



**Canadian Institute of Forestry**  
**Institut forestier du Canada**

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Rocky Mountain Section 2016-2017  
Annual General Meeting  
May 1, 2017

**Year-End Report**

## ***Director's Report, Ashley Lawson***

### **Membership**

As of April 28, 2017, there are currently 1746 members in the CIF/IFC National database; total membership fluctuates annually as new members join and as member non-renewals are factored in. This number is slightly lower than the total reported at the in April of last year (2015).

The CIF/IFC continues to encourage and maintain Sustaining Corporate memberships currently there are 5 levels of membership. There are 33 Sustaining Corporate members down from 43 at this time last year. 7 are based in Alberta (down from 9 last year, see membership section for more details); a slight drop in both instances. More recent national additions include the Commonwealth Forestry Association, Ontario Forestry Futures Trust, TD Bank and the Government of Yukon. The highest category level, Cypress, at \$10,000 contribution, has yet to be claimed.

### **Institute Financials**

The financial position has improved over last year, but boosting and maintaining revenues from membership renewals and Corporate Sustaining member's needs to continue. To this end, one of the key decisions approved by the National Board of Directors at the AGM was the increase in individual membership fees rates went up in 2016, and again in 2017. The second increase in dues by the Institute in is as follows:

- Active: \$147 plus tax
- Retired: \$63 plus tax
- Student: \$63 plus tax

All membership levels include access to the full suite of Institute products, services and activities.

### **Strategic Plan**

At the National Board meeting in Vancouver, the Board of Directors updated the Institutes five-year strategic plan and committed to a number of annual activities that are linked to achieving our long

term strategic objectives. The five high level goals that continue to drive our strategic plan are as follows:

- Provide Value for members
- Ensure financial stability of the CIF
- Promote Professionalism
- Achieve National and International Profile
- Promote forestry awareness, public outreach

In early 2016, RMS has aligned its local strategic plan with the CIF-IFC National Strategic Plan. The incoming council will endeavor to finalize and implement this plan. This is still on going as of April, 2017

### **National Personnel**

Dana Collins, *Executive Director*

Kerry Spencer, *Admin Coordinator - out of the National Office.*

Natasha Machado, *Extension Forester - started in September 2016.*

Jordan Macmillan, *Technical Extension Forester - officially started this week*

Ronnie Huang, *Forest Science Extension Coordinator - started in September 2016.*

Ginny Hudson, *Current Forest Science Extension Intern - also works with FP Innovations*

Megan Finlay, *Communications Intern – Started January 2017 and develop some of the Institute's communication material including brochures, postcards, roll-ups etc.*

### **New National Executive Members:**

Megan Smith - *President*

Alex Drummond – *First Vice President*

Colin Carroll – *Second Vice President*

Jonathan Lok - *Past President*

### **The Forestry Chronicle**

The Forestry Chronicle continues to be the marquee publication of the Institute. A three year review of the Chronicle was completed in 2016. Two major challenges with the Chronicle are the lack of manuscripts to meet the bi-monthly commitment of production. The old business model was also no longer functioning properly. Few members want printed versions and fewer people want to advertise in the Chronicle. Starting Jan 1, 2017 the journal is available to any reader without a financial barrier or technical barrier. The goal is to increase readership levels and journal exposure. The journal will no longer be printed it will be online only. People who paid for the paper version will be offered a refund for the subscription cost. The Chronicle will come out 4 times a year instead of 6. The focus will be science only.

### **Communications**

The CIF National Facebook Site has 1960 members. @CIF\_IFC Twitter now has 1936 followers. The highly successful magazine, 'Success Stories from Canadian Forests', which featured 10 stories of innovation, peer-to-peer collaboration, and the application and implementation of better science and new technologies. Nearly 20,000 copies were distributed across Based on its success, CIF/IFC staff and partners has produced the second installation of the magazine. Volume 3 is now online. Visit <http://www.cif-ifc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/CIF-Success-Stories-From-Canadian-Forests-Volume3-8.5x11-WEB-min.pdf>

### **National Awards**

National Award Nominations are being solicited; June 1, 2017 is the submission deadline - all members and sections are encouraged to submit nominations in all categories. Nomination forms are on the website.

*Prince of Wales Forest Leadership Award* –The four recipients are Theresa Reichlin and Reginald Eddy (Canada) and Daniel Haslam and James Broom (From the UK). We had over 50 applicants this year and it's great to see this much interest. A big thank you to Strategic Natural Resource Consultants and the Algonquin Forestry Authority who will be the Canadian employers for UK recipients this year.

## **National AGMs**

Following the successful delivery of the 2016 CIF-IFC National AGM in Vancouver, organizers are hard at work planning the 2017 National AGM and Conference being held in Ottawa, September 27-29, 2017. The conference will happen during National Forest Week and the theme is entitled **“Canada’s Forests: Out Stories, Our Future”**.

For 2018, The AGM and conference will be held in Grande Prairie, Alberta. More details to follow.

The 108<sup>th</sup> AGM Report can be found here <http://www.cif-ifc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Annual-Report-2016-V4-C.pdf>

## **Other**

National has re-invigorated the membership committee. It will remain as a standing committee, chaired by the Past President.

The primary focus of the committee is on retention of current members and then long-term looking at increasing membership. The committee wants to understand current membership and membership trends, and develop strategies for membership retention and recruitment.

Current committee consists of: Megan Smith, Doug Reid, Vicki Gauthier, Jocelin Teron, Sean Greene, Ed Morrice, Nicholas Dormaar, and Brian Boswell.

The first step was to conduct a membership analysis which looked at trends throughout the country and within each section with a specific focus on demographics. (Completed February 2017)

The Second step is to send out a survey to all current active members in May 2017. The survey will look to measure membership loyalty, and perceived value and benefits of current members. The preliminary report from the survey will be available for members at the National AGM in 2017.

Section “Check In”. This initiative is to support sections from a national perspective. Each section has their unique challenges and one of the things that National is hoping to do, as part of their due diligence, is to make sure sections are doing the best they can. This will be a positive thing for

sections, and will add value. The “Check-In” will take place with each section on a rotating basis every year to make sure everyone is in alignment with national strategies. This year National will be taking on 6 sections including: Vancouver Island, Rocky Mountain, Saskatchewan, Northern Ontario, Maritimes and Newfoundland and Labrador Sections. National will be in touch with section Chairs and Directors to coordinate a call. The “Check-In” is really to support section initiatives. The initial review will help develop a strategy in the first year that will improve as National moves to all sections across the country.

CIF-IFC #[150DaysofForests](https://www.cif-ifc.org/150-days-of-forests-photo-campaign/) photo campaign – Submit your photos! Every day for the 150 days leading up to Canada Day National is posting photos of people in the forests with a short blurb of what forests mean to them to inspire a sense of pride in Canadian forests. It would be great to have representation from membership for this initiative. Please send your photos to Natasha Machado. Details are on the promotional poster. <https://www.cif-ifc.org/150-days-of-forests-photo-campaign/>

Student electronic lecture series - Generally e-lectures cost about \$1,000 for organizations and we are offering students the opportunity to participate in a special e-lecture series to showcase their research. We have reached out to the silver ring schools – students must submit a one page abstract and can be sent directly to Dana Collins.

## ***Message from the Chair, Jeff Renton***

This has been another successful year for CIF RMS, the council has brought forward many ideas and initiatives we are working on and will continue to work on in the next few years. We tried a few ideas to get membership involved with RMS from giving away a ticket to FILS in November to doing a draw for a one-year free membership to the CIF at the CAPF CAPFT AGM. We are open to all ideas on how to help get members actively engaged.

The Section held two technical sessions this year. Thank you to Dan Wilkinson, Marty Lindsay Julie and all committee members for organizing these two events. Stay tuned for more information about them.

The RMS executive had some sudden and unexpected family and medical issues that prevented them from attending the National AGM in Vancouver. Nevertheless, the students had a memorable experience and were given great support by Alex Drummond, Dave McNabb and Phil Comeau

Thanks!

This year we say goodbye to several long-term members of our council. Ashley (April 2012 to May 2017) completes her duties as Director and steps down from RMS after 5 years. Donna Smyl is stepping down as Treasurer (April 2013 to May 2017) after 4 years. Marty O'Byrne a cornerstone on program committee is retiring after 39 years with the Government of Alberta and 3 years (April 2014 to May 2017) on RMS onto new adventures. All three will be greatly missed and very difficult to replace in terms of dedication and hard work.

We are excited to announce that RMS has been awarded the CIF National AGM for the 2018 year. The conference title is "Sustaining Resources and Enhancing Communities: By Looking Back and Going Forward". The four key categories will be community; wildlife; site restoration; land management planning, and forest management planning. A lot of work has already been done by

conference Chair Noel St. Jean, Vice Chair Dan Wilkinson and the rest of the HAMPCO 2018 committee. More announcements to follow the 2017 AGM in Ottawa.

One part of RMS council feels could be improved is communication. Currently we have a tab under the National Website we can use for announcements but we have to get National to post for us. We are not sure how many of our members even know it's there. As a result I have started the initiative this year to design a website to be used solely by RMS. Council is in agreement so I have started working with a contractor to create a modern, RMS website. Council agrees that as more potential partners and members seek out information on RMS, our need for a professional web presence is ever increasing. With the current proposal we have, a website will be developed that provides appropriate background and context of RMS; updates on section events, and additional resources. The cost of the website development will be shared by the HAMPCO 2018 conference in order to reduce costs. The website will be voted on at the 2017 AGM and approved in budget before going forward.

Thank you for the privilege of being able to serve the Institute and Rocky Mountain Section this year. Congratulations to our award recipients. Thanks to the membership and council for their hard work this past year. Thanks especially to the executive committee (Ashley Lawson, Dan Wilkinson and Donna Smyl) for their support. I look forward to serving as director in 2016-2017 and helping out where needed.

## ***RMS Council Committee Reports:***

### ***Technical Program Committee***

Dan Wilkinson Marty O'Byrne

#### **Summary**

Two Technical Programs were provided during 2016-17:

- Seismic Line Restoration: December 1, 2016 at the Northern Lobby in NAIT.
- Alberta's Silviculture Evolved: May 1, Royal Executive Inn Edmonton Alberta.

Members of Council also worked to develop other programs with the intent to provide additional programs for members other than in Edmonton, and to partner with other organizations to develop programs of common interest and of value to our membership.

### **Fall Technical Program**

Starting in August 2016, a program committee had been working on a technical session addressing information on current practices and research on "Seismic Line Restoration". The committee was composed of Dan Wilkinson, Jeff Renton, Jen Renton, Julie Steinke, Lindsay Dent, and Dr. Guillermo Castilla C.F.S. This event was the first occasion that an event was held at the North Lobby at NAIT, A total of 155 people from 35 different organizations attended the program. The session was sponsored by Natural Resources Canada and strongly attended by same. Thank you to Dr. Guillermo Castilla for his funding, input into session development and by the active participation and posters from his University of Calgary Graduate students. The keynote speaker was Matthew Pyper of FUSE consultants who set the theme for the session **Incentives, frameworks and a path to habitat restoration in Alberta**. The proceedings of this session have been hyperlinked on the CIF National website.

### **Winter Technical Program**

Just before the AGM today a technical session was held at the Royal Executive Inn entitled "Alberta Silviculture Revisited". The session highlighted and updated classic silviculture subjects such as site preparation and herbicide use, the session also spotlight areas of recent innovation such as a tool for reclamation of industrial sites. The keynote speaker was Dave Coates Research Silviculturist. His research links operational field studies to models provides insight into long-term forest response to natural or human disturbances, and will help us to understand the consequences and trade-offs involved in the use of different silvicultural strategies in managed forests.

### **Future Technical Programs**

New members of Council are bringing a wider range of contacts and ideas for programs and opportunities to present programs in locations other than Edmonton more easily. Some of these ideas are currently under development for delivery in the coming year that can better meet the regional interests of our membership as well as provide an opportunity to reach out to other natural resource professionals.

The program committee will be meeting in mid-spring to decide on potential topics and committee structures for 2017-2018 events. We are looking for opportunities to partner with AAFMP, CFS, FRI, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry and FPIInnovations. These opportunities will focus on forestry centers outside of Edmonton.

### **Technical Program Delivery**

Technical program delivery is a team and partnership initiative; hence, Council encourages CIF-RMS members to submit ideas for technical programs. Many of the Technical Session programs are developed by people outside of Council, with organizational and logistical support provided by the Technical Program Committee.

Council is committed to the development of programs to meet the interests of the wide range of jobs held by our members and the resource professionals with whom they work.

The Program Committee appreciates the effort provided by Council and other CIF-RMS members in the development of the Technical Programs. The quality of the programs clearly demonstrated the value of having subject matter specialists lead the development of a program theme. This effort is complimented by the several volunteers that manage the registration before and the day of the sessions.

### *CIF-RMS Position on Soliciting and Accepting Sponsorship Funding*

As part of RMS continued due diligence in budget planning and forecasting, we have defined a policy for sponsorship. This policy will ensure transparent and consistent sponsorship going forward

CIF-RMS will solicit and accept sponsorship funding for our technical programs from organizations that manage and use natural resources, or support natural resources professionals. CIF-RMS is committed to providing high quality, relevant programs to our members, to nonmembers, and all other natural resource professionals and the public on a first-come basis by registration.

All sponsors will be acknowledged in program announcements, program literature, and during the program by the moderator. If they choose, sponsors will be allowed to set up professional tradeshow type displays if the venue is appropriate and the space is available. Sponsorship will cover one person attending the program.

Sponsorship funding will be used by the CIF-RMS to help insure that we continue to provide high quality technical programs relevant to forest ecosystems, and related activities of Council. Council maintains a strong commitment to maintaining scholarships for students enrolled in forestry programs at the University of Alberta and Northern Alberta Institute of Technology, several on campus forestry student activities, and participation of forestry students at national conferences. In addition, Council also provides ongoing support for other natural resource related programs, including Forests without Border, Envirothon, and other requests from time to time.

When accepting sponsorship funding, CIF-RMS is in no manner obligated and in-debt to the sponsor for the donation of funds.

### *Quantifying Sponsorship Options*

1. \$50 – Table for adverts or displaying company stuff; company takes care of logo and all visual for company; company name goes into a list of displayers in a brochure
2. \$250 – Bronze sponsor – 1 paid admission with lunch, logo on the workshop literature, cover screen, etc.
3. \$500 – Silver sponsor - 2 paid admissions with lunch, optional table for adverts/display or will place a supplied poster for the company, company logo on literature and screen
4. \$1000 – Gold Sponsor – up to 4 paid admissions with lunch, optional table for adverts/display or will place a supplied poster, company logo on literature and screen, optional 2 – 3 minutes at the podium after lunch for promotion to the room.

## **Membership Committee**

Graham Legaarden

There are two primary roles of the membership committee:

1. Use the Email address [RMS.CIF@gmail.com](mailto:RMS.CIF@gmail.com) as the primary CIF RMS vehicle to communicate information about CIF and RMS activities and notices to the membership.
2. To work with CIF-IFC National to create and maintain an up to date RMS membership list. The maintenance and update of this list is a continual activity. This can be a challenge with people that are moving, retiring, not renewing membership, or changing Email addresses. Several members were contacted to correct email addresses if contact information was available. We kindly request from the membership to please contact us should you find you are not receiving any communications regarding CIF-IFC and RMS activities. When you change your email address, please notify the CIF-IFC so there records can also be updated.

## **Membership Updates**

Table One shows the currently membership numbers as of April 2017. Members in arrears have been significantly reduced with many members renewing or discontinuing their membership. All members in arrears are less than a year behind in payment. A national membership committee has been struck to examine the reasons behind declining enrollment in the last few years. Rocky Mountain Section will be actively participating.

RMS currently has 7 corporate members.

**Table 1: 2017, RMS CIF Membership Numbers**

| Year End |      | Members |           |         |         |         | Total Members |
|----------|------|---------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|---------------|
|          |      | Active  | Associate | Retired | Student | Arrears |               |
| April    | 2013 | 325     | 0         | 27      | 97      | 63      | 449           |
| April    | 2014 | 308     | 1         | 25      | 92      | 168     | 426           |
| April    | 2015 | 281     | 1         | 20      | 93      | 133     | 395           |
| April    | 2016 | 273     | 0         | 21      | 121     | 40      | 415           |
| April    | 2017 | 236     | 0         | 27      | 56      | 99      | 319           |

### **Student Liaison Committee**

Ashley Lawson

The Student Liaison Committee had another good year. We carried on or usual activity (see below) with some new student activities.

### **Silver Rings**

This year we did not pay for silver rings. We are tracking the student membership numbers and numbers of silver rings ordered. Council will monitor this over the next few year to track changes.

**Table 1: RMS student members at the time of Graduation**

| NAIT   |                          |                              |                       | UofA |                          |                              |                       |
|--|--------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|------|--------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
|  | # of Graduating Students | # of students ordering rings | # of Students Members |      | # of Graduating Students | # of students ordering rings | # of Students Members |
| 2016   | 30                       | 28                           | 28                    | 2016 | 17                       | 16                           | 14                    |
| 2017   | 36                       | 19                           | 14                    | 2017 | 15                       | 12                           | 8                     |
| 2018   |                          |                              |                       | 2018 |                          |                              |                       |
| *NAIT students In 2016 organized there own fundraiser to pay for memberships |                          |                              |                       |      |                          |                              |                       |
| * RMS paid for rings in 2016   |                          |                              |                       |      |                          |                              |                       |

### **Conference Travel to National AGM**

This year 19 UofA students and 4 NAIT students attended the CIF-IFC AGM and Conference in Vancouver. The RMS along with many sponsors as well as student contributions and fundraising made the trip possible. There were 3 quiz bowl teams, two from UofA and one from NAIT. The first time NAIT has entered a quiz bowl team.

There are currently 22 students registered for Ottawa in Sept 2017.

### **Other Student sponsored events.**

Council also donated money to CONFORWest Alpine Club of Canada and a NAIT Rock, Paper Scissors Tournament.

### **Quiz bowl events**

This year RMS helped with two quiz bowl events. The Director Ashley Lawson was approached by Jordan Sykes to help student practice for the quiz bowl in Vancouver. An event was held on UofA campus in Sept. Three three team going participated in the event. A special thank you goes out to Julie Steinke, Phil Comeau and David Strauss for helping at the event. The students had a great time and are looking forward to doing it again next year.

The second Quiz bowl was held December 1, 2017, after the technical session. It was open to all members of CIF. 6 teams participated. We had teams from UofA, NAIT, and CIF RMS Council. Jordan Sykes organized this event. The judges were John Caldwell, Alan Pollock, Alex Drummond. The winning team was 4 second year NAIT students. Dylan Eaton, Heather Kitz, Haley Stayko and Andrew Kalyan. We are looking forward to this event happening yearly.

### **Pizza and Pop nights at NAIT and UofA**

These events provide an excellent opportunity to interact with the students. At both schools, we take the opportunity to sign up all the new students. This year students were encouraged to sign up on their own using the electronic system created by National. We gave students a deadline to sign up by. Any student that signed up in the provided time frame received 50% off their first year membership. (This means we covered \$30.00 of the signup fee) The offer was for first time student members only. Council is considering reaching out to allied programs to see if students from other environmental programs would be interested in being part of RMS. Sign up for first year members was 4 from UofA and 9 From NAIT. The numbers are much lower than when we used the paper copies and paid for the entire first year membership cost. For example there are 45 first year NAIT students and only 9 signed up to be student members. Council will be tracking this as well.

### **Chili and Beer Night**

NAIT and UofA students on council organize this event with help from council. This was the 7<sup>th</sup> year for Chili and Beer night. The RMS provides a licensed venue (community hall) for forestry students, invited guests and RMS members to mingle and play hockey. Money is raised for Forests Without Borders. This year over \$425.00 was raised.

Students, RMS members and others provide chili that is judged and the top three chili's are awarded the prestige as the top chili. This year the top chilly went to UofA student Dorjisel, congratulations!

## **Awards Committee**

Dieter Kuhnke

The Awards Committee approached the RMS membership again this year for Tree of Life nominees in a bid to make the nomination process more transparent and inclusive. Three very deserving nominees came out of this process, and after careful consideration the Awards Committee settled on two recipients as per the accepted guideline of a maximum of two recipients per year. The RMS has had eight out of 25 recipients across the country over the last five years.

Derek Sidders of the Canadian Forest Service was recognized for his exemplary, ceaseless efforts and extensive collaboration in the development of innovative partial harvesting systems and biomass afforestation projects, and John Spence of the University of Alberta was recognized for his extensive leadership work with EMEND to create a unique partnership among academia, industry, and government.

Other award highlights are:

- Haley Stayko of NAIT receiving the RMS Aboriginal Student bursary, an endowed scholarship established through the generous contribution of an anonymous donor.
- CIF-RMS Book Prize (NAIT) awarded to Lauren Brookes
- CIF-RMS First Year Bursary (NAIT) awarded to Heather Kitz
- Lauren Brookes was awarded the CIF Gold Medal (NAIT)
- CIF-RMS Field Camp Prize (U of A) awarded to Lauren Mar
- CIF-RMS prize (U of A) awarded to Jordan Sykes
- CIF Gold Medal (U of A) recipient to be awarded in June. Last year's award recipient was Kyle Rosychuk.
- CIF/RMS student prizes total roughly \$2,800 annually

Additionally, Dr. Philip Comeau, Professor of Silviculture in the Department of Renewable Resources was awarded the CIF's Canadian Forestry Scientific Achievement Award at last September's

Vancouver national annual general meeting after being nominated by the University of Alberta in April

of 2016. Two long-serving RMS members (Stan Kavalinas and Mark Kube), put forth to the CIF national executive in 2016 as worthy recipients of the infrequently awarded Volunteer Recognition award, will be recognized at the 2017 national annual general meeting in Ottawa.

In 2018 the RMS will host the CIF/IFC national annual general meeting in Grande Prairie, and as is customary for the hosting section, will be presenting the Schlich memorial prize to a deserving student chosen by the section's resident university and technical forestry schools.

Congratulations to all award recipients!

## **Treasurers Financial Report**

Donna Smyl

The 2016/17 financial statements for RMS are being distributed at the AGM, and a copy is attached to this report for the official record. Three documents are included: Income Statement, Balance Sheet, and proposed RMS 2017/18 Budget.

The account balances (as of May 1, 2017):

|                       |             |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| RMS Checking Account: | \$29,106.27 |
| RMS GIC deposits      | \$24,353.93 |
| TOTAL                 | \$53,460.20 |

This years Income Statement includes the past two operating years for reference and is important to note that the spreadsheet was modified this year to show more detail regarding section spending and as a result there will be blanks in the previous years as these categories were amalgamated. The 2016/17 Income Statement indicates total revenues of \$66,672.57 against total expenditures of \$34,916.07 resulting in a net gain of \$34,916.07 for the year. In November 2016 one of our GICs matured and was deposited into our checking account. Council chose to postpone re-investing it at the time.

As the current Balance Sheet indicates there is a decrease in our GIC account due to the un-invested portion that matured from last November. HAMPCO GIC funds have been used for some HAMPCO planned spending.

The 2017/18 proposed RMS Budget is included for review and discussion. For comparison purposes, the past years budget and actual expenditures (unaudited) for 2016/17 are provided. Membership present at last years AGM requested that RMS council itemize each student event expense, as a result, council tracked student event spending in the budget and referred to the budget as much as possible to ensure money being requested was allocated for spending. We did not make this practice a bylaw but still could. RMS council will continue tracking student event expenditures in this year's budget. Please refer to the spreadsheet to see previous and proposed student event costs. HAMPCO has also started to use funds for our upcoming National AGM in 2018. RMS council is continuing to seek sponsorship support in our Tech Sessions. An increase in expenditures is proposed for the coming year, based on projected revenue of \$32,500. Council is requesting to maintain current expenditures for this years proposed budget resulting in a deficit budget with the balance being covered by our GICs. Council seeks your approval of the 2017/18 budget as presented.

At last year's AGM, RMS established a volunteer financial review committee comprised of CIF members Anne McInerney and Heath Schneider. In December, our RMS Treasurer met with the committee to review our 2016/17 financials and outages were corrected as required. We would like to thank Ms. McInerney and Mr. Schneider for their help. We are seeking volunteers for this year's financial review committee.

## ***Forests without Borders – Alberta Caucus Liaison***

Pat Wearmouth/Sharad Karmacharya

### **Forest without Borders Caucus Report for 2016/17**

**Pat Wearmouth, RMS Caucus Chair**

#### **Organization**

In 2016/17, the RMS continued to support the Forests without Borders charity (FwB) through a group of members called the RMS FwB Caucus. It is one of four Caucuses across all CIF Sections. The

others are found in NL, ON and BC. The primary tasks of the Caucuses are to create awareness of FwB, raise funds for FwB, and to advocate for projects that are of particular interest to their Section members and Caucus. Two RMS members, Pat Wearmouth and Sharad Karmacharya also serve on the FwB National Board of Trustees (BofT). FwB is structured such, that final authority for project choice and funding rests with the BofT.

FwB's Mandate remains the same as in previous years. It is to improve people's lives through the restoration of community forests that will provide fuel wood, fodder, and food to a village. The process involves partnering with local NGOs to fund relatively small projects in developing countries that have a good chance of becoming self-sustaining. The projects are done with strong buy in from the community, and include an education component on the benefits of protecting and managing the forests. Typical individual project funding ranges from \$5,000 to \$10,000. More about the work of FwB can be found at their website and their **Facebook page**.

### RMS FwB Projects

In 2016/17 the RMS FwB Caucus supported two projects The first was a project in southern Nepal, which the RMS Caucus developed in 2014/15 and fully funded through solicited donations. The main component of the project was to engage the village of Pithauli's secondary school students in developing a tree nursery to produce seedlings for planting.

The project made significant progress in the first year of implementation. However, in April 2015, Nepal experienced a severe earthquake in the northern part of the country. Although the school was not physically affected, the aftermath of the earthquake led to social disruption, and the school was closed until the fall of 2015.

Since then, and through the 2016-17 reporting year, FwB continues to support the project. Students have been active to an extent.

The second project the Caucus was involved with in this reporting year is a seedling nursery and plantation project in northern Cameroon. We funded the drilling of a well to water seedlings in a village called Mindif. Mindif is situated in northern Cameroon, and the second village in which we

have funded a well. FwB works with a local NGO called ABIOGeT, who supervises the project. Besides fuel, fodder, and food, trees are being used to help mitigate desertification, as the villages lie just south of the Sahara Desert.

Currently, the RMS FwB Caucus is assessing new project proposals from Kenya and Tanzania. We would like to take ownership of one of them in the near future. We find that both the Caucus and the public bring more energy and enthusiasm to requesting and giving donations if the project is specific.

### **RMS FwB Caucus Financials**

During the past year, the RMS FwB Caucus engaged in soliciting donations. These included:

- Rotary Club presentations and requests for donations
- Forest Industry Donations
- UofA Forest Society/RMS golf tournament donations
- UofA/Nait/RMS Chili cook-off donations

A summary of results for the 2015/16 fiscal year is as follows:

Opening Balance    \$    988.47

Total Donations        10,206.35

Expenses                4607.20

Total Credits            6587.62

Forwarded to FwB        6060.00

Ending Balance        \$    527.62

NOTE #1: Expenses include bank charges and a hold over venue cost from last year. The majority of expense was a flow through of fees for a golf tournament. Fees were payed to account, then paid out

as expenses to the golf course. Since the fees included an amount over the actual cost of golfing, FwB retained the balance as a donation.

NOTE #2: The ending balance is retained as a float for 2017/18

NOTE #3: The FwB Caucus operates under Canada's Charity Act. Donations which are given without the donor receiving value are sent directly to FwB National, which is the Charity, and can issue charitable receipts. These are recorded as credit to RMS FwB Caucus, but are not banked. Donations given where value is received (e.g. Silent Auction) are cashed by RMS FwB, banked, then forwarded periodically to FwB National. The RMS bank account used by Caucus reflects this situation.

Since the RMS Caucus was formally organized in 2014, we have donated approximately \$26,000.00 to Forest without Borders.

Sincere thanks to the Caucus members, the RMS Treasurer, and all others who helped make the year a success.

## ***Nomination Committee / 2016-2017 RMS Council***

Dan Wilkinson, Noel St Jean, Marty Obyrne (with able scouting by Jeff Renton and Julie Steinke)

- Slate presented to Council in March 2017
- Nominations solicited from selected RMS members
- No further nominations sought from floor as Council positions filled
- The 2017-2018 slate is presented as follows:

:

- Director                      Jeff Renton
- Chair                              Dan Wilkinson
- Vice Chair & Secretary      Vic Lieffers
- Treasurer                      Dan MacIsaac
- Councilor                      Graham Legaarden
- Councilor                      Dieter Kuhnke
- Councilor                      Sharad Karmacharya
- Councilor                      Lindsay Dent
- Councilor                      Julie Steinke
- Councilor                      Nathan Lauer
- Councilor                      Noel St Jean
- Student      Reps              TBD Fall 2017

Outgoing members of council:

- Ashley Lawson Director
- Donna Smyl Treasurer

- Marty O'Byrne

Outgoing student representatives:

- Jordon Sykes U of A
- Heather Kitz NAIT