



Association of Alberta  
Forest Management Professionals

# The effectiveness of public participation through forest advisory committees: Lessons from Ontario



Public participation and engagement play a vital role in forest management, and the most widespread approach in Canada is forest advisory committees. Since 2001, surveys of members of Local Citizens Committees in Ontario have consistently shown that they are, on the whole, positive about their contribution to forest management. However, the most recent survey pointed to a slight decline in satisfaction and a growing sense among some committee members that their involvement has limited influence on the tangible outcomes of forest management decisions. Drawing on lessons from Ontario, this session explores various dimensions of meaningful participation, ways in which even well-run processes can leave participants feeling dissatisfied, and the need for forest professionals to reflect, respond to, and demonstrate the impact of public input.



September 16, 2025

12:00 -1:00pm

Register Here!



## Speakers



**Lance Robinson**



**Jeff Robinson**

Lance Robinson and Jeff Robinson work in the Human Dimensions, Communities, and Resource Management research program in the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources' Centre for Northern Forest Ecosystem Research. Lance is a scientist with more than two decades of experience investigating community-based and participatory approaches to natural resource management, conservation, and land use planning. Jeff has worked with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources since 2007, and currently works as a social science analyst.

## Learning Objectives

By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

- articulate key dimensions of public participation in forest advisory committees
- explain why even well-designed advisory committee processes may not translate to satisfied participants.
- describe the strengths and weaknesses of forest advisory committees as an approach to public engagement and participation in forest management.