



## Working Together to Protect the Boreal Forest

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- List of Participants, Speakers and Guests
- Advisory Committee
- Activities & Presentations
- Evaluation
- Lessons Learned
- Next Steps



# Boreal Learning Network 2008-2009: Summary Report

## Overview

The objective of the Boreal Learning Network was to convene leaders from the various boreal environmental NGOs and First Nations communities in three multi-day retreats and intercessional teleconferences to strengthen communication and campaign skills, identify common challenges and goals, provide opportunities for program planning and support collaboration between ENGOs and First Nations.

This project focused on issues related to First Nations, their role in the boreal forest, their history and tradition related to the land in their community, and strategies to build a strong, collaborative relationship between environmental NGOs and First Nations.



Participants at the first session in Alberta discuss key issues they'd like to pursue and build strategies for in the following two sessions



Janet Sumner, Executive Director of Wildlands League, talked about the success of getting the Ontario government to make Boreal Conservation a priority in the province (2<sup>nd</sup> Session)

At the first session, representatives from First Nations and environmental groups came together with the desire to create more opportunities to protect the boreal forest. A major emphasis was exploring strategies and models that could protect land and reflect the values and interests of the people living in the boreal. At the second session, we focused on strategies to protect land in the boreal forest, and featured people and case studies that were enlightening, and provided participants an opportunity to build skills and new collaborations. During the third session, we linked together all the learnings from the first two sessions, and focused on how to deal with difficult scenarios and how to build deeper, more effective relationships.

The Boreal Learning Network has made a significant difference in the ability for First Nations and environmental groups to communicate and build trust, and to identify common areas of interest and opportunities for collaboration. The program created an atmosphere of trust and openness for the participants and has helped identify barriers to collaboration and to identify the people and activities that will address these issues.



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## List of Participants, Speakers and Guests (Sessions 1-3)

- Abigosis, Betti (Tootinaowaziibeeng First Nation)
- Allen, Ron (Tootinaowaziibeeng First Nation)
- Anderson, Mark (Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug)
- Asham, Bryan (Pasqua First Nation)
- Asham, Cecile (Pasqua First Nation)
- Baggio, Anna (Wildlands League)
- Baker, Jennifer (Ontario Nature)
- Boan, Julee (Ontario Nature)
- Bubelis, Paul (Sustainability Network)
- Casey-Lefkowitz, Susan (Natural Resources Defense Council)
- Cheechoo, Jocelyn (Moose Cree First Nation)
- Cook, Heidi (Misipawistik Cree Nation)
- Crate, George (Fisher River Cree Nation)
- Cutfeet, John (Wildlands League)
- Duncan, Justin (Ecojustice)
- Erskine, Brenda (Suncor)
- Falconer, Julian (Falconer Charney LLP)
- Ferguson, Christy (Greenpeace)
- Fox, Lisa Maria (Alberta Environmental Network)
- Fry, Kim (Greenpeace)
- Gamble, Jamie (Sustainability Network)
- Gammell, Lori (Suncor Energy Foundation)
- Gladu, JP (Canadian Boreal Initiative)
- Gook, Douglas (Forest Caucus – Canadian Environmental Network)
- Granskou, Mary (Canadian Boreal Initiative)
- Harrison, Judah (Ecojustice)
- Hazen, Jessica (Sustainability Network)
- Hudson, Ed (Poplar River First Nation)
- Letizia, Pat (Alberta Ecotrust Foundation)
- Martell, Lloyd (Nexen)
- McDonald, Diane (Prince Albert Grand Council)
- McKay, Sam (Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug)
- Mikes, Johnny (CPAWS British Columbia)
- Morgan, Shauna (Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources)
- Neff, Stella (Misipawistik Cree Nation)
- Ostaman, Jacob (Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug)
- Padulo, Kathleen (Chiefs of Ontario)
- Plain, Ron (Aamjiwnaang First Nation/Turtle Island Environmental Services-Environmental Defence)
- Pope, Don (Alpac)
- Purdon, Mark (REAP-Canada / Canadian Environmental Network)
- Rabliauskas, Sophia (Poplar River First Nation)
- Rabliauskas, Ray (Poplar River First Nation)
- Reyes, Victor (Sustainability Network)
- Scott, Krista (Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources)
- Shier, Cathy (CPAWS Northern Alberta Chapter)
- Simard, Jennifer (Mushkegowuk Council)
- Soprovich, Dan (Time to Respect Earth's Ecosystems)
- Stevens, Fred (Wuskwi Sipiik First Nation)
- Stevens, Craig (Wuskwi Sipiik First Nation)
- Sumner, Janet (Wildlands League)
- Tenning, Bernadette (First Nations Technical Services Advisory Group)
- Thiessen, Ron (CPAWS Manitoba)
- Trapper, Lillian (Moose Cree First Nation)
- Vaadeland, Gord (CPAWS Saskatchewan)
- Walsh, Helene (CPAWS Northern Alberta Chapter)



# Boreal Learning Network 2008-2009: Summary Report

## Project Advisory Committee

A central part of the Boreal Learning Network is the Project Advisory Committee. The committee is composed of a diverse group of individuals who have a wide range of experiences in boreal forest conservation and have extensive knowledge of First Nations values and traditions. They have also been involved with environmental nonprofits in various capacities for several years.

This committee ensured that we were able to meet the needs of the participants and provide them with a high quality program.

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| <p><b>Anna Baggio</b><br/> <b>Director, Conservation Land Use Planning</b><br/> <b>Wildlands League</b></p> | <p>Anna is an exceptional resource because of her first-hand experience working with over 20 First Nations and the many years she has dedicated to protecting Ontario's Boreal Forest ecosystems. Her understanding of First Nations' values runs deep as do her experiences in cross cultural collaborations and campaigns to achieve mutually agreed upon goals. Most recently Anna worked with several First Nations in the 'right to say NO' campaign that caught the nation's attention when 7 Aboriginal leaders were incarcerated for fighting mineral exploration projects on their traditional lands. As Director, Conservation Land Use Planning for Wildlands League she combines policy insight, campaigning and an understanding and appreciation of Aboriginal lands and values in her work with First Nations outreach. Anna actively seeks collaborations with all kinds of communities with diverse interests in the Boreal Forest. Recently the work of the Wildlands League was given a significant boost with the hiring of an exceptionally qualified Oji-Cree speaker from the remote northern community of Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug as the group's Bilingual Mining Outreach Coordinator.</p> |
| <p><b>Lori Gammell</b><br/> <b>Manager, Community Investment</b><br/> <b>Suncor Energy Foundation</b></p>   | <p>Lori has worked in public relations, communications and fundraising for educational and environmental organizations including the Ann and Sandy Cross Conservation Area and the Nature Conservancy of Canada. After 15 years with the non-profit sector Lori joined Suncor Energy Inc. where she manages the activities of the Suncor Energy Foundation and strategic partnerships with non-profit organizations. In 2008, the Suncor Energy Foundation marked its tenth anniversary. Over the past decade, Suncor and the Foundation have invested more than \$74 million in community, educational and environmental initiatives. Lori is active as a volunteer and is currently on the board of directors of the Alberta Council for Environmental Education.</p>  |



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| <p><b>JP Gladu</b><br/> <b>Senior Aboriginal Advisor</b><br/> <b>Canadian Boreal Initiative</b></p>                                      | <p>JP began his career with the First Nations Forestry Program, and was active in over 40 First Nations communities across Ontario. He then moved to Cranbrook, British Columbia where he acted as an Aboriginal Forestry Advisor. He has also worked as a Policy Forester for the National Aboriginal Forestry Association and the Sustainable Forestry Management Network. Currently, JP shares his time between working on his consulting business, working for his community where he holds their environment portfolio and acts as the senior advisor to Chief and Council; and with CBI.</p> |
| <p><b>Pat Letizia</b><br/> <b>Executive Director</b><br/> <b>Alberta Ecotrust</b></p>  | <p>Pat is an active community volunteer and has been engaged in the nonprofit sector for many years. She has a background in environmental science, and started out as a program manager for Alberta Ecotrust ten years ago. She took on the role of executive director of Alberta Ecotrust in 2000.</p>   |
| <p><b>Shaunna Morgan</b><br/> <b>Senior Manager and Research Associate</b><br/> <b>Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources</b></p> | <p>Shaunna is a member of the James Bay Crees of Waskaganish. She joined CIER in 2000, and has worked on the video: <i>Signals From the Forest: First Nations' Observations of Climate Change</i>. While acquiring a Master's degree and a Bachelor's degree, both in botany from the University of Manitoba, Shaunna spent several years as a laboratory teaching assistant and research assistant for boreal and riparian forest research.</p>   |
| <p><b>Ron Thiessen</b><br/> <b>Executive Director</b><br/> <b>CPAWS Manitoba</b></p>   | <p>Ron has worked in the conservation community for over 15 years and has helped CPAWS make great progress in protecting boreal lands. Ron is widely recognized for his ability to collaborate with First Nations. One example is the collaboration between CPAWS Manitoba and the Fisher River Cree Nations for the Fisher Bay Park Reserve project.</p>  |

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## Activities and Presentations

### Session One: May 28 - 30, 2008 at Nakoda Lodge in Morley, Alberta

#### WEDNESDAY MAY 28, 2008

- Welcoming Ceremony
- Introductions and goals for the project
- Talking Circle
- Fireside Chat: Kanawayandan D'Aaki: Protecting Aboriginal Rights to Land
  - *John Cutfeet, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwig*

#### THURSDAY MAY 29, 2008

- Group Discussion: Reflections and Comments
- Industry and the Boreal: Emerging Issues
  - *Panel discussion and dialogue with representatives from industry:*
    - *Brenda Erskine, Suncor*
    - *Lloyd Martell, Nexen*
    - *Don Pope, Alpac*
- Interpretive Hike
  - *Led by Hank Snow, Councilor, Wesley First Nations*
- Goals and Interests We Have in Common
- Round Table: "What I have to offer and what I'd like to learn about"
- Working Groups: Shared interests and common goals
- Aboriginal and Treaty Rights
  - *Panel discussion and dialogue with Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwig representatives John Cutfeet, elder Mark Anderson, spokesperson Jacob Ostaman, Falconer Charney LLP senior partner Julian Falconer*

#### FRIDAY MAY 30, 2008

- Group Discussion: Reflections and Comments
- Working Groups: Building on shared interests and goals
- Evaluation and Closing Comments
- Closing Ceremony



Jacob Ostaman and Mark Anderson in the  
Aboriginal Treaty Rights Panel (1<sup>st</sup> Session)

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## Session Two: October 22 - 24, 2008 at Delta Marsh near Winnipeg, Manitoba

### WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 22, 2008

- Welcome and Opening Ceremony
- Sharing Conversation
  - *What have we been up to in Boreal since the last session?*
  - *Why have we come and what do we hope to take out of this?*
  - *What does protecting an area mean to us?*



Ray and Sophia Rabliauskas talked about the Poplar River First Nation's actions in protecting their land (2<sup>nd</sup> Session)

- Introduction to the Poplar River First Nation Strategy for Land Protection
  - *Poplar River First Nation representatives Sophia Rabliauskas, Ray Rabliauskas and Eddy Hudson introduce the action their community has taken to protect their land, and what is happening now in Poplar River First Nation*
- Fireside Chat: The Big Win: The Amazing Story of How the Boreal Forest Grew from a Little-Known Place to a Major Conservation Promise by the Ontario Government
  - *Janet Sumner, Executive Director of the Wildlands League, speaks on the many steps and people involved to make this 10-year effort a success to be celebrated for future generations*

### THURSDAY OCTOBER 23, 2008

- Panel Presentation & Discussion: Successful Collaboration To Protect Lands, Poplar River First Nation, Natural Resources Defense Council & Canadian Boreal Initiative
  - *A panel discussion from some of the groups involved in protecting the lands of Poplar River First Nation*
- Skills Workshop: Participants' Choice
  - *Influence And Persuasion With Government*  
*Anna Baggio, Wildlands League & Sam McKay, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug*
  - *Engaging First Nations Communities In Environmental Strategies*  
*Ron Plain, TIERS/Environmental Defence & Jennifer Simard, Mushkegowuk Environmental Research Centre*

### FRIDAY OCTOBER 24, 2008

- Skills Workshop
  - *How To Establish Relationships & Initiate Activity Between First Nations Communities & Environmental Nonprofits*  
*Ron Thiessen, CPAWS Manitoba & Chief David Crate, Fisher River Cree Nation*
- Evaluation and Closing Comments
- Closing Ceremony

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## Session Three: February 23 - 25, 2009 at Sleeping Giant Conference Centre near Thunder Bay, Ontario

### MONDAY FEBRUARY 23, 2009

- Arrival and Opening Dinner
- Welcoming Ceremony
  - *Ron Plain - Aamjiwnaang First Nation/  
Turtle Island Environmental Services*

### TUESDAY FEBRUARY 24, 2009

- Talking Circle
  - *Ron Plain - Aamjiwnaang First Nation/  
Turtle Island Environmental Services*
- Group Discussion
  - *A brief discussion about the kinds of  
Environmental NGO and First Nations  
collaborations which are already emerging  
in the group, and the evolution of trust that  
we are all observing*
- Role Play (Small Groups)
  - *A creative exercise to let participants safely explore some of the more difficult issues that  
may limit collaboration, and to be able to examine and discuss each others' perspectives*
- Group Discussion
  - *A debrief on what was explored in the small group activity, and exploring some broader  
themes about what it will take to move to the next level of working together.*
- Evening Discussion
  - *Jennifer Simard of Mushkegowuk Environmental Research Centre gives her perspective on  
Far North Planning*



Fred Stevens (Wuskwi Sipiik First Nation), Heidi Cook (Misipawistik Cree Nation), JP Gladu (Canadian Boreal Initiative) and Bryan Asham (Pasqua First Nation) during one of the group discussions at the 3<sup>rd</sup> session

### WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 25, 2009

- Mining Act Panel
  - *A panel discussion regarding the Mining Act in Ontario and its implications for the other provinces*
  - *Our panelists:*
    - *Anna Baggio – Wildlands League*
    - *John Cutfeet – Wildlands League*
    - *Justin Duncan – Ecojustice*
- Peer-to-Peer Advice and Sharing (Small Groups)
  - *Each person puts an issue or challenge they are facing on the table and get input from the rest of the group.*
- Closing Discussion and Evaluation
  - *How has BLN entered into the work I've been doing?*
  - *What is my main "take-away" from the program?*
  - *What are my planned actions as I move forward?*

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## Evaluation

At the start of the Boreal Learning Network, we set out to meet the following key objectives:

- To strengthen communication and campaign skills;
- To identify common challenges and goals;
- To provide opportunities for program planning; and,
- To support collaboration among nonprofit and First Nations groups.

Based on the feedback gathered from the participants, our project was able to adequately meet these objectives.

### *Project Objectives*



Ron Plain (Aamjiwnaang First Nation/ Turtle Island Environmental Services), Anna Baggio (Wildlands League) and Gord Vaadeland (CPAWS-Saskatchewan) in one of the small group discussion at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Session

The Boreal Learning Network has made a significant difference in the ability for First Nations and environmental groups to communicate and build trust, and to identify common areas of interest and opportunities for collaboration. The program created an atmosphere of trust and openness among the participants and helped them identify barriers to collaboration and to identify the people and activities that will address these issues.

Two areas identified where there are both collaborative opportunities and challenges are: 1) land-use planning; and, 2) engaging industry. These directly resulted from the discussions, presentations and sharing that transpired during the three retreats.

Participants of the 2008-2009 program were inspired as they listened to Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nations participants discuss the challenges involved in dealing with both the Ontario provincial government and industry, and the impact of the Ontario Mining Act on their community. When members of the band were involved in legal battles over their refusal to allow industry to start mining development in their traditional lands, ENGOs such as the Wildlands League and Ecojustice stood by their side. Together, they exposed the inadequacies of Ontario's Mining Act in dealing with communities in areas that have been targeted for development. This has led to the provincial government starting the process of review and modification of this legislation.

Equally as inspiring was the Poplar River First Nations' presentation on how they persuaded the provincial government in Manitoba to legislate the *East Side Traditional Lands Planning and Special Protected Areas Act*, a law that ensures First Nations play an active role in land-use planning



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for lands on the east side of Lake Winnipeg. The Poplar River First Nations representatives, in turn, were grateful to ENGOs such as CPAWS Manitoba which supported them in their pursuit to have this legislated.

The participants have indicated that these case studies and examples of First Nations and ENGO collaborations were very helpful in identifying possible future collaborative strategies. Furthermore, the retreats presented great opportunities for them to tackle difficult issues, and address these in a clear, forthright and professional manner. We were also able to identify barriers that were slowing down the development of other collaborations.

In general, there are many scenarios of development and conservation efforts that are taking place “on the ground” with a wide range of players; each scenario is unique with its own set of opportunities and challenges. This project has been vital in proactively recognizing how people and activities overlap in communities where boreal conservation and development pressure is high.

Some communities have benefited by expanding their network of people to support their efforts and by learning from best case practices of other communities. Other communities and groups have benefited by learning best practices for engagement and implementation of activities among a wider circle of stakeholders that have different backgrounds.

Collaboration with other organizations has been the main reason for the success of the Boreal Learning Network. The Advisory Committee has helped identify relevant content and activities, as well as recruit participants and access exceptional presenters and speakers. As the project has grown, the participants have increased their commitment to the project and as collaborators who want to actively share and support each other’s efforts.



John Cutfeet was a featured speaker at the first session in a very compelling dialogue with participants about his efforts to protect the boreal forest in Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation

## Lessons Learned

Suggestions for improvement/changes were gathered from the participants following each retreat. Below is a brief discussion of what proved to be effective in attaining the objectives of the Boreal Learning Network, and areas that can be improved in future sessions.

### *What Worked:*

- *Peer-to-peer counseling*

The commitment shown and bonds fostered between the participants were quite extraordinary. The peer-to-peer counseling sessions enabled participants to discuss sensitive issues and have proven to be an effective tool for tackling challenges and sharing experiences.

- *Case studies and examples of ENGO and First Nations collaborations*

Presentations by the Poplar River First Nations and the Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nations were well-received and highly appreciated by the participants of the Boreal Learning Network. The challenges presented and how these were overcome have served to inspire the participants to examine their own communities and groups and look at potential collaborative strategies with other First Nations and/or ENGOs.

- *Adequate time for building relationships*

As the program progressed from the first session to the third, we took heed of the request of the participants to structure the sessions in such a way that they would have more social time. These unstructured periods during the retreats provided the opportunity to form personal relationships and to discuss personal experiences on working with First Nations and/or ENGOs and the challenges they have faced, and how they have dealt with these.

### *Areas for Improvement:*

- *Need to increase participant return rate to near 100%*

Throughout the whole program, the return rate of participants from the first session to the third session was 75%. This is a high participant return rate given that these are leaders in their communities or organizations, and that taking three days from their schedules at a time is quite a commitment. However, some participants have expressed their concern regarding the changing



Jennifer Simard (Mushkegowuk  
Environmental Research Centre) at the  
2<sup>nd</sup> session

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Sam McKay (Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug) and Anna Baggio (Wildlands League) during their *Influence and Persuasion with Government* workshop at the 2<sup>nd</sup> retreat

faces and personalities from one session to another. The group dynamics change from one session to another, and though everyone has been respectful of each other, there is the need to build trust and relationships again every time there is a new participant.

For future sessions, we feel that the best solution is to inform the participants as early as possible about the dates of all upcoming retreats, so that those chosen to participate for the initial session will be able to commit to all retreats.

- *Inclusion of biography of participants*

The participants expressed that the relationship-building would have been easier if they knew more about the other participants besides their names and affiliations at the beginning of each session.

In the future, we plan to include short biographies of all the participants, speakers, special guests and facilitators in the kits that we distribute at the start of each session.

- *More 'difficult issues' discussions*

At the end of the third session, all the participants were happy with the relationships that they had built over the three retreats. However, it was suggested that we could have pushed the envelope further, and we should have explored more of the underlying issues that challenge ENGO and First Nations relationships (i.e. historical and current "hurt").

We realized early on that there was a wide range of expectations from the participants. These different expectations were not necessarily split between First Nations and ENGOs, as even among ENGOs and among First Nations, there were different goals, objectives and motivations for attending the Boreal Learning Network. We tackled the more common concerns and identified two issues that still need to be addressed: 1) the need to engage industry; and, 2) the further development of ENGO and First Nations understanding of what land-use planning means for each group.

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## Next Steps

From the feedback gathered from the participants, and the outcomes of the Boreal Learning Network 2008-2009, there is a need to continue and expand this program to further strengthen relationships among ENGOs and First Nations communities, and to support the evolving collaborative strategies between them.

The Sustainability Network is currently in the process of developing the next phase of this program. As plans for the next phase become more concrete, the following points are being taken into account:

- *Involvement of more ENGOs and First Nations communities*

The program's first year generated so much interest that we regrettably had to turn people away. Currently, there are an additional 20 individuals from First Nations and environmental organizations who are keenly interested in participating. We also know that just as many emerging leaders, particularly from First Nations, are interested.

- *Regionalization*

As the program is expanded to be able to accommodate more participants, we will cluster participants into two regional networks. This will enable us to focus on shared challenges among groups and communities that have common interests, and to accommodate the high demand for participation. The Western Boreal Learning Network will involve groups from British Columbia, Saskatchewan, and Alberta, and the Central Boreal Learning Network will convene groups from Ontario, Manitoba and Quebec.

- *Integrating Conference*

In order to ensure that those involved in the two regional networks are integrated, we will hold a conference involving the participants of both regions after the first set of retreats.

- *Engaging Industry*

One of the specific capacity-building opportunities identified during the 2008-2009 sessions was the need to engage industry. The biggest challenge in addressing this need is the wide spectrum of interest and willingness of the participants in developing the dialogue with industry. In order to develop a sound strategy, we plan to engage key participants, coming from both environmental



Jennifer Simard (Mushkegowuk Environmental Research Centre), Victor Reyes (Sustainability Network), Justin Duncan (Ecojustice) and Douglas Gook (Canadian Environmental Network – Forest Caucus) during one of the small group discussions at the 3<sup>rd</sup> session

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groups and First Nations, who recognize the opportunities that engaging industry presents, to organize a cross-sector dialogue.

- *Further development of ENGO and First Nations understanding of what land-use planning means for each group*

One challenge that the participants are continuing to deal with is the different affinities they have towards the land they are trying to protect. Their distinct motivations often involve deeper issues which preclude the understanding of the other party. Both First Nations and ENGOs have expressed the desire to continue to tackle these issues, confront their differences, and find more commonalities that will help them understand one another better and collaborate more effectively.

As we move forward with the next phase of this project, we will continue to engage all our partners, from the participants, to the Project Advisory Committee, and our founding sponsors. We look forward to being given the opportunity to work with all of them again and build on the successes of our Boreal Learning Network 2008-2009 program and further strengthen and support ENGO and First Nations collaborations and boreal conservation.



Participants of the Boreal Learning Network (First Session) at Nakoda Lodge, Alberta

**Top row L-R:** Fred Stevens (Wuskwiki Sipiik First Nation), Jamie Gamble (facilitator), Lisa Fox (Alberta Environmental Network), Gord Vaadeland (CPAWS Saskatchewan), Bernadette Tenning (TSAG), Christy Ferguson (Greenpeace), Johnny Mikes (CPAWS British Columbia), Jean Paul Gladu (Canadian Boreal Initiative), Julian Falconer (panelist, Falconer Charney LLP), Shaunna Morgan (Centre for Indigenous Environmental Research), Heidi Cook (Misipawistik Cree Nation)

**Middle row L-R:** Judah Harrison (Ecojustice), Ron Allen (Tootinaowaziibeeng First Nation), Betti Abigosis (Tootinaowaziibeeng First Nation) Kathleen Padulo (Chiefs of Ontario), Jacob Ostaman (panelist, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation spokesperson), Dan Soprovich (Time to Respect Earth's Ecosystems), Lillian Trapper (Moose Cree First Nation), Stella Neff (elder, Misipawistik Cree Nation)

**Front row L-R:** Jennifer Simard (Mushkegowuk Environmental Research Centre), Ron Thiessen (CPAWS Manitoba), Mark Purdon (Cdn Env. Network Forest Caucus), Ron Plain (Aamjiwnaang First Nation/Turtle Island Environmental Services/Environmental Defence), John Cutfeet (panelist, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation), Sophia Rabliauskas (Poplar River First Nation), Cecile Asham (elder, Pasqua First Nation)