



Speech by REAC Chair, Doug Badger

As coordinator of Forest Policy for your local Regional Environmental Action Committee, I spent two years working on the standards for environmental stewardship now recognized as the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). We met in Edmonton on a weekly basis with twenty representatives from environmental groups, forest products industries, First Nations and academics. Our goal was to set sustainable forest management policy for the Western Boreal Forest. This was accomplished in 2003. These policies are available for review at [www.fsccanada.org](http://www.fsccanada.org).

The whole point of completing all this arduous and unpaid policy and standards work has been to set up some real, objective measurements for stewardship of the boreal forest by forest products companies. Where these companies have set up their own standards, such as the ISO 14000 and others, the objective of standards for environmental protection has been very much watered down and influenced by the company's own practices. In other words, a company setting their own laws has been so influenced by their own process that they may not necessarily provide a sustainable future for themselves!! Instead of shooting anyone in the foot or causing any economic hardship, the goal of the FSC is to provide for a sustainable boreal forest, and therefore a sustainable forest industry.

The Forest Stewardship Council aims to provide guidelines, without which, the forest products industry, while operating (some may say pillaging) in the short term will not be able to survive the long-term. The boreal forest would certainly not survive present forest industry practices except for the heightened effort at continual improvement. The large environmental groups such as Sierra Club of Canada, GreenPeace and Western Canada Wilderness Committee recognize this and are pressuring forest products companies in an economic way, which we hope is preferable to the old 'direct action' methods.



Additionally, I sit on the Forest Caucus of the Canadian Environmental Network (CEN). We meet by conference call on a monthly basis which includes between 15-20 representatives of environmental organizations across Canada. Several times a year we meet in Ottawa to discuss ongoing policy and practices and share reports from our areas. This information is available at the CEN website; [www.cen-rce.org](http://www.cen-rce.org) I have been a director for CEN for the past four years and am elected to continue for three more years.

I differ with the idea that old-growth is a phony concept, at least in the boreal forest. Old growth forest does exist here, not just rotten trees and fire zones. If only the bear, moose and other birds and wildlife could speak, you know they would back me up and ask for habitat preservation through the use of selective logging practices.

Presented by Doug Badger  
Board of Directors, CEN  
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