

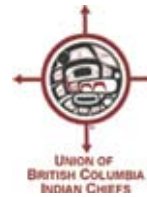


BC FIRST NATIONS FORESTRY & LAND STEWARDSHIP ACTION PLAN

PREPARING FOR TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE | MAY 2008



BC First Nations Forestry Council



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The forests of our lands and Territories have been at the environmental, economic, social and cultural heart of First Nations communities for thousands of years. Based on their title and rights, First Nations have managed the forests, made use of all the resources provided by it, and shared the forest resources in ways that allowed it to constantly regenerate.

As the primary stewards of our Territories, First Nations have a deep and inherent understanding of the waters, plants, animals and soils. The forest is, and has been, a source of food, shelter, tools and medicine, as well as providing materials for art and cultural activities, leisure and entertainment, scientific and spiritual knowledge for our people.

First Nations recognize the significance of, and are experiencing directly, the impacts of climate change. We are the original inhabitants of the lands, with continuing Aboriginal title and rights, and are the holders of thousands of years of traditional knowledge about the land. We are, therefore, key players in addressing the economic, social and environmental challenges of managing our forests. Our traditional knowledge can contribute to a greater understanding of impacts on the forests and thereby help to identify remedial measures to reverse trends of climate change and to promote sustainable use of our forests.

INTRODUCTION

On September 12th, 2003, First Nations gathered in Okanagan territory (Westbank) to jointly strategize on changes to the BC Forest Act and the Forest and Range Practices Act. A joint statement was created at that meeting titled, “Building Land and Resources Alliances Among First Nations”. Important matters such as Forest and Range agreements, land use planning, Crown consultation, and unilateral amendments to forest policy, regulations and legislation were are priority topics. Many of these same priorities remain today.

The mountain pine beetle epidemic which has now destroyed trees in an area greater than the size of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia combined was the catalyst that brought First Nations in British Columbia together again in 2005 to address forestry issues. At that gathering, First Nations Chiefs developed the BC First Nations Mountain Pine Beetle Action Plan which outlined priorities for action to deal with the devastating effects faced by those First Nations on the front lines of this epidemic. Since that time, First Nations have been working closely with the provincial government and the First Nations Mountain Pine Beetle Initiative to harmonize First Nations and provincial Mountain Pine Beetle Action Plans, and to advance common priorities. Extraordinary efforts continue in the struggle to implement these Plans and to cope with the crisis.

Additional external pressures are now being brought to bear on a declining forest industry, including global competitiveness, the collapse of the US housing market and the higher Canadian dollar. At the same time, there are emerging opportunities such as bioenergy, and those related to addressing climate change. These pressures are driving federal and provincial policy changes and initiatives in the forest sector. First Nations seek to ensure that their perspectives are meaningfully represented in policy change, that their communities are supported to cope with the downturn in the forest market, and that they receive benefits from new opportunities.

Within this context, First Nations must determine common processes and priorities related to forestry rights, such as management, decision-making, research and economic opportunities, while still being flexible and recognizing regional differences. This First Nations Forestry Action Plan is intended to stimulate discussion on these important issues, bring clarity to First Nations interests in forestry in British Columbia, and ensure that the work of the BC First Nations Forestry Council is consistent with, and supportive of, BC First Nations communities. It will also be an important basis for ongoing collaboration and engagement with key forest sector partners, including governments.

Building Wealth With Wood

FPIInnovations – Forintek Division is part of Canada's national forest research institute. We partner with industry and governments across Canada to bring manufacturing solutions directly to businesses in all re

Assisting First Nations with:

- Capacity Building
- On-site Manufacturing Help
- Technical Support
- Product Development
- Market Intelligence

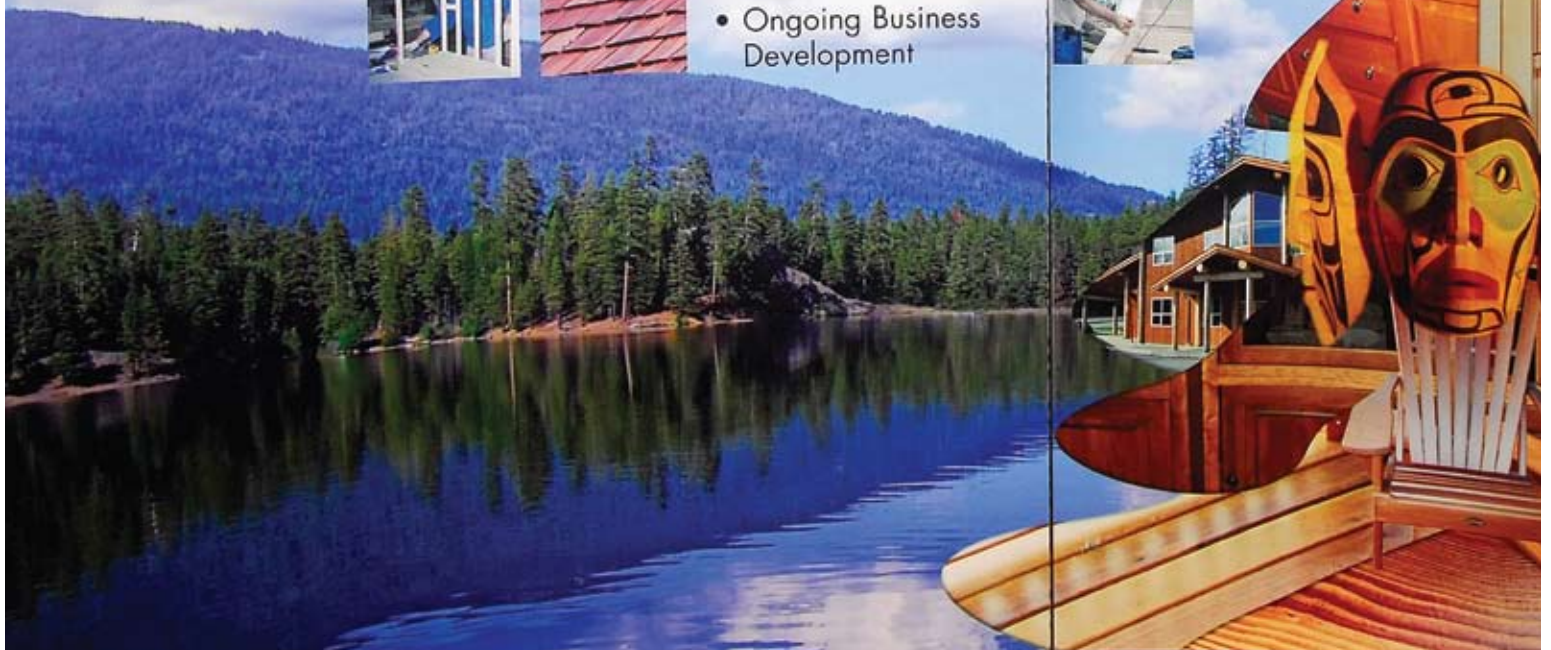


Building Sustainable Forest-based Development Through:

- Community Involvement
- Local Resources
- Self Sufficiency
- Local Economic Growth
- Ongoing Business Development

Participating in the Forest-based Economy by Working with:

- Entrepreneurs
- Small Businesses
- Tribal Councils
- Communities



POLITICAL AND LEGAL CONTEXT

Recent court decisions and the establishment of political agreements have affirmed the central role of First Nations in decision-making and management in the forest sector.

FIRST NATIONS RELATIONS

On March 17, 2005, the political Executives of the First Nations Summit, Union of BC Indian Chiefs and BC Assembly of First Nation (the “First Nations Leadership Council”) signed the Leadership Accord, committing to work together in unity to advance reconciliation of Aboriginal title and rights with the assertion of Crown sovereignty and to improve the socio-economic circumstances of First Nations peoples and communities in British Columbia.

FIRST NATION-CROWN RELATIONS

Three political agreements in particular provide the framework through which collaboration is occurring between First Nations and the Crown:

- **New Relationship:** In March 2005, BC First Nations and the Province of British Columbia entered into a New Relationship, agreeing to a new government-to-government relationship based on respect, recognition and accommodation of Aboriginal title and rights and reconciliation of co-existing titles and jurisdictions. Commitments in the New Relationship include: the development of processes and institutions for shared decision-making about the land and resources and for revenue and benefit sharing; and, working together to achieve strong governments, social justice, and economic self-sufficiency for First Nations.
- **A First Nations-Federal Crown Political Accord.** On May 31, 2005, A First Nations-Federal Crown Political Accord on the Recognition and Implementation of First Nation Governments was signed between the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), on behalf of First Nations, and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) on behalf of the Government of Canada. It commits the parties to work jointly to promote meaningful processes for reconciliation and implementation of constitutionally recognized aboriginal rights with First Nation Governments to achieve an improved quality of life and to support policy transformation in other areas of common interest.

- **Transformative Change Accord.** On November 25, 2005, at the conclusion of the First Ministers' Meeting on Aboriginal Issues held in Kelowna, BC, the tripartite Transformative Change Accord was signed by the First Nations Leadership Council, the Government of Canada, and the Province of British Columbia. The Accord commits the parties to efforts to close the socio-economic gap between First Nations and other British Columbians over the next 10 years, reconcile Aboriginal title and rights with Crown title, and establish a new relationship based on mutual respect and recognition. Specific areas of focus under the Accord are: relationships; health; education; housing; and economic opportunities.

Taken together, these agreements signal a new era of unity and strength among First Nations and a greater willingness by governments to explore new ways of working together in recognition of Aboriginal title and rights and treaty rights, and of First Nations' unique connections with their lands, resources and territories.

LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS

In the past several years, there have been a number of Supreme Court of Canada and other court decisions, including forestry-related court cases (including but not limited to Haida, Huu-ay-aht, Tsilhqot'in, and Sappier and Gray), strengthening the legal recognition of Aboriginal title and rights in British Columbia. The Courts have confirmed the existence of Aboriginal title and rights in the province and that the Crown has a legal obligation to consult with, and accommodate, First Nations with regard to decisions and activities that may impact our Aboriginal title and rights.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Since 1981, the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (CCFM) has led an ongoing process to develop and update a National Forest Strategy. Each Province and Territory participates in the development of this strategy and generally First Nations have not been participants on a government-to-government basis. The CCFM published a Discussion Paper in June 2007 which offered topics for consideration and feedback by interested parties, including a proposed Vision and Principles for Sustainable Forest Management and a listing of national issues as potential priorities.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

BC First Nations have been involved in, and have supported, international efforts for the respect and recognition of the rights of Indigenous Peoples, including the right to self-determination. The United Nations General Assembly has adopted a Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and a Declaration was also developed at the II Summit of the Indigenous Peoples of the Americas. The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues has focused on many important issues, most recently in May 2007 the special theme of "Territories, Lands and Natural Resources".





FORESTRY CONTEXT

A large number of forestry-related developments have taken place, or are currently taking place, that affect the development of a BC First Nations Forestry Action Plan.

COLLABORATION

In recent years there have been some collaborate measures with the provincial government on forestry-related activities, including but not limited to:

- Creation of the First Nations Forestry Council
- Appointment of two First Nations representatives to the BC Forest Science Board
- Creation of the First Nations Mountain Pine Beetle Initiative
- Commitment that First Nations impacted by the Mountain Pine Beetle epidemic will receive at least 20% of the \$1 billion fund announced by the federal government
- A joint Tenure Viability Working Group mandated to recommend changes to improve the economic viability of First Nations tenures
- The negotiation of a Joint Land and Marine Use Planning Protocol

2003 FORESTRY REVITALIZATION PLAN

In 2003, the provincial government began a process to undertake the most comprehensive amendments to the Forest Act in 50 years and to create a Forest and Range Practices Act. The Forestry Revitalization Plan took back about 20% of the province's volume from major licensees for three purposes: to create the market pricing system as set by sales by BC Timber Sales, for First Nations tenures as awarded under the First Nations Forest Strategy, and for community tenures (woodlots and community forest agreements). Approximately 2.4 million cubic meters was assigned for use in the Ministry of Forests-developed First Nations Forest Strategy.

FOREST AND RANGE AGREEMENTS

Following the take-back of Allowable Annual Cut (AAC) from major licensees in 2003, the Crown committed to reallocate a portion of this timber volume to First Nations. The mechanism for allocating this volume to First Nations was Forest and Range Agreements. Through these Agreements, First Nations received timber volume and monetary payments on a per-capita basis during the term of the Agreement. Many First Nations found these Agreements objectionable and the First Nations Leadership Council and Province of BC worked collaboratively to develop a new framework. The revised Forest and Range Opportunity Agreement (FROAs) removed some of the restrictions on First Nations ability to exercise their title and rights and was designed to create space for negotiations with the Province. Although these wording changes were made, no changes were made to the volumes of cash or timber flowed through these agreements, and many First Nations are dissatisfied with the economic viability of forest tenures associated with the FROAs.

WORKING ROUNDTABLE ON FORESTRY AND REGULATORY REVIEW

The downturn in the United States housing market has created the impetus for the provincial government to discuss further reforms; recently, the Premier announced that a working roundtable will be created to help address how BC's forest industry can seek new opportunities and markets, and a 90-day process will also commence to review the forestry regulatory regime.

CANADA-US SOFTWOOD LUMBER DISPUTE

The negotiated Canada-US Softwood Lumber Agreement resulted in billions of dollars refunded to Canadian forest companies, and millions more set aside in the US. First Nations in BC were not formally represented at the negotiation of this Agreement. This softwood lumber dispute will re-surface in the coming years and further negotiations will be required.

FOREST MARKETING

The United States housing and mortgage crisis made the Canadian industry fully aware of their dependence upon one marketplace to sell their products. Other emerging markets are ready to purchase Canadian products or invest in Canada if the price fits their need and if relationships can be built. Premier Campbell has committed to include First Nations on all government trade missions.

NON-TIMBER FOREST RESOURCES

There are ongoing discussions within government and research institutions regarding the collection of data and development of policy for non-timber forest resources. There have been discussions to legislate and implement tenures for some of these products in order to create a market for these resources. Non-timber forest resources play an important role in First Nations health, diet, and economies, and First Nations have recognized rights to gather, and play a role in the management of, these resources.

LAND AND MARINE USE PLANNING

Land and marine use plans are valuable tools for addressing complex environmental, economic, social, and cultural matters. First Nations rights, title, and interests are not represented in most of the provincial plans, and work is now ongoing to determine effective protocols and processes for joint/collaborative land use planning between First Nations and government.

FOREST RESEARCH

Currently, First Nations depend almost exclusively on provincial government agencies, universities and other non-First Nation institutions for research although improvements are being made in terms of First Nations representation in the decision-making of these groups. As a result, existing data and research reflects priorities and perspectives established outside of the First Nations community, and research is often owned by non First Nations entities.

First Nations have highlighted the need to establish their own research priorities, control their own research results, and reap the benefits from research, especially that involving traditional knowledge. This traditional knowledge can play an important role in sustainable forest management.



2008 First Nations Forestry Forum

DELEGATE WORKBOOK



bulletin

2008 FIRST NATIONS FORESTRY FORUM Agenda

MARCH 11, 2008

9:00 am - 10:00 am
Registration and Welcome
10:00 am - 11:00 am
Breakfast
11:00 am - 12:00 pm
Keynote Address: *David Suzuki*
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
Lunch
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
Session 1: *Forest Stewardship Council*
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Session 2: *Forest Stewardship Council*
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Session 3: *Forest Stewardship Council*
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Session 4: *Forest Stewardship Council*
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Dinner



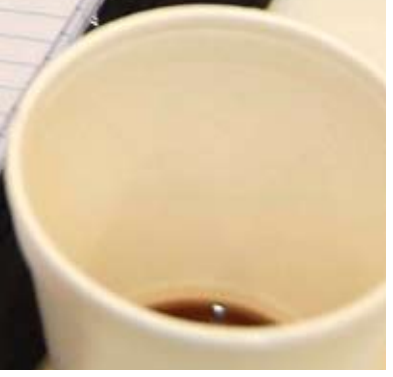
HIGHLIGHT

Robert Williams of the Xeni Gwe'in will discuss the implications of the Tsilhqot'in case in BC.

2008 First Nations Forestry Forum
2008-03-11
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In our position to have to protect First Nations rights must properly assess rights prior to legislation must be of First Nations rights



FIRST NATIONS FORESTRY COUNCIL

In the Leadership Accord, the BC Assembly of First Nations, First Nations Summit, and Union of BC Indian Chiefs committed to engage in ongoing dialogue and, where possible, to develop common understandings, strategies and/or positions on identified issues of mutual concern or priority. The Parties also agreed to establish working groups on identified issues of concern or priority to advance those matters.

One of the priority issues identified was the mountain pine beetle epidemic. Many First Nations' territories were severely impacted by the epidemic, and communities in the impacted areas called upon the First Nations Leadership Council to host a mountain pine beetle forum. The forum was held in September of 2005, followed by a second in April 2006.

From these meetings, a First Nations Mountain Pine Beetle Action Plan was developed and an interim First Nations Mountain Pine Beetle Working Group was formed to implement the Plan. The Working Group was recognized as interim, with a view to reconstituting it as a more permanent body, the First Nations Forestry Council (FNFC) at a later date.

In 2006, the members of the First Nations Mountain Pine Beetle Working Group formally incorporated the First Nations Forestry Society, and commenced operations as the FNFC.

Since 2006, the FNFC, in close collaboration with key partners, has been working to implement the First Nations Mountain Pine Beetle Action Plan. The FNFC has a close working partnership with the First Nations Mountain Pine Beetle Initiative (FNMPBI), which plays a collaborative role between First Nations, industry, municipalities and the provincial government. Through the work of the FNMPBI, three scorecards have been developed: 1) Community Protection, 2) Sustainable Economy, and 3) Ecosystem Stewardship (see www.fnmpbi.com). It is anticipated that these scorecards will inform and support the ongoing work of the FNFC and government in collaborative efforts to combat the Mountain Pine Beetle epidemic.

Increasingly, the FNFC has also been involved in broader forestry issues, including tenure viability, research extension, marketing and others. This First Nations Forestry Action Plan is intended to further clarify the FNFC's role in forestry issues.



FIRST NATIONS FORESTRY ACTION PLAN

This Action Plan was developed through feedback received through a series of regional dialogue sessions with First Nations in October and November, 2006, and a province-wide First Nations Forestry Forum in March 2008.

PURPOSE

The forest resources have been a basis for the way of life of generations of First Nations people. With the institutional strength of the First Nations Forest Council to guide its implementation, First Nations leaders and professionals have developed a First Nations Forestry Action Plan to ensure that the cultural, ecological, economic and social relationship between First Nations and the forests is recognized, maintained and shared and to support First Nations in their community development and political efforts.

VISION

A healthy forest ecosystem that continues to sustain and enhance the cultural, spiritual, environmental, economic and social lives of the original owners and caretakers and is managed through respectful government-to-government and community relationships based on recognition and respect.

MISSION

The mission of the First Nations Forestry Council is to:

- Implement processes to restore the land and ecosystem;
- Advocate on forestry matters at the request of First Nations communities;
- Support First Nations communities in managing the mountain pine beetle epidemic through the implementation of the BC First Nations Mountain Pine Beetle Action Plan;
- Work with governments and others to ensure that First Nations needs, values, and principles are factored into forestry-related legislative, regulatory, policy and program development;

- Work with partner organizations to increase efficiencies and benefits to First Nations communities with regard to land and forest-related matters;
- Support First Nations in forest, land and marine use planning that is holistic and reflective of their traditional and contemporary knowledge, values and governance systems;
- Support the education, capacity and sustainability of First Nations and First Nations governments as it relates to lands, forestry and resources;
- Enhance opportunities for First Nations people to access meaningful and long-term employment, self-employment and business opportunities in the forest sector;
- Ensure that traditional knowledge, values and governance systems are recognized and supported;
- Provide effective communications to First Nations, governments, industry, third parties and the general public with respect to forest-related matters, including coastal forest issues, and the mountain pine beetle infestation; and
- Foster government-to-government and other working relationships and partnerships.

PRINCIPLES

- **Respect, Recognition, and Accommodation:** First Nations are the original stewards of our lands. There must be respect Aboriginal title and rights, and treaty rights, and for the hereditary and elected systems of individual First Nation. Crown and third parties must honor the international standard of free, prior and informed consent. As the original occupants and inherent stewards of the lands, First Nations must reap economic benefits from forest development or protection in all its stages.
- **Honour of the Crown.** The Crown's duty to consult is with First Nations and not the First Nations Forestry Council. The Crown must meaningfully consult with, and accommodate, First Nations regarding potential impacts to Aboriginal title and rights, and treaty rights, as part of the process of reconciliation.
- **Accountable Leadership.** First Nations leadership is accountable to community members and First Nations organizations are accountable to First Nations.
- **Sustainability:** "Take care of the land and the land will take care of you." Forest management must be conducted in an environmentally, socially, ecologically, culturally and economically sustainable manner for future generations.
- **Cultural Diversity.** The cultural diversity amongst First Nations must be respected, recognized and supported by governments, the public, and others through adaptive approaches and processes with respect to each First Nation's interests and priorities.

- **Quality Research and Information Sharing:** All quality and relevant information must be shared with First Nations in a timely and effective manner. First Nations must be involved in determining which studies need to be conducted, the development of the terms of reference for these studies, decision-making for the researchers and reviewers, as well as approval of the final product.
- **Traditional Knowledge:** Traditional knowledge, including proprietary rights, of First Nations will be respected. First Nations will direct the use and management of traditional knowledge, including identifying when traditional knowledge is confidential.
- **Education, Training and Capacity:** Education, training and capacity building are priorities for First Nations. To achieve informed decision-making, First Nations must have the human capacity and financial resources to engage in decision-making with respect to land and forest stewardship.
- **Elders and Youth.** Honour, value and incorporate input from the elders and youth.

GOALS

1. Restore and sustain healthy ecosystems through stewardship and planning
2. Implement recognition and the New Relationship
3. Effect legislative and policy development and reform
4. Build capacity through traditional knowledge, research and education
5. Support resolutions through negotiations and litigation
6. Maximize economic opportunities for First Nations
7. Foster relationships and networking



ACTION ITEMS

GOAL 1: RESTORE AND SUSTAIN HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS THROUGH STEWARDSHIP AND PLANNING

- Work with other First Nations organizations to assess the cumulative impacts of resource exploitation within traditional territories and the effect on long-term planning;
- Support the development of cultural impacts assessments;
- Work to implement First Nations jurisdiction over non-timber forest resources, including the development of culturally-relevant management strategies;
- Ensure a central role for First Nations in all silviculture efforts;
- Develop a climate change strategy that includes the ownership, management and trading of carbon credits by First Nations based on their title and rights;
- Develop a Joint Land Use Planning Protocol to guide collaborative government-to-government planning between First Nations and the provincial government;
- Secure funding and an appropriate distribution mechanism/structure to support First Nations' ability to conduct and participate in ecosystem stewardship planning, including fostering regional land use planning information-sharing and support systems;
- Develop a Handbook and best practice guide for First Nations communities in ecosystem stewardship planning;
- Identify and develop new mechanisms on a priority basis for land and resource protection, including interim agreements;
- Partner with existing agencies and First Nations to develop and implement fuel management plans, community wildfire protection plans, and all-hazard plans;
- Create a response team to respond to environmental hazards; and
- Analyze FNMPBI scorecards on community protection and ecosystem stewardship to identify locally-driven implementation opportunities

GOAL 2: IMPLEMENT RECOGNITION AND THE NEW RELATIONSHIP

- Work to ensure that governments uphold their obligations to consult and discuss issues directly with First Nations communities, including on all agriculture plans and land sales;
- Support the development of structures, where they do not already exist, to negotiate government-to-government Agreements for shared decision-making regarding land use planning and management, while recognizing the uniqueness of each First Nation;
- Engage the province in developing processes for joint decision making on all operational and administrative decisions (i.e. reforestation, setting AACs, tenure renewals, replacements and extensions, tenure sales and replacements, reallocation of harvesting rights).
- Develop a consistent and regular process for First Nations review and joint development of forestry-related federal and provincial legislation; and
- Implement forestry resource revenue-sharing so that First Nations receive benefits for resources extracted from their territories by other licensees;

GOAL 3: EFFECT LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND REFORM

- Achieve tenure reform, including:
 - Immediate implementation of Community Forest License stumpage rates for First Nations licenses
 - Effecting immediate change to increase the length of First Nations tenures;
 - Working toward a 100% rebate on all stumpage and annual rent payments on First Nations tenures;
 - Ensuring that the province holds silviculture liability, as is currently the case with BC Timber Sales tenures;
 - Streamlining operational and administrative approvals for tenures held by First Nations;
 - Dismantling the BC Timber Sales program and transfer of 100% of this tenure to First Nations;
 - Legislation to create a long-term, area-based First Nations tenure where 100% of the stumpage and annual rent payments is rebated back to the First Nation;
 - Developing a First Nations stumpage system that acknowledges First Nations' proprietary interests in the timber resource;
- Conduct an analysis of barriers within existing legislation and policy and identify short- and long-term goals for change, potentially through participation in the Forestry Roundtable process and a subsequent dialogue on the recommendations;
- Undertake legislative, regulatory, and policy analysis to the Forest Act and the Forest and Range Practices Act as they relate to impacts on First Nations, including proposing compensation standards;
- Change the Timber Supply Review Process and create a resourcing fund for technical and data analysis;
- Work to remove Forest Stewardship Plans and replace them with Forest Tactical Plans that identify areas of operation on the ground;
- Obtain an allocation for First Nations from the BC Forest Investment Account for research, marketing and promotion, habitat restoration etc.;
- Advocate for the renegotiation of the Softwood Lumber Agreement, including:
 - Developing a First Nations softwood lumber strategy;
 - Securing First Nations representation at the negotiating level;
 - Securing exemptions for First Nations from duties based on Aboriginal title;
- Advocate for Forest Stewardship Council certification or a First Nations certification for both mills and forest managers. Locate and research potential markets, including international markets for First Nations-branded products

GOAL 3: EFFECT LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND REFORM (CONT'D)

- Advocate for the recognition of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in the 2008 National Forest Strategy;
- Support the creation of a First Nations unity group to achieve change with respect to Forest & Range Opportunity Agreements; and
- Create a First Nations Forest Act.

GOAL 4. BUILD CAPACITY THROUGH TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE, RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

- Work with partners to develop First Nations forestry/natural resource-related curricula for educational institutions;
- Pursue and support training and capacity-building opportunities for First Nations in all forestry sectors, including management.
- Develop a Research Department to:
 - Conduct a First Nations forestry research needs assessment to identify knowledge gaps and research priorities;
 - Create user-friendly materials to explain complex issues such as carbon credits;
 - Enhance First Nation community access to credible provincial, national and international research networks;
 - Conduct new and innovative research supporting sustainable development options;
 - Develop a Community Research Toolkit aimed at assisting First Nations develop research methodologies (including Protocols) that are inclusive of their community experience and needs;
 - Develop tools on the protection of traditional knowledge and intellectual property rights;
 - Coordinate a network of extension specialist responsible for visiting First Nations communities to communicate research data;
 - Conduct an assessment on the state of First Nations participation in the forest sector; and
 - Provide technical and advisory services on forestry matters, including the structuring of economically viable tenures.

GOAL 5: SUPPORT RESOLUTIONS THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS AND LITIGATION

- Facilitate a process to develop common principles to guide forestry and land-related negotiations, including supporting these principles to be adopted by resolutions;
- Identify specific mandate barriers in forestry-related negotiations, solutions to these barriers, and priorities for negotiations;
- Work to ensure that court decisions (including Williams, Huu-ay-aht, Sappier & Gray and others) are implemented in a manner that meets the expectations of First Nations communities;
- Conduct analyses of court decisions to share with First Nations and create a databank of forestry-related court decisions and legal opinions;
- Develop a mechanism for First Nations to share information on negotiations and litigation issues;
- Provide templates for letters and other documents to advance First Nations forestry-related issues;
- Develop a direct action strategy, including an assessment of our strengths and weaknesses, and mechanisms to foster and maintain unity amongst First Nations;
- Develop a “moratorium protocol” to apply to resources currently under negotiation;
- Work to develop a forestry legal action fund, including a committee to oversee the expenditure of this fund;
- Develop a roster of mediators and a dispute resolution process to assist in the resolution of disputes between First Nations, governments, and others;
- Identify mechanisms to streamline the negotiations process; and

GOAL 6: MAXIMIZE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR FIRST NATIONS

- Create a First Nations economic diversification strategy including immediately establishing a role for First Nations in emerging industries, such as carbon credits, bioenergy, biodiversity offsets and payments for ecosystem services;
- Secure resources to allow First Nations to conduct economic opportunities analyses and business planning in their communities, on a regional basis, and on the province-wide level;
- Develop a First Nations brand and marketing strategy to identify and certify our wood products, including:
 - Conducting a global marketing analysis to assess markets and opportunities for First Nations-branded forest products;
 - Fostering trade relationships with other indigenous peoples in the US and abroad;
 - Identifying potential partners in the US and emerging markets such as China, India, and others;
 - Establishing a First Nations brand, including a branding and certification process, that incorporates cultural and spiritual values and protocols;
 - Establishing an association to oversee the implementation of the brand and marketing strategy (including the development of a business plan);
 - Preparing a communications plan to raise awareness amongst First Nations and others about the First Nations brand;
- Analyze First Nations Mountain Pine Beetle Initiative scorecard on economic opportunities to identify locally-driven implementation opportunities; and
- Support First Nations to pool resources and work at regional and local levels on economic opportunities.

GOAL 7: FOSTER RELATIONSHIPS AND NETWORKING

- Support and work closely with an independent First Nations forest industry association;
- Develop relationship protocol agreements, including work plans to implement those agreements, with key First Nations and non-First Nations organizations, industry and industry associations, governments and government agencies;
- Foster effective partnerships with research and educational institutions;
- Ensure First Nations representation on government trade missions;
- Develop working relationships with municipalities, including creating awareness about the wealth generated by First Nations;
- Develop a plan to become more vertically integrated to ensure more effective First Nations participation at national and international levels; and
- Increase representation of BC First Nations on national and international bodies (i.e. National Aboriginal Forestry Association; North American Free Trade Association) to ensure that BC First Nations' perspectives are represented at national and international forums.

IMPLEMENTATION

The First Nations Forestry Council will be responsible for coordinating the implementation of this Action Plan. This includes:

- Developing work plans, including timelines, for the implementation of priorities in this Plan;
- Reporting regularly to First Nations through effective communications (i.e. website, newsletters), presentations to the assemblies of the BC Assembly of First Nations, First Nations Summit, and Union of BC Indian Chiefs, and holding regular regional and province-wide forestry forums;
- Coordinating the sharing of information on forestry matters amongst First Nations, including potentially developing and supporting a communications protocol amongst BC First Nations;
- Coordinate and collaborate with other First Nations organizations (including the First Nations Energy Council, the First Nations Technology Council and the First Nations Fisheries Council) to share information, pool resources and eliminate the duplication of efforts. This could be undertaken by an inter-institutional management group or through amalgamation of some of these groups.
- Creating a Forestry Advisory Council composed of community (including Elders) and political members regionally representative of British Columbia to provide guidance in the implementation of this Plan. This Council should have expertise in traditional values, forestry, business, and the economy.
- Recognizing the commitments outlined in the Joint Statement on the New Relationship in September 2007.
- Building effective relationships and partnerships with governments and other forestry-related organizations; and
- Creating an evaluation process for monitoring and measuring progress under this Plan on an annual basis, including the successes already achieved.



BC FIRST NATIONS FORESTRY AND LAND STEWARDSHIP ACTION PLAN

A PUBLICATION OF

