



Forest Dependent Communities in Canada: 2006 Update

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Overview

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Introduction



- ▶▶ CFS has studied forest dependent communities since 1981.
- ▶▶ Seen as vulnerable to economic shocks.
- ▶▶ Sometimes seen as indicator of the well-being of the forest sector.
- ▶▶ Re-measured with each census (every 5 years)





Data and Methods



- ▶▶ Methods have varied over the years
 - ▶▶ % of employment
 - ▶▶ % of income
 - ▶▶ LQ based on labour force and income
 - ▶▶ Discretionary expenditures
 - ▶▶ Stedman et al 2007
- ▶▶ Income based LQ our method of choice
 - ▶▶ Recognise shortcomings and make adjustments where possible.
 - ▶▶ > 50% base labour force income in forest sector
- ▶▶ Identified number of FDCs and looked at economic indicators for 2001 and 2006

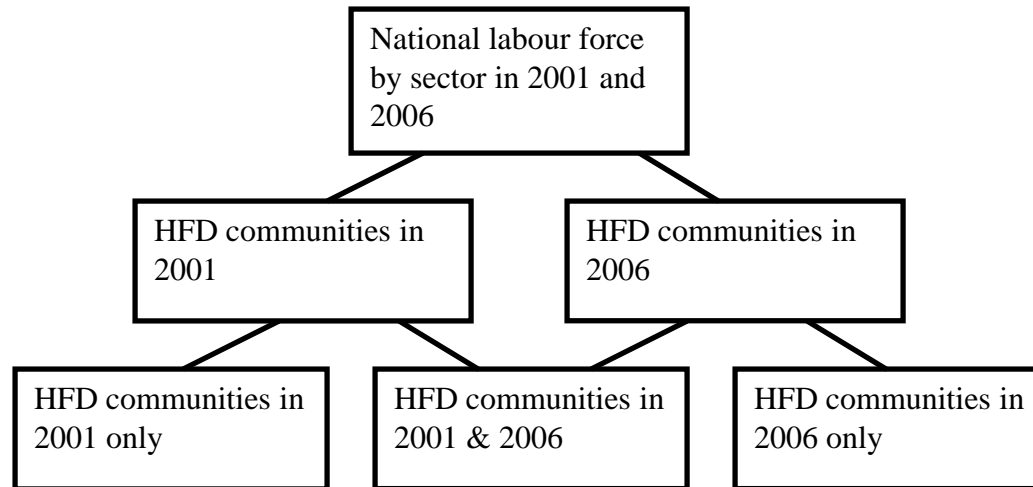




Data and Methods



» Segmented results





Results



- ▶▶ 315 FDCs in 2001; many fewer in 2006
- ▶▶ Why?
 - ▶▶ 7.1% decline in forest sector labour force
 - ▶▶ All other sectors combined increased; all other commodity sectors increased
 - ▶▶ Distribution among provinces about the same
 - Largest percentage drop in New Brunswick





Results



- ▶ Forest Dependent in 2001 and 2006
 - ▶▶ 11.7% decline in forest sector labour force
 - ▶▶ 77.6% in energy and mining
 - ▶▶ 26.7% increase in non-resource, non-government sectors
 - ▶▶ Increase in median income and decrease in poverty rate
 - ▶▶ No declines in key indicators of well being





Results



- ▶ Forest Dependent in 2001 but not 2006
 - ▶▶ 25.4% decline in forest sector labour force
 - ▶▶ 128.9% increase in energy and mining
 - ▶▶ 36.2% increase in non-resource, non-government
 - ▶▶ Increases in median income and decrease in poverty rate.
 - Lower median income and higher poverty than communities that remained forest dependent





- ▶ Data for FDCs in 2006 but not 2001 not reliable.
 - ▶▶ No further analysis completed
 - ▶▶ Most communities very small



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Discussion



- ▶▶ How important is FDC as an indicator?
 - ▶▶ Diverse communities better
 - ▶▶ Decline not reflected in socio-economic indicators
 - ▶▶ Must remember there are some individual communities that have suffered greatly
 - ▶▶ Forest workers appear to have migrated to other sectors
- ▶▶ So is the loss of forestry jobs unimportant?
 - ▶▶ Rural economy would have been better off with vibrant forest sector.





Discussion



- ▶ Conditions probably worse since 2006



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Future research



- ▶ Longitudinal data set
 - ▶ Boundary changes
- ▶ Non-employment income



