

Executive Director's Notes

By Allyson Brady

Celebrating Success

It is time for us to stand and cheer for the doer, the achiever, the one who recognizes the challenge and does something about it.

- V. Lombardi

SES is thrilled to be part of the exciting initiative heralded on the first page of our newsletter "Saskatchewan Forestry Company Gets 'Seal of Approval' From Environmentalists".

For the past 3+ years, SES has been working with the forestry company, Mistik in their efforts to achieve Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification. FSC certification is akin to achieving a "gold star" in forest management. Growing public demand for "sustainably harvested wood products" and an increasing doubt of government's ability to oversee forestry companies' activities, lead to the development of the FSC. Under the leadership of environmentalists, First Nations, and industry, FSC developed a set of principles, criteria and indicators that demonstrate best management practices.

Achieving FSC certification, as Mistik has done, helps assure consumers that their forestry practices integrate environmental, social and economic interests; have broad and thorough public input; and have a viable "chain-of-custody" (a system whereby a product can be traced from the forest it came from to its final destination in the marketplace.)

This momentous accomplishment represents a step forward for the forestry industry in the province - SES has helped raise the bar in Saskatchewan forest management - we've said better forest management can be done, and now, it is being done. We hope all forestry companies working in this province will be held to this accountability.



Throughout this process there have been a lot of bumps, and I was often reminded of the **Marie Curie** quote: "One never notices what has been done; one can only see what remains to be done" and while we are still on the path to sustainable forest management and we know nothing is ever perfect, let's take time to celebrate what we have accomplished!

SES is inviting its members and supporters to recognize that, together, we helped bring about something significant: better forest management in Saskatchewan and the potential for 200,000 ha more of protected areas!

Join us for "A Day in the Life of a Certified Forest Manager" on February 13th, 7pm at J.S. Wood Library in Saskatoon, 1801 Lansdowne Avenue. SES and staff from Mistik will discuss what it takes to achieve sustainable forest management. *Celebratory cake and coffee will be served!*

