



Coasters Association Inc

**The Power of Partnership:
Initiating economic diversity on the Lower North Shore**

**Partnership Forum:
Summary report**

March 2012

Prepared by: Shelley Fequet

Table of Contents

Introduction	4
Opening Remarks	4
Presentations	5
○ Power of Partnerships	
○ Wildberry Project	
○ Non-Timber Forest Product Development	
○ Biopterre	
○ Royal Roads University	
Break out sessions	12
Partner involvement	17
Next Steps	17
Conclusion	18
Evaluations	19
Annexes	23
○ Power or Partnership- Power point presentation	
○ Wildberry project – Power point presentation	
○ NTFP – Power point presentation	
○ Biopterre – Power point presentation	
○ Royal Roads University – Power point Presentation	

Introduction

Hugh Maynard
Facilitator
Qu'Anglo Communications

Shelley Fequet
Coordinator
Coasters Association



Mr. Maynard introduced himself and thanked everyone for participating in the Partnership Forum. Ms. Fequet introduced herself and explained that the forum was a part of the *Power of Partnership* project. She gave special acknowledgments to those attendees who came from off coast. Each participant was asked to introduce themselves.

Those in attendance participated in an introduction exercise. Everyone was asked to speak with two (2) individuals that they did not know, or did not know well, and ask them three (3) questions: 1) Who are they? 2) What did they do? 3) Why is the Partnership Forum important to them?

Opening Remarks

James Buckle
Finance Officer
Coasters Association



Mr. Buckle welcomed everyone, on behalf of the Coasters Association, to the Partnership Forum. He mentioned how great it was to see so many people representing various organizations from the communities across the Lower North Shore.

The objective of the Partnership Forum is to bring together partners that wish to contribute to the sustainable (social, environmental, economic) development of the Lower North Shore. The support received from our partners, membership and the community at large played a major role in the development of the Wildberry and Non-Timber Forestry sectors in the region.

He welcomed the guests from other parts of the province who took the time to be present, to share their insights and experiences regarding issues that face each and every one of us.

Mr. Buckle wished everyone present a nice day, and asked them to fully participate in all the activities planned for the Partnership Forum and work together towards a sustainable Lower North Shore.

Presentations

Partnership Project

(Power point presentation attached)

Shelley Fequet

Power of Partnership Coordinator



Ms. Fequet began by explaining that the project consisted of three (3) objectives. The first being the mobilization of communities on the Lower North Shore and this was done by organizing public consultations in the Municipalities of Golfe St. Laurent, Gros Mecatina, Blanc Sablon, St. Augustine and with community leaders on the Pakuashipi reservation. It has also developed thirteen (13) E-Newsletters (117 subscribers), organized nine (9) radio interviews across the Lower North Shore, published two (2) pamphlets (Wildberry & Non-timber Forest Product Development) in both official languages, contacted two hundred and seventy-nine (279) expatriates and held a video contest with schools (13) across the region, including the Francophone and Native Schools.

The second objective is to integrate **Wildberry** and **Non-timber (NTFP)** initiatives into regional government planning and the project does this by planning and organizing meetings/consultations with various regional and governmental departments. Finally, the third objective, include diverse, non-traditional communities in the project activities had been started with the consultation with community leaders on the Pakuashipi reservation.

Ms. Fequet spoke of how the Partnership project provides a foundation and framework for long-term sustainable partnerships and support of the **Wildberry** project by meeting with the public and raising awareness, and seeking involvement from communities to formalize their participation. It provides a foundation and framework for the **NTFP** initiative by contacting organizations, institutions and stakeholders to plan development activities.

Next steps for the Partnership Project include setting up local action groups in each municipality and finalizing public consultations in Kegaska, Tête-à-la-Baliene and La Romaine (Uanamen Shipi).

Ms. Fequet informed the participants that the Partnership project was funded by Agriculture & Agri-food Canada, through the Rural Secretariat, and the duration is from November 2010 until March 2012. The presentation was concluded by the viewing of the winning Wildberry video, created by the Sec. V class at Mgr. Scheffer School in Lourdes de Blanc Sablon. The video will be available for public viewing on the Coasters Association website www.coastersassociation.com in English and French.

Comments:

- Great initiative, should continue
- The Community Learning Centers can help with youth involvement
- The NTFP Development agent will be going to schools to promote youth involvement in

the NTFP, Wildberry and Co-op activities.

- Ensure that protecting our resources and best-picking practices are promoted.

Wildberry Project

(Power point presentation attached)

Priscilla Griffin
Coordinator



Mrs. Griffin began by explaining how the Wildberry project was developed. From 2005 to 2008 The Coasters Association had a project entitled “A Portrait of the Food Industry relating to residents of the Lower North Shore”, funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada. Many notable achievements were realized during the projects duration (LNS Food Guide, community gardens, community kitchens, etc) and one of the objectives was to develop an industry on the Lower North Shore using local resources, therefore the wildberries were given priority.

In 2007/2008 there were two (2) inventories (Volet II) carried out by Biopterre in the Municipality of Bonne Esperance. During that time the quality, quantity and nutritional value of the wildberries were identified. Priscilla went on to inform the participants that in 2009 the Ministre des Affaires Municipales, des Régions et de L’occupation du Territoire (MAMROT) approved a five (5) year project, *Revival and diversification of activities and exploitation of resources on the Lower North Shore*, which is the Wildberry project.

The Wildberry project has three (3) goals, the first being the development of a wildberry industry on the Lower North Shore. This will be achieved by economic development activities using non-timber forest resources from local sources, establishing a sustainable supply of fruit for processing/marketing and by the establishment of a cooperative structure. The second goal is to examine the development of innovative products in the food and natural health sector. This will be done by commercialization on the food market and by exploring possibilities for the development and marketing of natural health products. The final goal is to stimulate and diversify the economy of the region in addition to creating local jobs and this is being done by the creation of new products in response to market demands as well as the acquisition and diffusion of knowledge.

Those in attendance were informed on some of the accomplishments of the Wildberry project so far...the establishment of various committees, completions of documents and publications, two (2) additional Volet II’s (2010/2011), identification of products to be developed, the hiring of Field Workers (4), Processors (8) and a GPS/Mapping Technician in 2010 and the hiring of Wildberry/NTFP Technicians (4) and a GPS/Mapping Technician in 2011. One of the biggest accomplishments was the training that took place in La Pocatière, Quebec, in November 2011; this was a vital part of the Wildberry initiative.

Mrs. Griffin concluded her presentation by thanking all the partners involved and reviewing the up coming events scheduled for the Wildberry project. This will include completing community consultations (Kegaska, Tête-à-la-Baliene and La Romaine), finalization of products, advertisement/marketing campaign, securing Collection Agents, establishing an infrastructure, obtaining equipment, developing strategies and new recipes, development of the Cooperative and getting the buy-in from the younger generation.

Non-Timber Product Development (NTFP)

(Power point presentation attached)

Tyler Buckle
NTFP Development Agent



Mr. Buckle began his presentation by giving a definition of a non-timber forest product. He explained that Canada Economic Development approved funds towards a NTFP industry on the Lower North Shore and part of the objective was *to create a network of individuals and partners who have an interest, and the expertise, in the various aspects of non-timber forest products development and commercialization.*

Participants were informed of the current non-timber initiatives taking place on the Lower North Shore:

- The **Wildberry** initiative in Bonne Esperance (and will move to St. Augustine) has just introduced the *LNS Bio Resources Solidarity Coop* and its first general assembly is planned for February 2012. The initial products and market testing was done off coast and is scheduled to be ready for purchase winter 2012. A transitional plan to move from the Coasters Association to the Coop is under development and new products are being explored with Biopterre and Virage Santé.
- The **Green house** project...*creating a self-sufficient Lower North Shore in Gros Mecatina* will be looking at the construction of a greenhouse which could supply fresh produce to local grocery stores. A survey was conducted with all grocery stores on the territory and a 100% would support such an initiative. The CLD Basse Cote Nord and the Municipality of Gros Mecatina have agreed to fund a feasibility study (MARFA Consulting) and a pilot project will begin following the results of the study.
- The **Algae & Peat Moss** project has the potential to be a successful endeavor in Golfe-St. Laurant. There is a high demand for algae in the food, cosmetics, and pharmaceutical and explosives industries. Algae is also being explored as an alternative to fossil fuels. The Lower North Shore has been identified as the habitat for several unique peat moss beds and with the peat moss, algae and fish by-product a fertilizer can be created. A project was developed and submitted in October 2011, by the Coasters Association, CLD Basse-Côte Nord and the MRC du Golfe-Saint-Laurent, to help develop the algae and peat moss industry in the region.

- **Inventories of Mushrooms & other plants** is an initiative that is being worked on with Biopterre to research the different species of mushrooms and plants, the volume of each species and the commercialization potential. There is also potential for a partnership with Virage Santé to develop medicinal products.
- **An Innovative Co-operative** is the basis of a “united” co-operative structure that will oversee and manage the activities of all the bio resource activities including; wildberry, algae, green house, mushroom and other plants. First up is the Wildberry co-op and the others will follow accordingly.

Mr. Buckle concluded his presentation by identifying next steps for each NTFP initiative. For **Wildberry** this will include the market testing for the first two (2) products, finalizing the co-op formalities and preparing for the 2012 harvesting season. Next up for the **Green House** is the feasibility study by MARFA Consulting and work with partners to develop a global project. The direction of the **Algae & Peat Moss** will greatly depend on the securing of funding and the **Mushroom & Other Plants** will be completing an inventory of species in our region, as well as finalizing the service offer with Virage Santé.

Comments:

- During the coastal consultations in 2011 the population of the Lower North Shore voiced their desire of a “united” co-operative structure.
- When a promotional campaign is carried out across the Lower North Shore, training and the protection of our natural resources will be emphasized.
- An obstacle will be getting the amount of berries needed for production. We know that we will have competition and we need to make sure we get the yield and protect our resources.
- A big part of this is developing the co-op; this is how the North was developed. It is so important and the answer for the development of the Lower North Shore is a co-op.
- Branding of the Lower North Shore will be important.
- We have so many resources and a brand will help sell it.
- The Montagnais population should be a big part of the LNS development, working closely with the native communities will be important.

It was pointed out that Mr. Raymond Buffitt has a lot of experience working with natives and would be a great asset in this area. Mr. Buffitt explained that when he moved to the North he was the only white person. He worked in economic development, learnt the language and mutual trust was created. Mr. Buffitt stated that we need to earn the trust of the native population; this will lead to partnerships and will provide opportunities for funding access.

- The native already know so much about medicinal products and have a lot of expertise.
- The MRC is looking at developing a logo for the whole Lower North Shore.

Shore Grow

Raymond Buffitt
Founder, Owner



Mr. Buffitt began his presentation by explaining he started *Shore Grow* ten (10) years ago on a small scale and he had a lot of expertise in this area. *Shore Grow* produced fifteen thousand (15,000) units of fertilizer product. This was made from the algae (kelp) by-product after the alginic acid was extracted. It was stated that if the by-products from the fish were mixed with the waste from the algae then a high end fertilizer could be developed. Mr. Buffitt stressed that now we need to look at the fish plants and work with them.

Harvesting will need to be handled very carefully, especially in exposed areas. Exposed areas can only be harvested every ten (10) years because ice and nature takes it toll. Protected areas are easier to control; they can be harvested every three (3) years after cutting five (5) inches from the base of the plant. Each year the harvest yields are different, like farming. Mr. Buffitt recommended that each harvester have their own designated area with a license; this would help protect the area, and with hydraulics fishing boats can harvest the plants.

Those present were informed that when *Shore Grow* first started, tests were done from June to September and they determined that the plant protein peaked in September. The plant will restore energy in the fall to prepare for the winter. Mr. Buffitt stated that the grow period of the kelp is known, however, the food product that can be produced, the exact alginic acid content and the peak harvesting season of alginic acid will need to be researched. *Shore Grow* had contacted a pharmaceutical company in Toronto and they want alginic acid urgently.

On the Lower North Shore there are four (4) types of kelp that are known; two (2) types are edible and we know there is a demand for flag kelp, which is valuable, but we do not know much about the bladder kelp that has the alginic acid. Mr. Buffitt mentioned that our algae resources are unlimited and this can work well with the fish plants. In order to produce four hundred and fifty (450) tons of fertilizer... fifty (50) miles of coastline is needed.

It was mentioned that *Shore Grow's* research was funded by Canada Economic Development (CED-Q) and the Ministère de l'agriculture, des pêcheries et de l'alimentation de Québec (MAPAQ) and Calineo Inc has all the research and fertilizer recipes. Mr. Buffitt reiterated the importance of working with the fish plants and stressing the importance of a united cooperative structure for the Lower North Shore.

Comments:

- Mr. Buffitt's expertise and research will be invaluable.
- There is a big market for kelp food products and alginic acid.

Questions:

Q1: Did you approach the Seafood Coop in Harrington Harbour about using their fish by-products?

A: Yes, testing was done and cod waste worked best.

Q2: Was the Seafood Coop interested in partnering with you?

A: Yes, they gave the waste however, I was only set up on a small scale and a bigger scale is needed.

Biopierre

(Power point presentation attached)

Maxim Tardif
TPHE specialisation env.
Chef de projet



Mr. Tardif began his presentation by explaining to those in attendance that Biopierre was a college center for transfer of technology in the field of Bioproducts (industrial, specialty product and agroforestry and NTFP). In 2008 Biopierre generated \$400,000 worth of projects and in 2011 1.9 million dollars worth of projects were generated in four (4) service points.

Biopierre's objective is to transfer knowledge from college to business and the motto is releasing plants potential through health, environmental, bio energy and bio industrial application. It was stated that bio products is a sector with high potential and more research should be done in molecular development. Biopierre has worked in areas with specialty products, such as natural health products, medicinal, pharmaceutical and cosmetics.

Mr. Tardif explained that Biopierre focuses on research activities based on the needs of partners. Examples of these are agriculture and forestry biomass production, mapping and inventory technology, agri-industrial forestry bio products, as well as peat moss and agri-environmental technologies. Biopierre also has access to facilities and equipment for training and product development.

Participants were informed that innovation assistance to business for bio-resources development had access to 4.1 million over a five (5) year period (2009-2014) for the five (5) themes of applied research and technology transfer activities:

- Development of sustainable production, harvesting and processing of biomass
- Development of fertilizers and substrate materials
- Development of agri-environmental technologies using peat moss
- Development of agri-forestry and NTFP
- Development of biofiltration litter, biofuel and molecule enhancement

Mr. Tardiff concluded the presentation by stating opportunities to explore (Plan Nord and assistance for technical project development) and mentioned that Biopterre intends to open an office on the Lower North Shore to aid with project development, knowledge transfer and funding program research.

Comments:

- It's so good to hear that Biopterre will be having an office on the LNS, this will make a big difference and a better exchange of information.

Center for Livelihood & Ecology (CLE)

(Power point attached)

Tim Brigham
Coordinator, Education & Sector Support
Royal Roads University



Mr. Brigham began his presentation by explaining that the mission of the Center for Livelihood & Ecology is to sustain communities through the wise use of natural resources. Established in British Columbia in 2004, the Center has initiated more than 125 projects with an approximate value of five (5) million dollars and many, many partners. Partners create a critical mass of support and the CLE is pleased to have the Coasters Association as a partner.

Those present were informed that the CLE is organized into three (3) programs; socio-economic and policy research, ecology and resource management research and training, extension and industry support. It was explained that the training, extension and industry support program include community training, opportunity assessments and guide books.

Various initiatives of the CLE were highlighted, the *Buy BC Wild* initiative educates the public on resource managers and policy makers. It provides tools to bring the NTFP sector together to increase coordination and voice, as well as to help producers sell and provide direct and tangible benefits to the sector. The *Buy BC Wild Directory* is in the fifth year of publication and has seen an increase in listings, quality and distribution. *Shop the Wild- Festival & Market* has thirty-eight (38) vendors and information booths, cooking demonstrations and presentations and has approximately 2,500 visits over two (2) days each year. The main challenge of the

aforementioned CLE initiatives is resources and the impacts are the increase profile of sectors, successful models and business linkages.

It was explained that the Coasters Association is a partner in the Rural Opportunities Network (RON), a web based initiative. This network provides resources and tools for enterprise development, rural diversification and small scale resource management. The RON is focused on remote, northern and aboriginal communities and is not just for non-timber forest products. The RON consists of three (3) components: knowledge sharing (documents, case studies, learning opportunities, etc), building a network (connecting people) and market place (linking producers with markets).

Currently the Rural Opportunities Network is working on the development of a website, seeking feedback and compiling resources materials. Mr. Brigham concluded his presentation that the website will be for rural communities like those on the Lower North Shore and he looks forward to working with the Coasters Association.

Break out sessions



Mr. Maynard moderated a brainstorming session that allowed participants to provide input and direction for bio resource development on the Lower North Shore. The major elements discussed were:

Co-op expansion on the Lower North Shore, along with handling multiple lines

Sector creation: harvesting, production, selling

- Wildberry
- Wildberry/Bio-resource
- Wildberry/other plants
- Algea

A separate co-op for each sector would have financial costs; to save on human resources and other expenditures each should be under one large governing body. Then each “sector” to have their own management team as well as have a seat on the large governing body.

The Seafood Coop in Harrington is a model, would be ideal if they would become a member of the Bio Resource Coop. It was suggested the algae sector should follow structure of the Seafood Coop...by doing this the transportation costs and human resources can be shared:

- Processors
- Work in each sector
- Increase work productivity
- Training and education for younger population

Local ownership and participation:

- Workers on Board of Directors
- Invested in the coop
- More involvement from population once infrastructure is in place
- Educate population on the importance of being involved

Establish system to increase berry yield:

- Harvesting
- Cultivation

Fair, non-competitive system:

- Collaborate with Labrador to manage prices
- Monitor external buyers
- Support local business

Further development of non-wildberry NTFP's

NTFP's that could be developed:

- Birch, alder, shrubs
- Herbs & spices (i.e. wild parsley)
- Edible NTFP's (algae, mushrooms)
- NTFP's with medicinal properties (fur tree buds, tea berry, snow berry, juniper, sap)

Suggested prioritization of NTFP's with medicinal properties (commerce, knowledge, quality).

More information needed:

- Educate youth and adult population on the impacts of their actions on the environment and their part in sustainable development
- On various NTFP's (i.e. caribou moss, fiddle heads)

Actions:

- Research
 - Picking and sampling
 - Testing
 - Recipe development
- Transfer of Knowledge
 - Elderly to young
 - Montagnais to us
- Berry by-products
 - i.e. animal feed

Involvement from:

- Bio Resources Solidarity Coop, Coasters Association, Berrylicious Committee, Municipality, experts in the field, etc.
- Montagnais (find appropriate individual to approach them and build trust)
- Seniors (use their knowledge and experiences)

Overall objectives (“master plan”)

- Results based management
- Accountability
- Efficient & cohesive
- Strategic use of funds
- Increased financing-high return on investments for support of coop

Branding & LNS image

- Logo
- Inclusive
- Coast wide

Integration of NTFP planning and policy with government institutions

MRC's

- Land management/planning
- Plan Nord

All partners accept responsibilities for implementing and enforcing land management regulation.

Municipalities

- By-laws
- Permits (i.e. coop buys from individual with a permit)
- Regulation of trails (ATV, snowmobile)
- Quebec-Labrador border (inspections, checks)

Policy

- Evaluate each NTFP sector for policy
- EI benefits
- Food Security
- Permits
- Purchasing
- Picking
- Coop-service agreement with Labrador companies (i.e. purchasing strategies)

Ensure that the Native population is involved in policy development.

“Master plan”

- Designation of lands (picking, off limits to ATV)
- Identify resources for land management
- Time line
- Identify activities in all Municipalities
- Identify who will enforce by-laws
- Training (best practice picking, responsibilities, etc)
- Education/Awareness campaign (ATV damage, preserving resources, scrappers, etc.)
- Research
- NTFP awareness to various government departments

Sustainable management of the non-timber forest resource environment

Threats

- ATV's on berry field
- Lack of community involvement, buy in
- Environment (pollution, fragile marshes, climate change)
- Designated picking area(s)

Needs

- Publicity/awareness campaign
- Sustainable harvesting
- Long term monitoring program (research other countries)
- Master environmental plan
- Sharing resources
- Communication
- Research

The “master” environmental plan should include: Contacting the native population, form partnerships (Labrador) and schools (NTFP activities integrated into science curriculum) and research funding possibilities. Biopterre’s office on the LNS will be very beneficial and the Coop will need to consider youth involvement a priority.

Involvement from:

- Ministry (federal, provincial)
- Local population (ownership)
- Coop – proactive role
- Schools (integrated curriculum)
- Native population

Coop responsibilities:

- Environmentally friendly
- Discourage over picking
- Create sustainable products
- Youth involvement (student pickers, youth seat on Board)
- Native involvement (seat on Board)

Sustainable management of resources:

- Studies (yield fluctuations, affect of snow, biomass)
- Cultivation
- Best picking practices (scrapers, over picking)

Partner involvement (now that a coop is in town)

A participatory session allowed participants to provide input on how the partners, of the Wildberry and NTFP initiatives, could be involved now that Lower North Shore Bio Resources Solidarity Coop has been established. The areas of involvement identified were:

Board of Directors: Strong partner connections on the Board of Directors of the LNS Bio Resources Solidarity Coop will be extremely important. A challenge for the Board will be recruiting worker members...often workers feel intimidated and find the process complicated. Partner expertise can be utilized to address this concern (ownership, education, awareness), not only for Board members but for coop members as well.

Introducing the Coop: Community partners may be a good choice to introduce the LNS Bio Resources Solidarity Coop to their respective communities. It will be empowering to have locals sharing a local message. Local Action Groups (LAG) could share the same message as the Coop and generate buy-in from the population.

Building relationships: Each partner will be able to add something different to the LNS Bio Resources Solidarity Coop. The relationships they have will contribute to the Coop's sustainability and vitality, as well as the new relationships that have yet to be developed.

Network creation: The advantages and benefits of an effective network can be immense. A strong network can raise your profile, uncover new opportunities and increase business. All partners engaged in the network would have access to each others expertise and strengths.

Next Steps

Participants discussed possible next steps that should be undertaken in order for the Wild berry, Non-timber Forestry Products and Coop initiatives to move forward and prosper. Steps identified were:

Communication: To communities, off coasts and youth. Tools that can be utilized are; forums, knowledge transfer to Coop (i.e. newsletter), public notices and having one clear statement.

Renew Work Plan: Revisited every two (2) years and that would be precise in it's identification of bio products, research needs, policy and timelines.

Learning in Schools: Explore options with educational institutions to incorporate a knowledge based NTFP program into curriculums.

Engagement: Involvement from all communities on the Lower North Shore, as well as the youth and Native populations, will be fundamental in the development and long-term success.

Conclusion

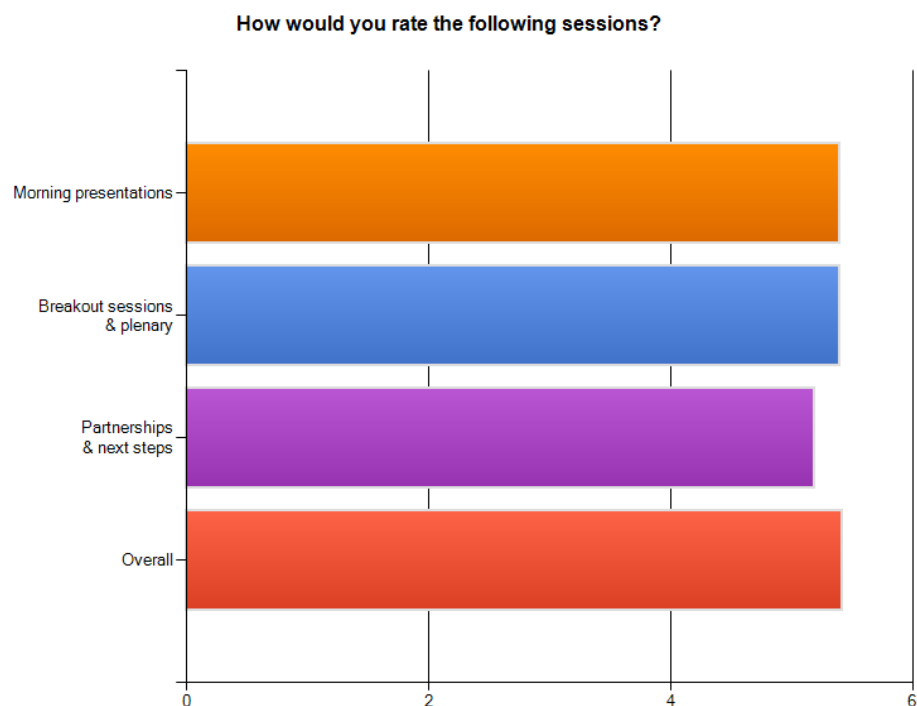
The partnership forum was extremely well received and informative to those who were present. The sharing of information, ideas, activities and networking opportunities was a successful outcome that benefited the organizations involved. The forum not only allowed the partners to become more informed of the Wildberry, NTFP and Coop initiatives, but also for partners to gain insight on how each of them became involved in the process and how important their contribution are to each success.

It was recommended that:

- The coop focuses on outcomes of the partnership forum.
- Another forum held throughout this process with invites extended to Governmental departments, regional organizations and community partners.
- Engage and collaborate with Native population.
- Involve youth in as many areas as possible (i.e. management, pickers and members).
- Sustainable approaches (yields, products, environment, purchasing, training, etc.) practiced by the coop.
- An awareness campaign is developed.

Evaluation

1)



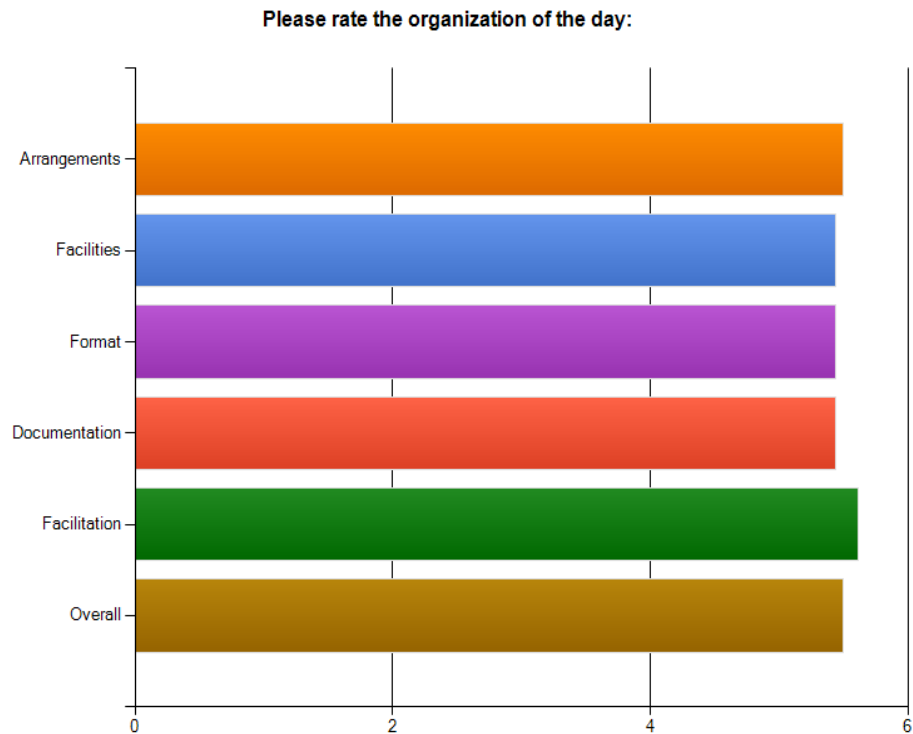
2) **What were the most useful points of information/discussion/process? Please explain.**

- Meeting the people I don't see often.
- Most of all it was excellent information. Breakout sessions were excellent.
- Learning about different aspects of this forum.
- All ideas from everyone in attendance, but the group discussion was A-1.
- Information sharing between organizations, youth involvement, native communities and coop proactive role.
- Open discussion and the presentation from Biopterre.
- Updates on where the project is, what's going on and what's to come.
- Breakout sessions and presentations.
- Coop development to bring the coast together.
- Everything was very interesting.
- Mr. Buffit's discussion on algae.
- Getting Aboriginal people involved with everything.
- Seeing the potential of what is available in the area and positive development.
- Developing coop initiatives, forming coops, different steps to forming partnerships.
- How to develop and expand the coop.

3) Were there any points of information/discussion/process missing? Please Explain.

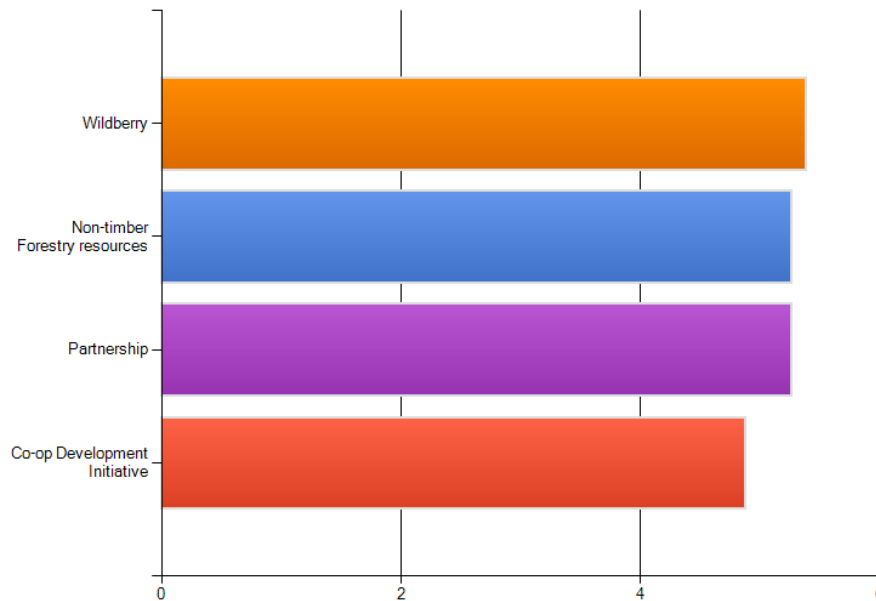
- Financement of all these initiatives.
- There is always more to do, but we covered a lot and covered it well.
- Everyone seemed on the same line of development, which is good.
- Very wide and interesting.
- Overall development to protect areas, amount of full-time employment and how to bring people back to this area.
- Not much missing, but have the population more involved, let them know exactly what is going on and not just the communities involved.
- Need more detail on the process of expanding the coop.

4)



5)

Do you receive sufficient information and updates on the economic initiatives of the Coasters Association?



6) **If not, what kinds of information or updates would you like to receive more of?**

- About coop development.
- More information on monitoring.
- NTFP.

7) **Are there any actions you intend to take based on the information you have received at the Partnership forum?**

- I will try to involve myself more.
- Sharing information with the group, keeping in touch on the development of the coop and the development of the industry in general on the LNS.
- Be more informed.
- Disseminate information to colleagues, regional organizations and others across Canada.
- Actions, more information to the population of the LNS.
- With so many skeptical people wondering what the Coasters does exactly, I think there should be some sort of statement or letter sent out to the population about all the different initiatives taking place through the Coasters Association.
- Revise and improve communication plan for coop.

8) Other comments

- Thank you.
- Excellent forum! I have been to a lot of these meetings but this was one of the best. Well organized, interesting and productive.
- Good discussion.
- The development of a coop is the greatest things that could happen to the LNS.
- Every speaker was informative and I enjoyed it very much. It was all very interesting.
- I enjoyed it all, very educating. Mr. Buffitt's presentation was very interesting. I would like to hear more.
- Basically we need more believers in the Coasters Association and less negative feedback. I know that there is a lot of money coming in and going out but the population wants to know where it is all going and what exactly it is going towards.
- Great day, would have liked it to be a 2 day event.