

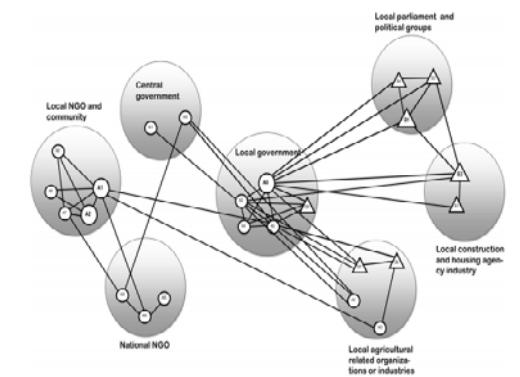


Organizations who support and interact with private woodlot owners: Their values, mandates and communication networks.

Not much is currently known in the Maritimes about the support networks that exist for private forest landowners in the Maritimes, their values, how they view sustainable forestry and how they communicate.

- My research is a part of a larger project to develop an Accord for private forest landowners and the groups who support them in the maritime provinces. This Accord is being developed to promote sustainable forest stewardship across these provinces, through the development of an ecologically beneficial land care paradigm, based on the preservation of the Acadian forest and the use of sustainable forest practices.
- My stream of research focuses specifically on organizations that support and interact with private woodlot owners and has two distinct components; one qualitative and one quantitative. These organizations have been put into three groups- land trust and land conservation organizations, watershed groups and forest marketing boards and co-ops.
- The qualitative aspect will investigate the values of these different organizations, their perceived role to and frequency of interaction with private woodlot owners, their views on what constitutes sustainable ecological forestry and ideal management practices on private land. This will be done through 1.5-hour semi-structured interviews conducted with representatives from 40-50 organizations from across the Maritimes.

- The quantitative aspect will look at the degree of communication between these organizations, as well as the nature of their communication using a tool known as Social Network Analysis (SNA). To conduct this analysis, a survey will be distributed to the 40-50 organizations to fill-out prior to their interview, as well as additional qualitative questions during the interview itself regarding the nature of communication.
- From the results of this survey and interview process we are hoping to construct four socio-grams, one for each maritime province and one which illustrates inter-provincial communication (Figure 1).
- The network analysis methodology, developed from a Taiwanese study (Shen & Tai, 2020), will help show where there is the most communication between organizations, as well as opportunities to improve communication.
- I am still finalizing my proposal, with the aim of defending in early April. Completion date: April 2022.



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