

# Community Governance of Local Forests: An Emerging Reality?

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# Outline

- Who governs our forests?
- Questions driving this research
- Project objectives
- Defining community forestry
- Survey methodology
- Survey results

# Who governs our forests?

- All provinces allocate large-scale industrial tenures over Crown land
- Last few decades, other stakeholders agitating for change - 'publics' wanting a greater say in forestry decision making
- Driven by concerns about the state of the resource, issues of access and the distribution of benefits from the forest

# Who governs our forests?

- Governments have made modest changes - public involvement processes, Aboriginal tenures, pilot projects
- Advocates of community forestry visualize something very different
- Searching for models that:
  - valorize local input and decision-making
  - generate local revenues
  - manage forests sustainably

# Questions driving this research

- What does the Canadian landscape look like in terms of community forestry?
- What are their objectives?
- How are they organized?
- Are they different from the corporate model of management?
- How are they faring?
- What are their strengths and weaknesses?

# Project Objectives

- To provide a national portrait of community forestry in Canada
- To undertake 4 case studies in order to understand if, and how, they are working to achieve the common objectives described in the literature

# Defining Community Forestry



# Defining Community Forestry

- Literature commonly includes the following elements
  - Generation of local benefits
  - Community decision-making and input
  - Management for multiple forest values
  - Sustainable forest management
- On the ground, more of a continuum exists

# Defining Community Forestry

Project definition:

“a public forest area, managed by the community as a working forest for the benefit of the community”

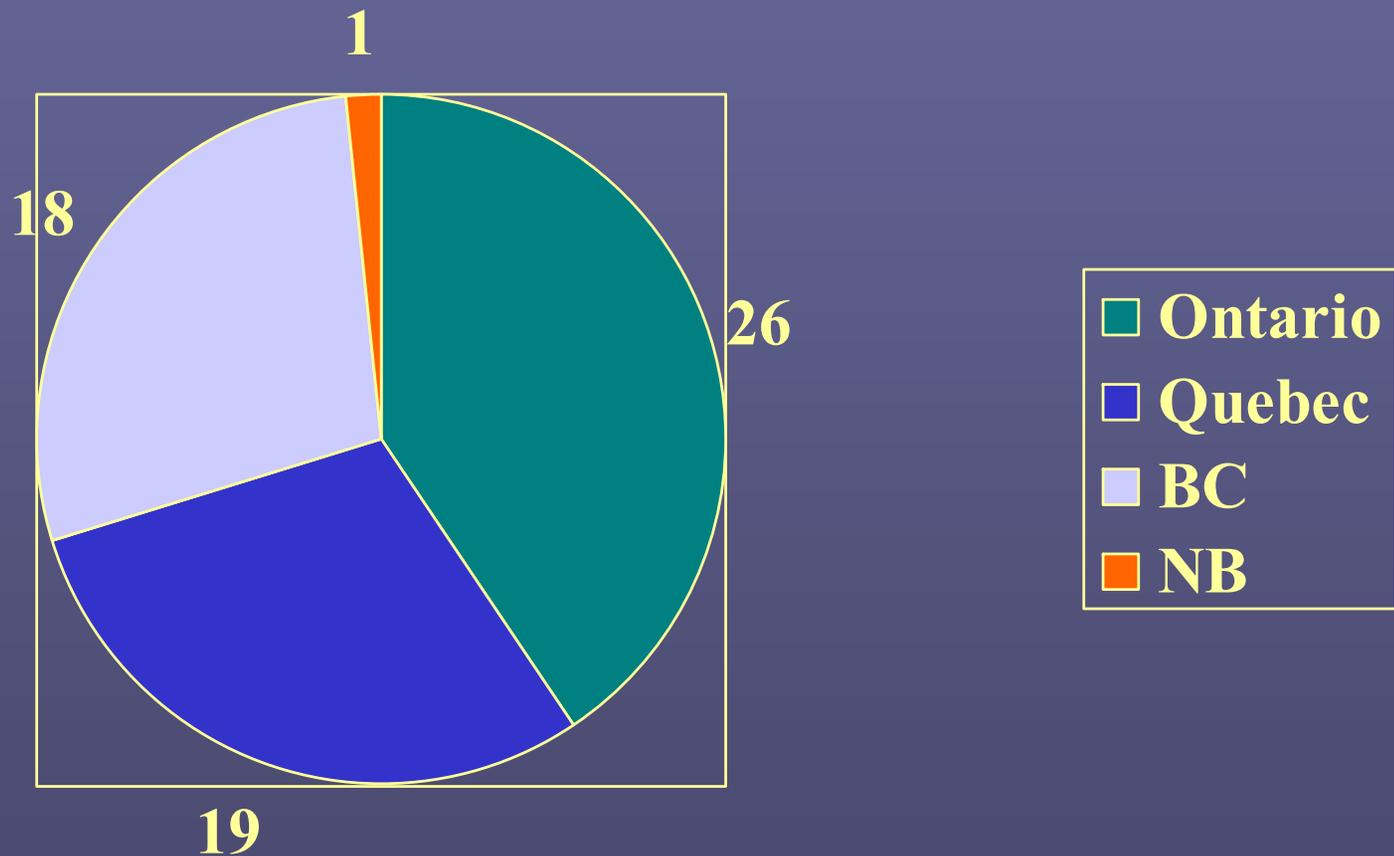
# Survey of Community Forests

- Objective: to identify initiatives and describe the main models of community forestry in Canada
- Initiatives identified through literature, web searches, word-of-mouth
- Survey administered by email and telephone
- 64 initiatives surveyed so far, approximately 80 identified total

# Survey Questions

Name	Type of tenure
Province	Administrative structure
Objectives	Decision-making structure
Year Started	First Nation participation
Type of landbase	% of operating funds from different sources
Size of landbase	

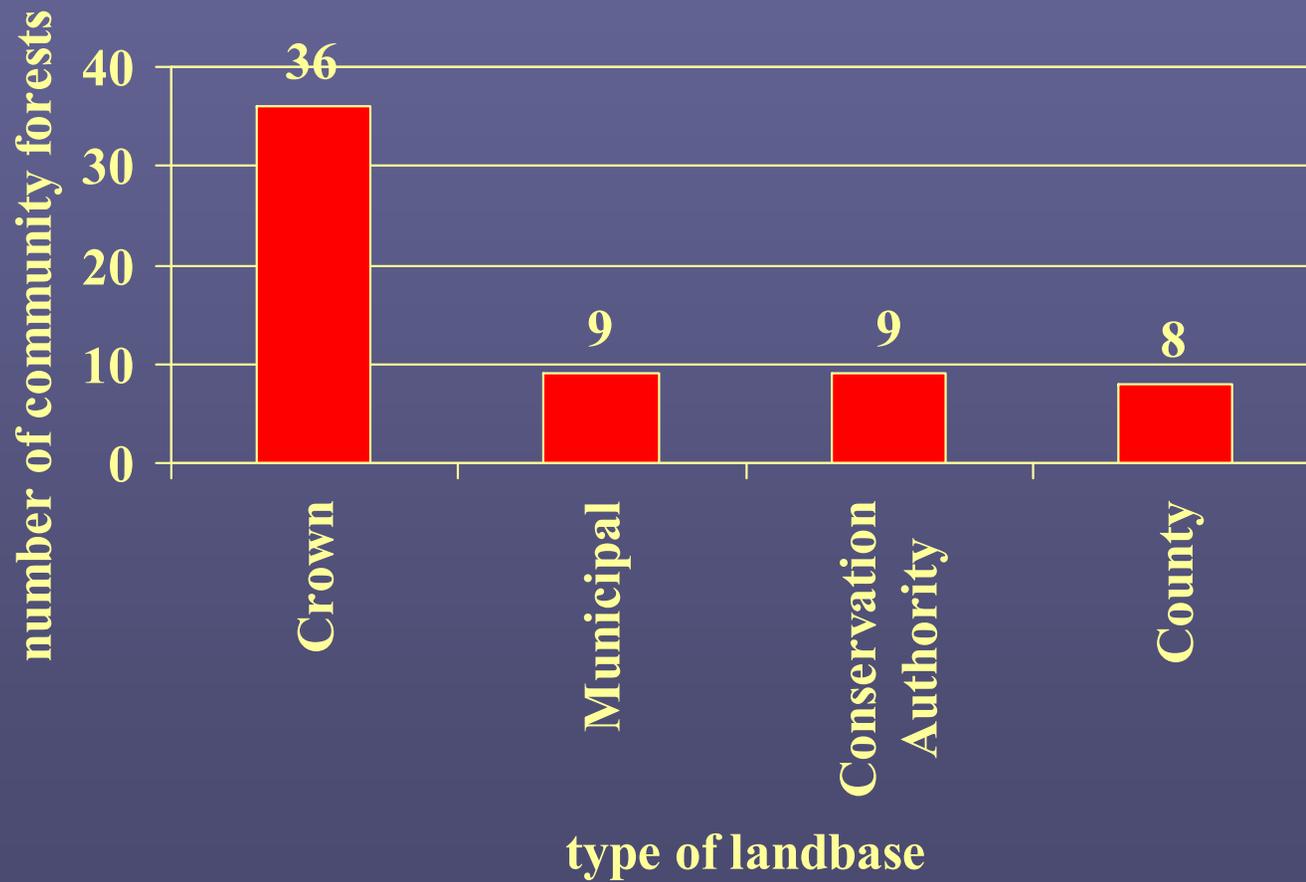
# Location of Community Forests



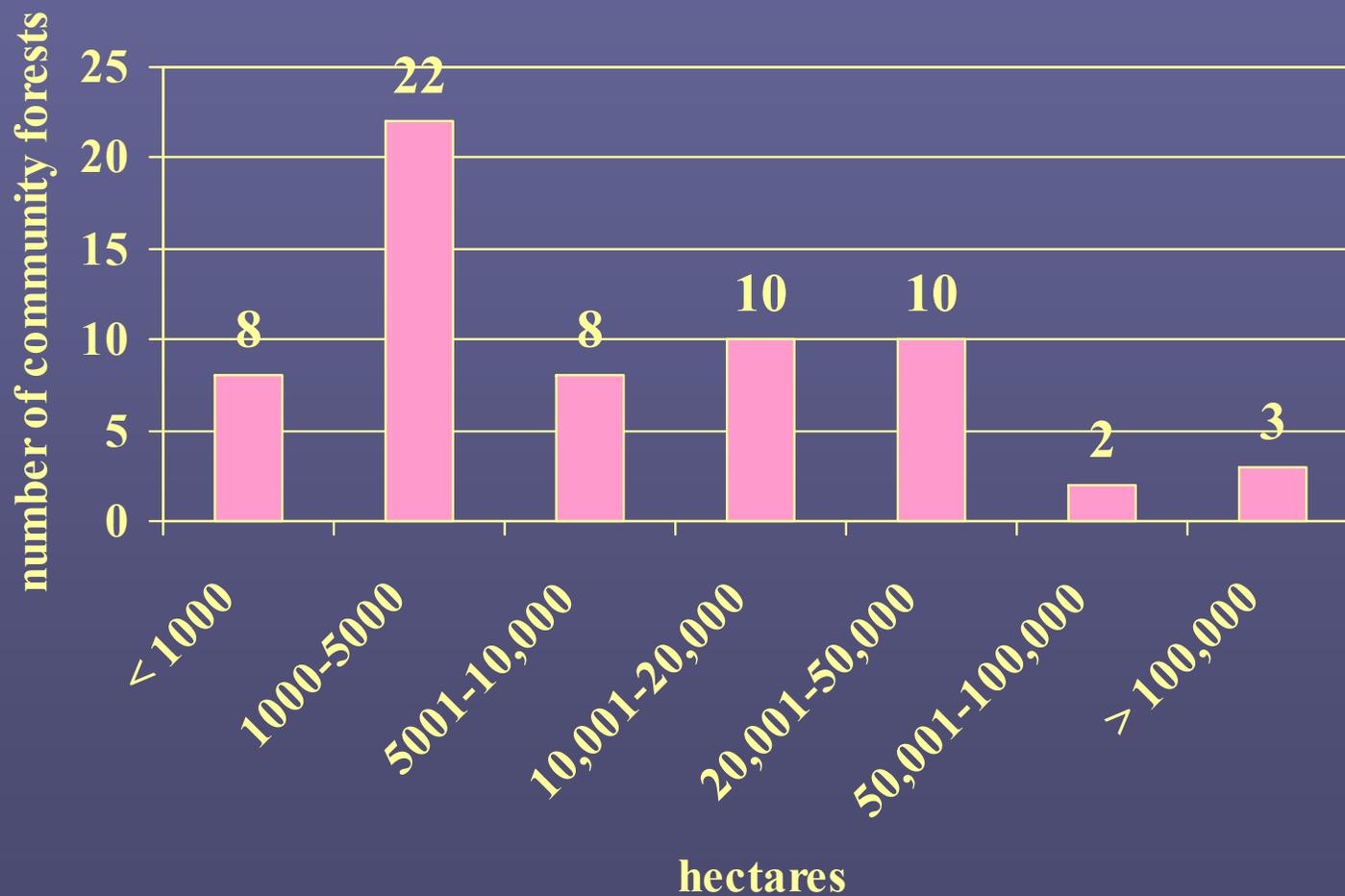
# Age of Community Forests



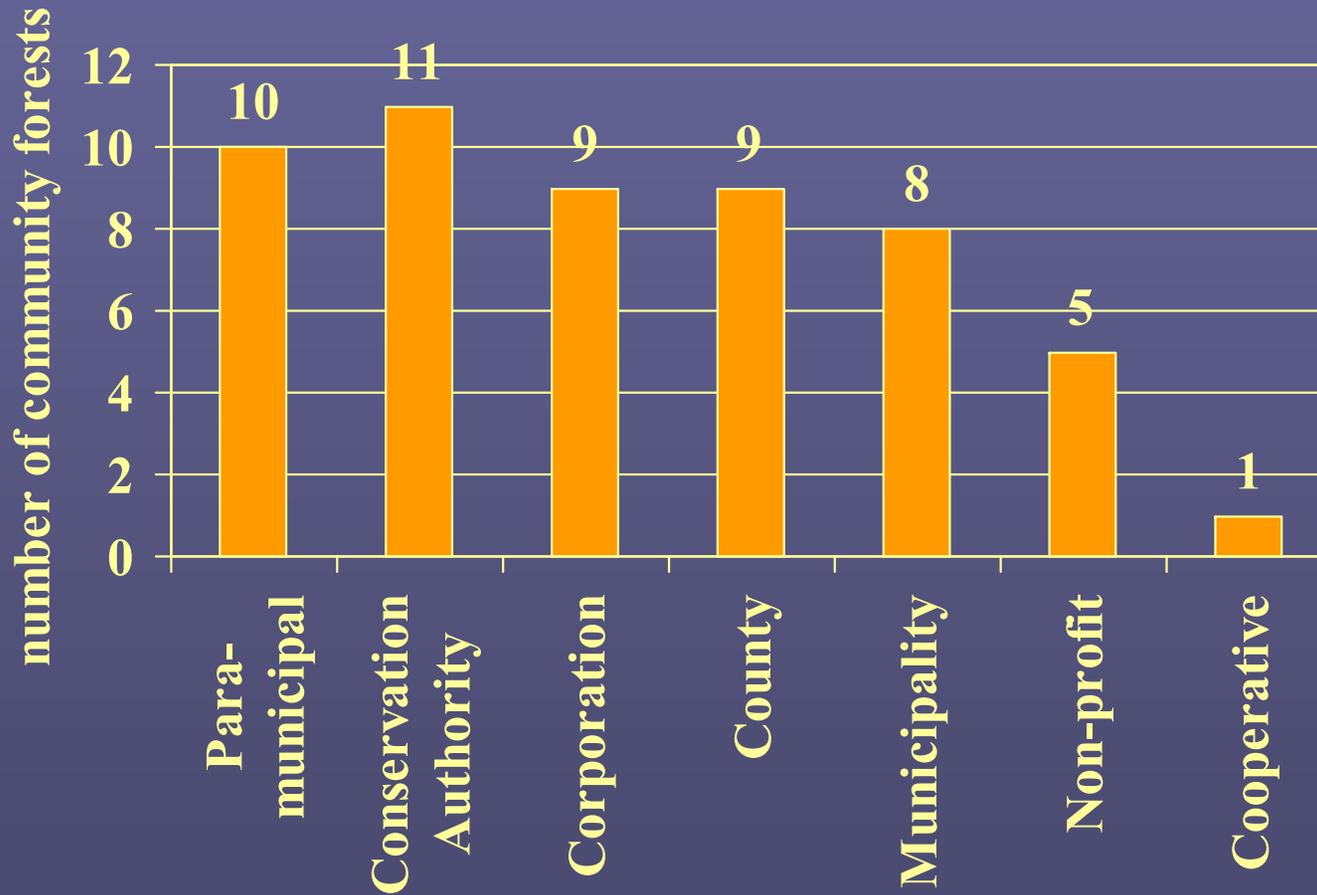
# Type of Landbase of Community Forests



# Size of Landbase of Community Forests



# Administrative Structures of Community Forests



## A Few Additional Findings

- 20% of community forests have formal participation of First Nations
- Approximately 50% operate on revenues alone, the rest are dependent on some level of external funding

# Models of Community Forestry

## 1. Municipal-type organization with own landbase

- Municipalities, conservation authorities, counties, etc.
- Land owned outright, few tenure restrictions
- Decision-making rests with council

# Models of Community Forestry

2. Municipal-type organization with Crown allocation
  - Administrative structure same as first
  - Crown land, limited property rights, tenure restrictions

# Models of Community Forestry

## 3. Forest management organization

- Organization created specifically to manage forests
- Includes non-profits, corporations, cooperatives
- Elected/appointed/nominated board made up of community representatives
- Crown land, tenure restrictions, management objectives vary

# Conclusions

- There are a variety of local institutions managing public land
- Most operating on a very small scale compared to corporate model of forestry
- Most of community forests in range of 5 to 10 years old, majority are connected to municipal-type organizations
- Models are useful but diversity of approaches transcends administrative models - that's the next stage of this project!