



Media Release

Université du Québec à Montréal researchers receive \$480,000 research award

Drs. Dan Kneeshaw and Christian Messier to develop unique tools to help sustain and manage Canada's forests

Montreal, Quebec, April 25, 2007 – Two Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM) researchers have been awarded a total of \$480,000 over two years to develop unique tools which will help better protect Canada's forests and make their management more effective and cost-efficient. This award is part of a \$3 million investment over two years by the Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Network.

Dr. Dan Kneeshaw, PhD will receive \$265,000 over two years to better understand how major infestations of insects affect forest management across the country over time, and develop new solutions for forest managers to mitigate the losses of merchantable timber due to these pests. The project – which is supported by NRCAN-Canadian Forest Service (CFS), the Governments of Alberta, British Columbia, Newfoundland and Labrador, Ontario and Québec, Abitibi-Consolidated Inc., Canadian Forest Products Ltd., J.D. Irving Ltd. and Weyerhaeuser Company Ltd. – will study three groups of insects in particular: the mountain pine beetle, forest tent caterpillar and spruce budworm.

“Our goal is to improve the accuracy and consistency of various monitoring methods that would allow forest managers to select the most appropriate tactical responses to an insect outbreak as it unfolds,” says Kneeshaw. “By understanding the different response scenarios to various intensities of insect damage, forest managers would have an effective response guide, enabling them to plan five to 20 years ahead.” This new knowledge would also enable better forecasting of timber supply and forest composition.

Working on the project with Dr. Kneeshaw will be Drs. Phil Burton of University of Northern British Columbia, Barry Cooke of NRCAN-CFS, Marie-José Fortin of the University of Toronto, Rongzhou Man of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, and Dave MacLean of the University of New Brunswick.

Dr. Christian Messier, PhD will receive \$215,400 over two years to develop a first-of-its-kind approach to manage Canada's vast forest resources. While the “TRIAD or functional zoning” concept has been discussed for more 40 years, Dr. Messier's project will for the first time develop simulated computer models to examine the impacts of dividing a Mauricie landscape in central Québec into three zones: “ecological” with no logging; “extensive” with limited harvesting; and “intensive” with less than 20 per cent of the landscape used for fast-growing native and hybrid tree species.

“This new method would enable timber companies to maximize yields near lumber and paper mills, while leaving larger tracts of land untouched,” explains Dr. Messier, whose project is supported by the Government of British Columbia, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, Gouvernement du Québec, Abitibi-Consolidated Inc. and the Lake Abitibi Model Forest.

The project will also involve the development of computer models to track both tree succession and extinction risks for the woodland caribou herd in Eastern Labrador, the creation of a fully working Caribou model, and the simulation of scenarios to assess the impact of changes in

zoning patterns as a result of possible resolution of land claims with the Innu and within central Québec.

Working with Dr. Messier on this project will be Dr. Frédéric Doyon of the Université du Québec en Outaouais, Dr. Marie-Josée Fortin of the University of Toronto, and Drs. Dan Kneeshaw and Pierre Laserre of UQAM.

About The Sustainable Forest Management Network

The Sustainable Forest Management Network facilitates collaborative, applied research partnerships among 32 industry, government, Aboriginal, and non-government partners in supporting the work of more than 190 researchers. Their research efforts are accomplished thanks to 300 highly qualified personnel working at 35 participating institutions across Canada. The SFM Network represents one of the few forums to bring Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal forest resource managers and policy makers around one table to promote dialogue and the development of a common understanding in a non-confrontational environment.

- 30 -

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