects are described below.

Key activities and components in 2014-15 included:

- Budgeting and financial management of the MBMF
- Coordination of project planning and administration
- Oversee the efficient day to day operations of the MBMF office
- Development of funding proposals
- Preparation of reports to the MBMF Board of Directors
- Payment of rent for office space at the Winnipeg River Learning Centre.
- Phone and internet service
- Mail and courier services
- Board of Directors Liability and Commercial General Liability insurances
- Annual incorporation fee
- Chartered accountant fees
- Website hosting fees
- Board of Directors Meetings
  - The MBMF Board of Directors held 3 regular board meetings. In addition, the MBMF held its Annual General Meeting on June 25, 2014.
  - An annual work plan for 2014-15 was developed
  - The Board of Directors and other partners held a strategic planning session to identify areas of program and project opportunity for the MBMF to concentrate on in the coming years. Based on the opportunities identified, meetings were held with the Minister of Conservation and Water Stewardship, Deputy Minister of Education and Director of Forestry to explore how the MBMF could assist the Province of Manitoba in meeting its policy commitments in these areas.
- Regional Economic Development Projects: With the remainder of WRCAC funding, the MBMF explored regional economic opportunities through the following mechanism:
  - **Regional Drinking Water System** - The MBMF facilitated several meetings between local water cooperatives, the Town of Powerview-Pine Falls, Rural Municipality of Alexander and the Province of Manitoba to explore options for providing potable water to water coops who have been

on boil water advisories for many years. As a result of the meetings, several options have been identified, but need to be explored in greater detail so that a cost-effective, optimal solution can be implemented.

- **Forest Product Mill** - The MBMF met several times with a local investor who is interested in establishing a small forest products manufacturing facility in the Pine Falls area. Various types of forest products were discussed. However, before a project can proceed, a feasibility study and business plan needs to be developed
- **St. Georges Historical Society** – In May 2014, communities along the Winnipeg River lost one of their main tourist attractions when the St. Georges Museum was destroyed by fire. The MBMF met with the Historical Society’s treasurer, to discuss options for redevelopment of the museum. Unfortunately, due to the length of time required to reach a financial settlement with the insurance company regarding the fire, the MBMFs involvement in planning the redevelopment was limited.

### Expenditures and Contributions:

<b>Project Expenditures</b>	<b>Cash</b>	<b>In-Kind</b>	<b>Total</b>
Project Activities	\$122,281	\$21,900	\$144,181
<b>Project Contributions</b>			
WRCAC	\$52,000	-	\$
MBMF	\$75,434	-	\$
Canadian Forest Service	-	\$600	\$600
St. Georges Historical Society	-	\$600	\$600
Winnipeg River Community Futures	-	\$600	\$600
CDEM	-	\$300	\$300
MB Wildlife Federation	-	\$1,500	\$1,500
Shining Waters Heritage Region	-	\$3,000	\$3,000
RM of Lac du Bonnet	-	\$300	\$300
Town of Powerview-Pine Falls	-	\$1,200	\$1,200
MB Conservation and Water Stewardship	-	\$1,800	\$1,800
MB Trappers Assoc	-	\$2,700	\$2,700
MB Forestry Assoc	-	\$1,200	\$1,200
Brokenhead Ojibway Nation	-	\$600	\$600
University of Winnipeg	-	\$1,200	\$1,200
Woodlot Assoc of MB	-	\$900	\$900
Community of Seymourville	-	\$600	\$600
LDG of Pinawa	-	\$900	\$900
Black River First Nation	-	\$1,200	\$1,200
Nature Manitoba	-	\$1,200	\$1,200
RM of Victoria Beach	-	\$1,200	\$1,200
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$127,434</b>	<b>\$21,900</b>	<b>\$149,334</b>

## National-Level Partnerships

**Purpose:** To provide for membership and participation of the MBMF in the Canadian Model Forest Network (CMFN)

### Description of Activities:

The MBMF is a proud member of the CMFN. The MBMF sits on several committees of the CMFN as well as on the Board of Directors. Historically, the MBMF has also developed partnerships and projects with other model forests globally in the International Model Forest Network.

Activities in 2014-15 included:

- In 2014-15, the national office of the CMFN moved to Pine Falls. The MBMF, under contract to the CMFN, administered the operations of the national network. Brian Kotak became the new General Manager of the CMFN, and Bev Dube the Financial Manager
- Organize and participate in conference calls of the CMFN Board of Directors
- Prepare all materials for the AGM, which was held June 25, 2014
- Participation in meetings with the Forest Products Association of Canada (FPAC). The purpose of the meetings was to explore opportunities for the CMFN and FPAC to work together to address the human resources challenges facing the forest industry.
- Lead and administer a new 2-year project to develop a model forest in the Special Province of Yogyakarta, Indonesia
- Lead the revision of the CMFN, as a requirement of compliance to the new Canada Not For Profit Corporations Act



### Expenditures and Contributions:

<b>Project Expenditures</b>	<b>Cash</b>	<b>In-Kind</b>	<b>Total</b>
Project Activities	<b>\$36,432</b>	-	<b>\$36,432</b>
<b>Project Contributions</b>			
CMFN	\$37,738	-	\$37,738
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$37,738</b>	-	<b>\$37,738</b>

## Annual Financial Report

A financial summary for program/project expenditures (Table 1) as well as a summary of the cash and in-kind contributions of all partners (Table 2) for the 2014-15 fiscal year are provided below..

**Table 1. Project Expenditures and in-kind estimates during the period of April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015.**

Project	MBMF Funds	Partner Funds		Total
		Cash	In-kind	
Committee for Cooperative Moose Management	\$0	\$6,440	\$23,400	\$29,840
Eastern Manitoba Woodland Caribou Advisory Committee	\$0	\$263	\$0	\$263
Education for Sustainable Development	\$6,105	\$27,775	\$57,000	\$90,800
Core Operations	\$75,343	\$46,847	\$21,900	\$144,181
National Partnerships	\$0	\$37,738	\$0	\$37,738
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$81,448</b>	<b>\$119,063</b>	<b>\$101,700</b>	<b>\$302,211</b>

**Table 2. Financial Contributions (Revenue) during the period of April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015.**

<b>Contributor</b>	<b>Cash</b>	<b>In-Kind</b>	<b>Total</b>
MBMF	\$81,448	-	\$81,448
Winnipeg River Community Adjustment Corporation	\$52,000	-	\$52,000
CMFN	\$37,738	-	\$37,738
MB Hydro	\$24,500	-	\$24,500
Sierra Club International	\$6,000	-	\$6,000
Education Program Registrations	\$2,150	-	\$2,150
LaFarge Canada	\$1,500	\$5,000	\$6,500
MB Conservation	\$1,160	\$48,600	\$49,760
Black River First Nation	-	\$2,400	\$2,400
Brokenhead Fish & Game Association	-	\$300	\$300
Brokenhead Ojibway First Nation	-	\$600	\$600
Canadian Forest Service	-	\$600	\$600
CDEM	-	\$300	\$300
Community of Seymourville	-	\$600	\$600
Debwendon Inc	-	\$14,000	\$14,000
Lac du Bonnet Wildlife Association	-	\$600	\$600
LDG of Pinawa	-	\$900	\$900
MB Forestry Association	-	\$1,200	\$1,200
Manitoba Lodges and Outfitters Association	-	\$600	\$600
MB Metis Federation	-	\$300	\$300
Manitoba Trappers Association	-	\$3,300	\$3,300
Manitoba Wildlife Federation	-	\$2,100	\$2,100
Maskwa Ecological	-	\$300	\$300
Miette Environmental	-	\$8,000	\$8,000
Nature Manitoba	-	\$1,200	\$1,200
Pinawa Fish & Game Assoc.	-	\$600	\$600
Powerview-Pine Falls	-	\$1,200	\$1,200
Rural Municipality of Lac du Bonnet	-	\$300	\$300
Rural Municipality of Victoria Beach	-	\$1,200	\$1,200
Sagkeeng First Nation	-	\$1,200	\$1,200
Shining Waters Heritage Region	-	\$3,000	\$3,000

Table 2 Continued

<b>Contributor</b>	<b>Cash</b>	<b>In-Kind</b>	<b>Total</b>
St. Georges Historical Society	-	\$600	\$600
University of Manitoba	-	\$300	\$300
University of Winnipeg	-	\$1,200	\$1,200
Winnipeg River Community Futures	-	\$600	\$600
Woodlot Association of Manitoba	-	\$900	\$900
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$206,496</b>	<b>\$101,700</b>	<b>\$308,196</b>

## Contract Employees

### Manitoba Model Forest Office

P.O. Box 6500

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### General Manager

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### Education Coordinator

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## Manitoba Model Forest Board of Directors (2014-15)

Brokenhead Ojibway Nation	Community of Bissett	Community of Seymourville
Local Government District of Pinawa	Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship (Province of Manitoba)	Manitoba Forestry Association
Manitoba Trappers Association	Manitoba Wildlife Federation	Nature Manitoba
Rural Municipality of Lac du Bonnet	Rural Municipality of Victoria Beach	Town of Lac du Bonnet
Town of Powerview-Pine Falls	University of Manitoba	University of Winnipeg
Wassaabiyaa Shining Waters Heritage Region	Winnipeg River Community Futures Development Corporation	Woodlot Association of Manitoba

### OFFICERS

Carl Smith, Brokenhead Ojibway Nation – President  
 David Punter, Nature Manitoba – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
 Mike James, Woodlot Association of Manitoba – 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
 Stan Kaczanowski, Past President  
 Walter Tokar, Shining Waters Heritage Region – Treasurer  
 Stu Jansson, Manitoba Trappers Association - Secretary