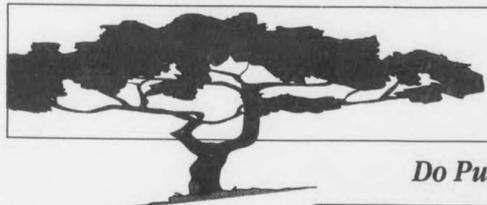


# SPECTRUM



## Forest Breeze

### Do Public Demands Make Sense?

by Chris Lohr

One of the most notable events in Canadian history is the public's increasing participation in the management of Crown Lands. Canadian citizens, as the owners of Crown Land, are now making demands on their tenants—the forest industry. Two demands in particular concern me, however—not singly, but when they are voiced in conjunction with one another.

First, there is the demand to maintain or enhance natural forests. This is needed in order for the ecological integrity of the landscape to be preserved.

Secondly, there is the demand to stop clearcutting and to use less intrusive methods to extract raw materials.

*"In order to create more jobs, save our natural forests, preserve as much old growth as possible, we should stop clearcutting . . . Any forests that*

*are not set aside should be managed by holistic ecoforestry . . . by means of natural selection methods"* (Ecoforestry Report 1, Spring 1993). Orville Camp describes natural selection forest management as "an all-age, all-species management system" (The Forest Farmer's Handbook, 1984). Like selection cutting, this system cuts trees individually. Resulting small gaps in the canopy give new trees a chance to grow in. This produces the characteristics of a "climax" forest because many sizes, ages and species of trees are present simultaneously.

These two public demands, on the one hand to maintain natural forests, and on the other hand, to stop clearcutting, are, unfortunately, not always compatible. And this is what concerns me. Stopping clearcutting and preserving old growth do not unilaterally result in natural forests being saved as the above excerpt suggests.

Gordon Baskerville, former Dean of Forestry at UNB, stated that the incompatibility between various public demands often occurs because of a lack of understanding of the cause-and-effect relationships occurring in the forest. One



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of the "effects" of the selection cutting "cause" is that it provides unsuitable growing conditions for tree species which cannot grow in shade. Since shade-intolerant species are not favoured by selection cutting, there will be a decline in their frequency in the resulting forest. An all-age, climax forest consisting mostly of shade loving species will be perpetuated instead.

The effects of selection cutting may not necessarily be natural. For example, in the dry interior of B.C., vast tracts of even-aged lodgepole pine forests persist.

These forests, consisting of shade-intolerant trees, form the natural forest. They rarely succeed into all-aged, climax forests because of regularly occurring forest fires. Up North, all-aged trembling aspen stands persist because large groups of trees senesce at once and provide enough light for this shade-intolerant species to regenerate. These types of ecosystems are natural but would not be perpetuated by selection cutting.

In order for us, as owners of Crown Land forests, to make demands more consistent, we need to examine each landscape's history, and then prescribe what is best in that specific case.

There

are, of course, many cases where selection cutting or "natural selection forest management" would be appropriate. And there are undeniable advantages to this type of silvicultural

system. Perhaps it is true that an extremist point of view—"Selection cutting only!" is required for a reasonable level to be achieved. However, when we speak of nature, we must avoid the temptation to make undue generalisations. Neither the claim: "Clearcuts are fine!" nor "Selection cutting is the only way!" will promote practices that will always create a natural forest. As owners of Crown Land, we must understand the cause-and-effect relationships so that our demands on forest practices actually produce the demanded responses.



## The Grad ZONE

### Travel Grants and New Requirements

by Timothy T. Buskard,  
President of the GSA

Applying for GSA travel grants has always been a source of confusion for full-time graduate students. The School of Graduate Studies (SGS) and the GSA both have funds set aside every year for travel support (see page 7 of the handbook). The GSA has changed the requirements for graduate students to receive travel grants since several departments send students to conferences where they are not given the opportunity to present. This would have eliminated them from receiving any support - until now. Although the SGS still requires students to present at a conference to receive support, the GSA will support any full-time graduate student who attends a conference. The SGS has

its own support levels. The GSA levels are calculated from the out of pocket expenses of the student. The GSA's formula is \$50 plus 10% of the balance up to \$100. The following procedures should be followed to apply for both the SGS and GSA travel support.

If presenting at a conference:

1. Go to the School of Graduate Studies and obtain a travel application form.
2. Return it to the School of Graduate Studies at least two weeks before your departure
3. If you are accepted, you will be notified by the school of SGS and a cheque will be available at the business office. You should also receive an Expense form from the SGS and

a GSA application form. They are to be filled out once you have returned from the conference.

4. **Keep all your receipts including food while you are away.**
5. Once you have returned, complete the forms and include all the receipts.
6. Send the appropriate forms the GSA and the SGS.
7. The GSA will respond to your application within three weeks.

If not presenting at a conference:

1. Keep all your receipts.
2. Phone, Email, or go to the offices of the GSA to get an Application Form.
3. Return the completed form to the GSA including receipts.
4. The GSA will respond to your application within three weeks.

## NOT that you asked... by Frank Pearce

Next fall, it will be time for students at this university, and at all universities across Canada, to take a stand against Lloyd Axworthy's proposed tuition hikes. It is time for students to say that they're tired of getting screwed over by government on a regular basis with regards to getting a university education. It's bad enough that summer jobs are just about impossible to find if you need more than minimum wage; it's bad enough that the Student Loan bureaucracy is such that the student is made to feel like a thief; but now the government is suggesting that students be required to pay as much as \$20 000 for a year at school. They say that they'll up the totals for allowed Student Loans, but they neglect to fess up that all this means is that when we graduate we'll owe up to \$100 000, instead of the \$20 000 that is almost impossible to pay off at present.

What it means is that the only students who will be welcome at a university will be those with rich parents. Oh, a couple of token poor kids will be let in on scholarships so that the government can pat themselves on the back and say that they're not really screwing the poor and lower middle classes, but it will be a lie. The reality will remain that unless you've got a source of cash, Axworthy's proposal means that you won't be going to university.

It could be argued by the right wing conservatives that governments should not be obligated to foot the bill for its citizens; that only those who can provide for themselves should receive the luxury of a university education. Never mind that this argument utterly ignores the fact that the impact of university graduates upon the economy more than repays the government's investment; what the argument really advises is the establishment of Canada as an aristocracy, rather than as a meritocracy. It will no longer matter how smart you are, or how capable you are; all that will matter is whether or not you have the money.

For that matter, governments should be moving towards covering the entire cost of tuition. This would necessitate the tightening of entrance requirements so that only the academically deserving get entrance, but it will go a long way towards ensuring that all those who deserve to go to university will get

the chance to do so. University should not be a free ride; you should have to earn your way in, but those earnings must be paid in the coin of intelligence rather than money.

Some might claim that such a policy is economically naive; that the money for such a notion simply does not exist. They are wrong, the money quite obviously does exist, it simply requires a humanising of our priorities. What we need to establish in our nation is a will towards making university the priority it needs to be. Unfortunately, universities are being lumped in with Canada's social programs, and as such are falling victim to the unjustified attacks which all of these programs are enduring.

This is why students now have to take a stand against Axworthy's proposal. If it should indeed come into effect, we should all of us refuse to pay. Myself, I plan to attend UNB next fall, and I intend to pay the same tuition as I did this year along with the usual 10% hike, just as I have every other year. I will not pay any more than that in accordance to Axworthy's warped ideas. I then plan to show up to every class for which I plan to register, and I will stay there and get my education until the university is forced to physically remove me from the classroom. At that point I will have no options left; I will be forced to continue showing up for class every day and being removed from the classroom until the university is forced to get a court order keeping me off campus. At this point I

*" the only students who will be welcome at a university will be those with rich parents."*

will again have no options left, and I will again continue to show up for class every day until they are forced to arrest me. And when I am in class I will be disruptive. I will not sit there passively. I will force them to take notice of me.

However, if I am the only person doing this, it won't mean a thing, because then the university and the government will be able to dismiss me as a radical. For that reason, it will be necessary for the majority of students at this campus—and at other campuses—to do the same. If enough of us stand up against this intolerable proposal, then it will become impossible to enact it. Remember, no law can be enforced if it does not have the will of the people. This proposal directly affects us negatively. We must not allow ourselves to be screwed over this way.