

Canadian Urban Forest Network (CUFN)

Steering Committee Conference Call

June 17, 2009, 14.00 – 3:30 (EST)

1. Introductions

Pierre Jutras; Research Scientist, Ville de Montréal. Pierre is conducting research on street trees.

Adrina Bardekjian Ambrosii; Ph.D. Candidate, York University. Adrina's work is on the political ecology of urban forests and public health.

Andy Kenney; Senior lecturer, University of Toronto; Andy teaches courses on urban forests and is also the coordinator of the Faculty's Master of Forest Conservation program. A long time advocate of urban forests and the CUFN.

Martha Barwinsky; City Forester, City of Winnipeg; Martha has been part of the CUFN since it was first established – she has a long history in urban forestry and DED control.

Greg Ward; Manager of Urban Forestry and Environmental Programs, City of Surrey; Greg has always been interested in the opportunity to form and be part of a Canadian association for urban forests.

Amery Boyer; Chief Administrative Officer, Annapolis Royal; Amery is highly specialized in human resources and business administration. She has had a long standing interest in urban forests from a municipal perspective.

Michael Rosen; President, Tree Canada; Michael is an advocate for urban forests.

Bruno Chicoine, Project Manager, Tree Canada; Bruno is a M.Sc.F. graduate from Université de Moncton and is currently working on urban forest programs with Tree Canada, including the CUFN. Please feel free to contact him for any help he can provide.

2. Updates

- CUFC: Canadian Urban Forest Conference 8 was held in Strathcona County (AB) in September, 2008. CUFC9 will be in Truro, Nova Scotia: October 5-8, 2010.
- CUFN: The network was launched through the CUFCs, a Canadian Urban Forest Strategy (CUFS) has been created and a list serve (CANUFNET) with over 400 members is active.
- CUFS: The Strategy is full of good ideas, and is pretty well articulated so far. It will serve as a guideline for the actions of the CUFN.
- CCFM: The Canadian Council of Forest Ministers is a body that stimulates the development of policies and initiatives for strengthening the forest sector, including the forest resource and its use. It provides leadership, addresses national and international issues and sets the overall direction for stewardship and sustainable management of Canada's forest. The 2008 Direction Paper acknowledges, for the first time, the importance of urban forests.

3. Reviewing the Terms of References

- A Steering Committee for the CUFN is now formed: the country is well represented with interest from each province being represented.
- The Strategy (CUFS document 2004-2006) will be a working document for the Steering Committee.
- The principal mandate of the Steering Committee is the implementation of the Canadian Urban Forest Strategy as amended from time to time.
- A secondary mandate is to ensure that funding exists to eventually employ a full-time Executive Director
- Currently, municipalities are the main financial contributors to the urban forest sector. At some point, provincial bodies and the private sector should be approached for support.
- Regarding membership:
 - Dues should be considered, offering privileges (mailing lists, magazine, etc.). Dues should be kept as affordable as possible to ensure that as many people as possible join.
 - People should be asked what they wish to see in the Network.
 - Greater development of a website will be needed which will include: recent articles, news about Canadian cities etc. It is easy to update and to make dynamic (or interactive)
 - Questions on who the real members were? Agreed that paid membership demonstrates a true commitment, or a special contribution
- Importance of getting the community groups involved.
- Developing a communication plan is important and is already a task of the Strategy.
- The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) is a strong voice, influential group that we must inform and work closely with.
- CANUFNET is a great communication tools that regroups over 400 people. It should be used to promote CUFN.

Priorities

- Fund-raising and communications (which are closely related).
- This Committee is a Steering Committee and not an Executive - we must involve other people from the CUFN to help.
- Next step is to determine what are the membership fees, benefits, modalities, etc.
- Going back to the Strategy and executing/developing the guiding principles stated in this document.