



Policy Lessons & Innovations in Canada

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Global Perspectives on
Indigenous Peoples' Forestry,
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Forestry in Canada—Stuck in a Rut

- Forests owned by Canadian people, administered by provincial governments
 - Industrial model—timber exploitation
 - High volume, low value (pulp & paper, dimensional lumber)
 - Dependence on United States' market
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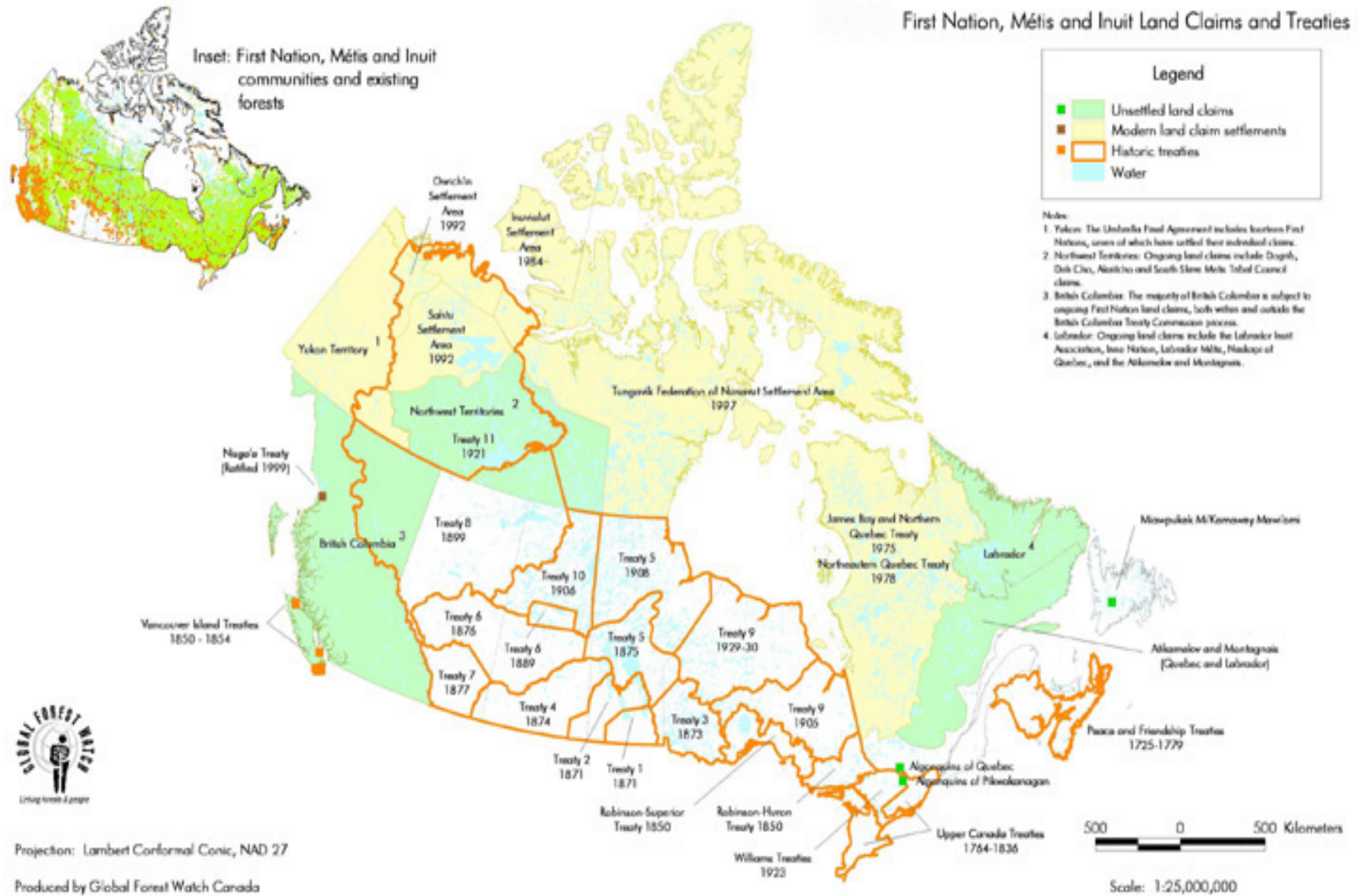
Indigenous Forest Issues

- First Nations: sovereign before colonization
 - Willingness to share, responsibility to welcome, chose to co-exist
 - Treaties: protecting a way of life (hunting, trapping, fishing & gathering)
 - Constitution Act, 1982: Aboriginal & treaty rights
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Indigenous Forest Issues

- Jurisdiction: provinces—natural resources; federal—”Indians & lands reserved for Indians”
 - Rights defined & upheld by Courts
 - Rights ignored by forest managers
 - Access to forest resources denied
 - Ghettos within a prosperous nation
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First Nation, Métis and Inuit Land Claims and Treaties



Policy Challenge: Politics before Business

- A new relationship among governments
- Framework agreements negotiated by Indigenous, national and provincial governments

The New Relationship

Recognition of Indigenous rights

+ tenure reform

+ incorporation of Indigenous values

+ equitable share of benefits

= joint stewardship *and* sustainable
forest management

Is it possible?

Tenure System

- Large area, long-term (20-25 years) licenses to largely foreign-owned multinationals
 - Licenses subject to rules set by provincial governments (level of cut, wood directed to mills, royalties, management)
 - Lack of consultation
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Tenure Innovations

- Community forest tenures, BC
 - Algonquins of Barriere Lake, Quebec
 - James Bay Cree, Quebec
 - Ministerial authority to enter into new arrangements, but rarely implemented
 - National Forest Strategy: commitment to reform policies & legislation as needed
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Indigenous Values

- Document land & resource use (mapping)
 - Monitor and measure changes over time
 - Information collection: minimum standards, sound science
 - Incorporate into decision-making
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Values Innovations

- Canadian Council of Forest Ministers Criteria & Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management (1995): forest land area available for Indigenous use
 - Ontario: “Native Values Mapping”
 - British Columbia: “Traditional Use Studies”
 - Northwest Territories: “Traditional Ecological Knowledge”
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And if governments fail, will certification do the job?

- Forest Stewardship Council's Principle 3, Indigenous Rights
 - *"The legal and customary rights of Indigenous peoples to own, use and manage their lands, territories and resources shall be recognized and respected."*
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Certification Innovations

- Regional standards in Atlantic Canada, Ontario, British Columbia, National Boreal
 - Principle 3: requirements to negotiate agreements, consult, protect use and values
 - Rights? Economic Chamber: Forest companies cannot go beyond provincial governments' interpretation of rights (no sharing)
 - Provincial governments: serve industrial clients; want certification
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A made-in-Canada solution

Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, 1996

Government (Indigenous)-to government (national)-to government (provincial) agreements for joint stewardship of forest resources recognizing:

- ✓ Underlying Indigenous title & responsibility for protection
 - ✓ Maintaining public ownership for the public good
 - ✓ Economic & social justice
 - ✓ Sustainable forest management for future
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