

Global Forest Watch Canada Receives Boreal Award



Left: Larry Innes of the Canadian Boreal Initiative and Peter Lee. Right: Peter with the other award recipients.

December, 2010: Peter Lee, Executive Director, was honoured to accept a Boreal Award on behalf of Global Forest Watch Canada (GFWC) at the annual Boreal Awards gala in Ottawa on November 24th, 2010. It is timely to receive this award in the same year that GFWC celebrates ten years of providing access to better information about development activities in Canada's forests and their environmental impacts.

Presented by Boreal Leadership Council (BLC), the annual Boreal Awards pay tribute to individuals, groups, companies, and governments who are passionate about the protection and the vitality of Canada's Boreal Forest. Award winners work for the conservation and sustainable development of the great Canadian Boreal Forest following the principles of the Boreal Forest Conservation Framework. These leaders, whose determination, creativity, and innovation help sustain the Boreal Forest, are nominated by their peers. Winners are selected by a committee comprised of at least one industrial, one environmental, and one Aboriginal member of the BLC.

Why Was GFWC Nominated for a Boreal Award?

Currently, certification programs and market action campaigns that call for higher standards are an important focus of both environmentalist initiatives and industry response.

GFWC provides an independent national perspective on forestry issues and addresses the severe absence of up-to-date, detailed maps and other monitoring and verification tools to identify what is happening and what is poised to happen in Canada's forests with rigorous and reliable information products. In a way that no other organization currently does, GFWC provides this kind of information in a freely accessible format – with analysis and summaries of the key trends in the spatially explicit context that is necessary for full understanding necessary for successful landscape level land-use planning.

In its 10 years of existence, GFWC has been successfully pursuing its mission to support the stewardship and conservation of Canada's remaining forests by providing decision makers and civil society with timely, accurate information on their location, state, and change: GFWC has contributed to a shift toward greater ecological sustainability in the management of natural areas by creating a compelling visual picture and analysis of current conditions, historical changes and future trends.

Response

In accepting the Boreal Award on behalf of the board and staff of GFWC, Peter Lee:

- Thanked the Boreal Leadership Council for recognizing the work of Global Forest Watch Canada in supplying important data and information on Canada's boreal forest.
 - Pointed out that the attendees' efforts to conserve and sustainably manage Canada's boreal forest (e.g., Boreal Framework, Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement) have been so significant as to capture the world stage. Now the question is whether we collectively can continue to "own that stage."
 - Acknowledged the leadership provided by forest companies, such as Tembec Inc., for their decades of sustainable forest management endeavours.
 - Acknowledged the honour of being in the Aboriginal traditional territory of the Algonquin and in other traditional territories that Global Forest Watch Canada has worked within in past years.
 - Recognized the tremendous leadership potential of Aboriginal peoples in conserving and sustainably managing Canada's boreal forest and the fact that the fate of Canada's boreal forest, and perhaps of Canada, is in their hands.
 - Suggested that all present who are interested in conserving and sustainably managing Canada's boreal forest should work harder, work faster and work from the heart.
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Find out more ...

Global Forest Watch Canada: www.globalforestwatch.ca

Canadian Boreal Initiative: www.borealcanada.ca