



REPORT ON REGIONAL CONSULTATION MEETINGS

Submitted to the First Nations Forestry Council

Report of the findings on regional consultations held in seven
Province wide sessions during the month of October -
November, 2006.

The purpose of consultations was to canvas the views of B.C.
First Nations as they pertain to the mandate and governance
structure of the newly formed First Nations Forestry Council.

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November 13, 2006

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REPORT ON REGIONAL CONSULTATION MEETINGS

Under the direction of the First Nations Leadership Council, the First Nations Forestry Council was mandated with the task of carrying out a province-wide community consultation process with First Nations in order to determine their needs as they pertain to a governance structure which should be adopted by the newly formed Council. This report contains the findings of those who participated in the meetings held in October and November of 2006, in seven regions of the province.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In March 2005, the political executives of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, First Nations Summit and BC Assembly of First Nations signed a historic *Leadership Accord* to establish the BC First Nations Leadership Council. The First Nations Leadership Council works together to politically represent the interests of First Nations in British Columbia and develop strategies and actions to bring about significant and substantive changes to government policy that will benefit all First Nations in British Columbia.

The Parties committed to engage in an ongoing process of dialogue through regular leadership meetings to achieve the purposes of the Accord 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 issues politically.

Of those priority issues was the mountain pine beetle epidemic. In that same year federal funding was committed by the federal government to assist in the management of the mountain pine beetle epidemic. Many First Nations' territories were severely impacted by the epidemic and these Nations called upon the Leadership Council to host a mountain pine beetle forum which took place in September of 2005.

From that crucial meeting, a *BC First Nations Mountain Pine Beetle Action Plan* was developed. A key item in this *Plan* was the eventual formation of a BC First Nations Forestry Council (FNFC). On an interim basis, it was decided that a Mountain Pine Beetle Working Group would be immediately established with a view to establishing a permanent First Nations Forestry Council when the time was appropriate.

The concept of the FNFC was reintroduced at the second mountain beetle forum in April, 2006. It was however, met with uncertainty and little support. The message was clear to the Leadership Council that in order for the FNFC to succeed in garnering First Nations support, they had to undertake the more onerous task of addressing their role under a governance structure as well as assisting First Nations communities in managing the mountain pine beetle epidemic. Candid and open discussions with First Nations were therefore required throughout the province to canvas their views.

This report will outline key discussions that occurred at each meeting and will propose a governance structure, mandate and draft a strategic plan based on the feedback from the regional meetings.

The meeting schedule was as follows: October 17, 2006, Prince George; October 19, 2006 Prince Rupert; October 25, 2006 Williams Lake; October 26, 2006 Kamloops; October 27, 2006, Vernon; October 31, 2006, Cranbrook and November 2, 2006, Campbell River.

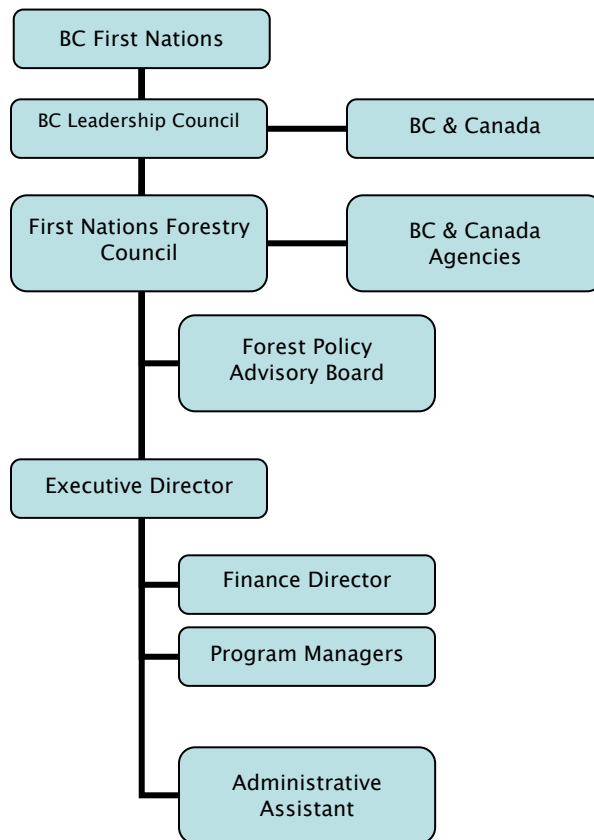
The total number of participants was 95.

Participants from the FNFC included Chief David Walkem, Acting FNFC President, Chief Lynda Price, Acting FNFC Vice-President, Chief Leonard Thomas, Acting FNFC CEO Dan George, facilitator, Terry Teegee, facilitator, Laurie Vaughn, facilitator; and Chrystie Sterwart, facilitator.

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE DISCUSSION

Based on the discussion at the Mountain Pine Beetle spring forum in April, 2006, the Working Group proposed the following governance structure. The model was presented at the regional meetings for input and discussion.

A. Governance Structure Proposed by the Interim FNFC Board of Directors



In proposing this governance structure, the Interim FNFC Board was mindful of the principles of accountability and administration proposing in the case of administration that it remain small and non bureaucratic. Each line of authority will be outlined below to reflect what was discussed at the regional meetings.

BC First Nations

All BC First Nations are invited and encouraged to participate on some level with one or all of the political organizations comprising the First Nations Leadership Council which includes the Union of BC Indians Chiefs, First Nations Summit and the BC Assembly of First Nations. Each of these organizations elects its respective leaders and the executives of such elections determine the Leadership Council. Also each organization is required to propose resolutions to each assembly for ratification.

It is through these political organizations and its assemblies that the Leadership Council is accountable to First Nations in British Columbia.

Discussion

Not all First Nations are represented in the political groups which comprise the First Nations Leadership Council, therefore the First Nations Forestry Council proposes that it be set up in such a manner that makes it directly accountable to all First Nations in B.C.

BC Leadership Council



As part of the New Relationship an Accord was signed by the three aforementioned political organizations, the executives of those organizations represent the Leadership Council which is mandated to

negotiate on behalf of its First Nations with both provincial and federal governments.

The purpose of the Accord is to: affirm mutual respect; formalize a cooperative working relationship to politically represent the interests of BC First Nations and develop strategies and actions to bring about significant and substantive changes to government policy that will benefit all BC First Nations; and focus on a range of issues and initiatives of common interest or concern among BC First Nations, including consultation and accommodation, national processes, and social and economic program and service issues.

Work under the Leadership Accord is guided by the following principles:

- The Parties recognize and respect each other's respective mandate;
- The Parties will be mindful that they each represent a diversity of perspectives on issues relating to Aboriginal title, rights and interests;
- The Parties commit to work to advance the interests of First Nations in political level discussions amongst themselves and with governments;
- The Parties will represent their respective memberships in any discussions that directly involve government and industry.

Through the Accord, the Parties commit to engage in an ongoing process of dialogue through regular leadership meetings to achieve the purposes of this Accord and, where possible, develop common understandings, strategies and/or positions on identified issues of mutual concern or priority. The Parties also agree to establish working groups on identified issues of concern or priority to advance those issues politically.

The mandate of the FNLC is determined only through the endorsement of each of its participating organizations – the BCAFN, FNS, and UBCIC – as established via resolution of their respective memberships.

Although the FNLC works with governments to develop frameworks for issues such as shared decision-making and consultation and accommodation, these efforts are never to impede government-to-government discussions and negotiations between individual First Nations and governments.

The staffs of the three participating FNLC organizations are responsible for following up on resolutions passed at their respective Chiefs' assemblies, and work together on issues where all three organizations have a

mandate.

The Leadership Council is committed to maintaining unity on matters of common concern to benefit all BC First Nations, as well as to respecting the autonomy of each organization in achieving progress on issues specific to their respective memberships.

First Nations Forestry Council

From resolutions passed from each political organization, the First Nations Forestry Council (FNFC) was formed to act as the forestry policy and research arm of the Leadership Council. The FNFC established in 2006 works primarily at the Deputy Minister level under the authority of the Leadership Council.

In light of the fact that the Forestry Council had to be prepared for extensive travel in conjunction with making speedy decisions on an emergency basis, it was proposed to keep the membership to five so as not to become a burden on the administration.

It was also proposed that there be a three year staggered term for the Council.

Discussion

- *During discussions on the question of membership of the council, attendees considered that a board consisting of only five members was not sufficient. It was proposed instead that there should be up to ten members on the board thereby reflecting better regional representation.*
- *Some attendees at the regional meetings suggested that the Council should be comprised of only First Nations individuals*
- *The FNFC should be appointed by the Leadership Council after a province wide call for nominations is issued.*
- *Delegates suggested that only Chiefs be eligible to serve on the FNFC Board of Directors*
- *Suggestions were also made that representation should be regionally based by language.*
- *The FNFC should receive its direction from the Forest Policy Advisory Board and reflect a three year staggered term EXCEPT for the first term which should be five years in order to create some consistency and continuity .*
- *Chiefs should remain on FNFC even if they are not re-elected for another term or if they decide to step down from their position as chief for whatever reason. The appointment will therefore remain independent.*

- *Any board member appointment should have knowledge of the current political climate especially as it relates to forest issues and building capacity.*
- *A board member should ideally be linked to a forest based community.*
- *At least one member should be a registered professional forester.*
- *The FNFC should host bi-annual regional meetings.*
- *Any board member should be familiar with the " conflict of interest policy"*
- *Discussions also focussed on Board candidates (preferably five in number) being selected according to past experience in successful government negotiations.*
- *While some participants indicated that the Board should be limited only to Chiefs, there was also discussion about including other candidates (non Chief) who might also possess strong leadership and negotiating skills.*
- *Attendees agreed that the future Board should retain two of the three Chiefs who formerly served on the First Nations Mountain Beetle Working Group for a one year term to ensure continuity and to keep the new Board adequately up to date on issues.*
- *FNFC must have increased communications back to the communities.*
- *With respect to protocol, it will be the task of the Leadership Council to make recommendations to offer a resolution at each respective assembly appointing the board members who will serve on the Forestry Council.*

Forest Policy Advisory Board

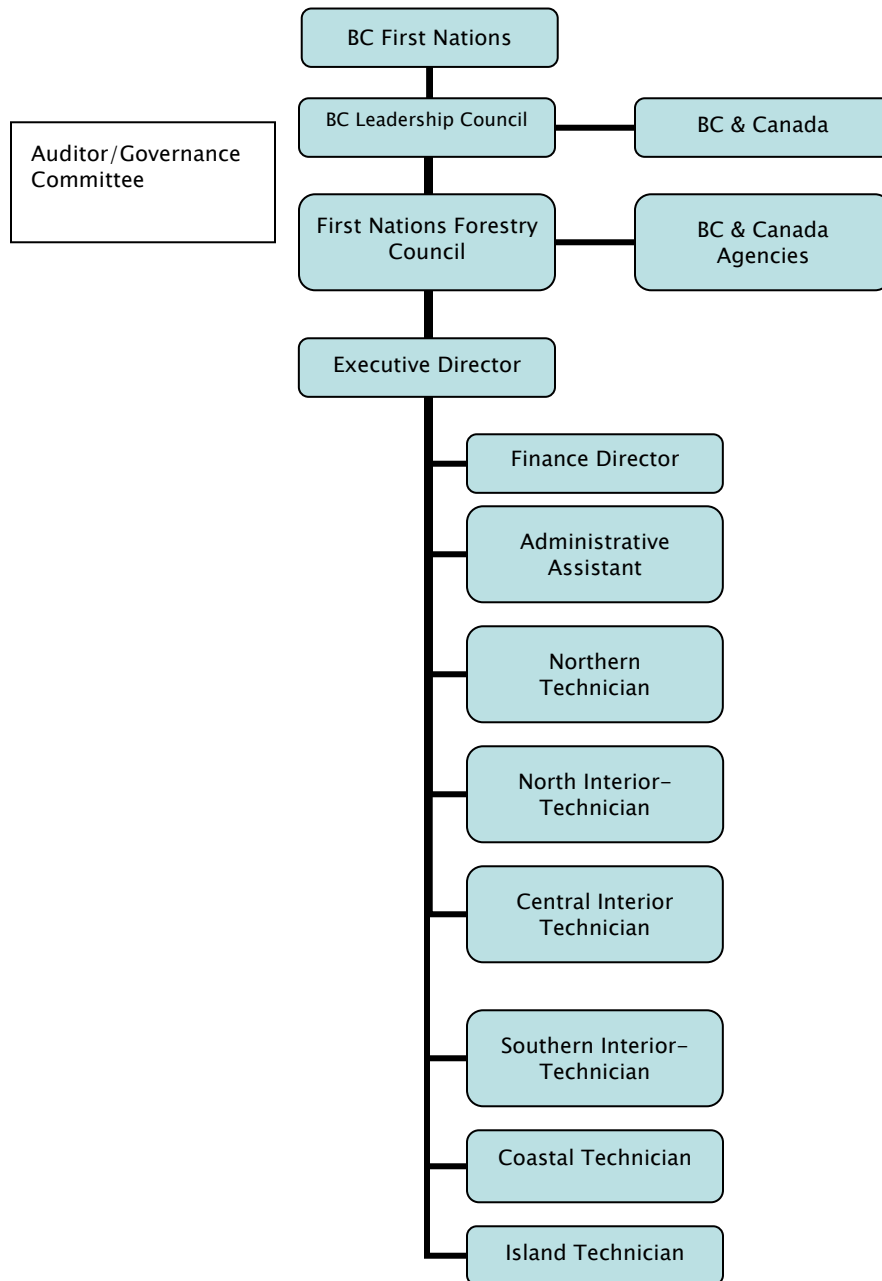
Consultation meetings concerning the establishment of the Forest Policy Advisory Board considered that since the FNFC Board of Directors is to indeed act as a negotiating body and be limited in its size in order to efficiently carry out its duties, then the Forest Policy Advisory Board must consist of a larger representation of First Nations communities who can advise from first hand experiences on issues requiring resolution. It is proposed that the Forest Policy Advisory Board should consist of a two year staggered term and be made up of 15 representatives from different regions of the province.

Discussion

- *This board should be appointed by the FNFC after a province wide call for nominations is issued.*
- *This board should be both regionally and professionally represented.*
- *The Advisory Board should review information brought forth from the FNFC technical staff for consideration.*
- *The Advisory Board should meet quarterly.*
- *It is not necessary that all individuals serving on this Board be of First Nations ancestry.*

- *Representation should be one person per language group, and one other professional from that region chosen by that region.*
- *The Advisory Board should be a dynamic board ideally represented by the following:*
 - *A non-timber Forest Product Specialist*
 - *An individual who is well versed in traditional medicine with a strong traditional knowledge base (i.e., Elder)*
 - *A Fisheries biologist*
 - *Hydrologist*
 - *Land Use Planner*
 - *Environmentalist*
 - *Professional Forester*
 - *Natural Resource Manager*
 - *First Nations Land Users*
 - *Forest Business Specialist*
 - *Geo-technical Engineer*
 - *GIS Mapping Technician*
- *It should be a performance based board in that those who have actively participated will be asked to renew their term for another year and make unlimited renewals for those who are actively contributing.*
- *There should be seats for a least one Elder and one youth on the Advisory Board*
- *The Forest Policy Advisory Board should be the first body to consider the draft strategic plan submitted by the Executive Director, who will then in turn make recommendations to the FNFC. Those recommendations will then be brought (possibly revised) to the Leadership Council who are mandated to bring the proposed strategic plan to each assembly for final ratification.*

B. Audited Capacity Governance Model (Proposed in Williams Lake)



Auditor/Governance Committee

Discussion

- *Regional consultations revealed that not everyone supported the idea of the Leadership Council having the final approval on who will serve on the FNFC or that the FNFC was the appropriate body to appoint individuals to the Forest Policy Advisory Committee. Participants were of the view that it had the potential for creating conflict.*
- *Discussions also focussed on forming an auditory/governance committee comprised of three members of the Leadership Council (one from each organization), one member of the FNFC and one member at large to serve on a committee that would resolve mainline conflict of interest issues. The philosophy behind this approach was to prevent a group with a single issue from dominating the board with little or no regard to issues that impact all forest practices in BC. (using the mountain pine beetle as an example)*
- *Others felt that this type of a committee was yet another level of bureaucracy that is unnecessary.*

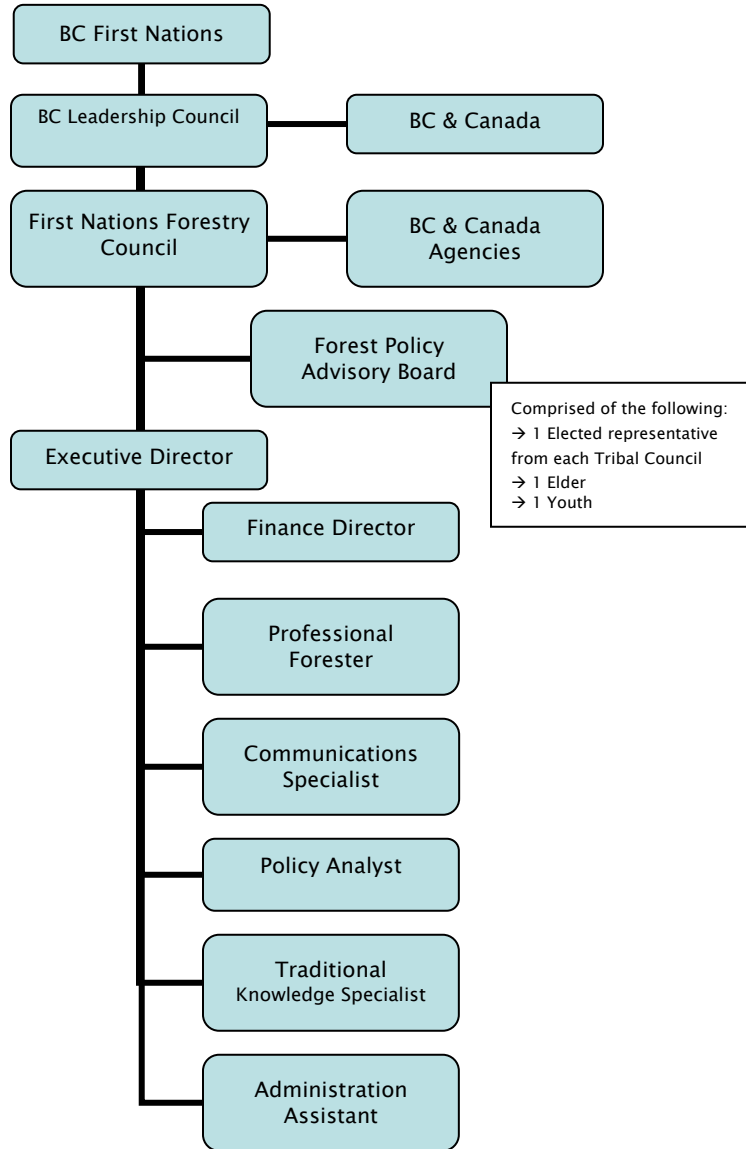
Expanding the FNFC Technical Support Staff

- *The FNFC governance model as originally conceived was focussed largely on an advisory role with less emphasis on expertise which is required to provide First Nations with practical tools to achieve ongoing tasks. Therefore, it was proposed to strike the Forest Policy Advisory Board and to increase the size of the FNFC administration instead so that its expert staff could better address the needs within each region of British Columbia. These resource positions will represent the direct link between all First Nations communities and the FNFC Board of Directors. Maintaining active communications with First Nations communities on forestry issues including, but not limited to mountain beetle infestation was paramount.*
- *Create a technical team throughout the province that will be managed by the FNFC Executive Director whose primary responsibility will be liaising with prescribed First Nations communities. The team should be knowledgeable on forestry issues and assist First Nations as issues arise. The technical staff will then be in a strong position to problem solve and address issues as they come along and to advise the FNFC accordingly.*
- *The technical staff will also be equipped to assist First Nations communities from a policy perspective as well as to offer advice on various forest management or operation needs.*
- *With respect to the expanded support staff, concerns were expressed about the dangers of becoming more of a service organization than the original reasons for which FNFC was created. That is, to support First Nations to manage the mountain pine beetle epidemic; to work with governments and*

others on forestry related policy and programs; advocate on forestry matters on behalf of all First Nations communities

- *Attendees also expressed concern that expansion of the technical support administration model is too costly for existing funding allocations.*

C. Tribal Council Governance Model



Tribal Council Governance Model

For the most part, the majority of people were happy with the model that was proposed by the First Nations Forestry Council, but wanted to elaborate on the structure of the Forest Policy Advisory Board and provide more input on the proposed technical staff.

Forest Policy Advisory Board

Discussion

- *Rather than re-invent a regional system, it was proposed to increase the amount of seats on the advisory board, and use the existing tribal council model to ensure that the majority of Bands are represented all of the time.*
- *It was felt that having only 15 seats per year does not adequately represent the forestry needs in this province*
- *Understanding that not all Bands participate in the tribal council model, there should remain two seats at large for those who wish to participate outside the tribal council format.*
- *It was proposed that there should also be positions on the Advisory Board for one Elder and one youth should a candidate from the tribal council level not meet the criteria of the Board.*
- *Mindful of the fact that increasing the size of the board will increase its overall expense, it is proposed that this Board meet bi-annually, rather than quarterly.*

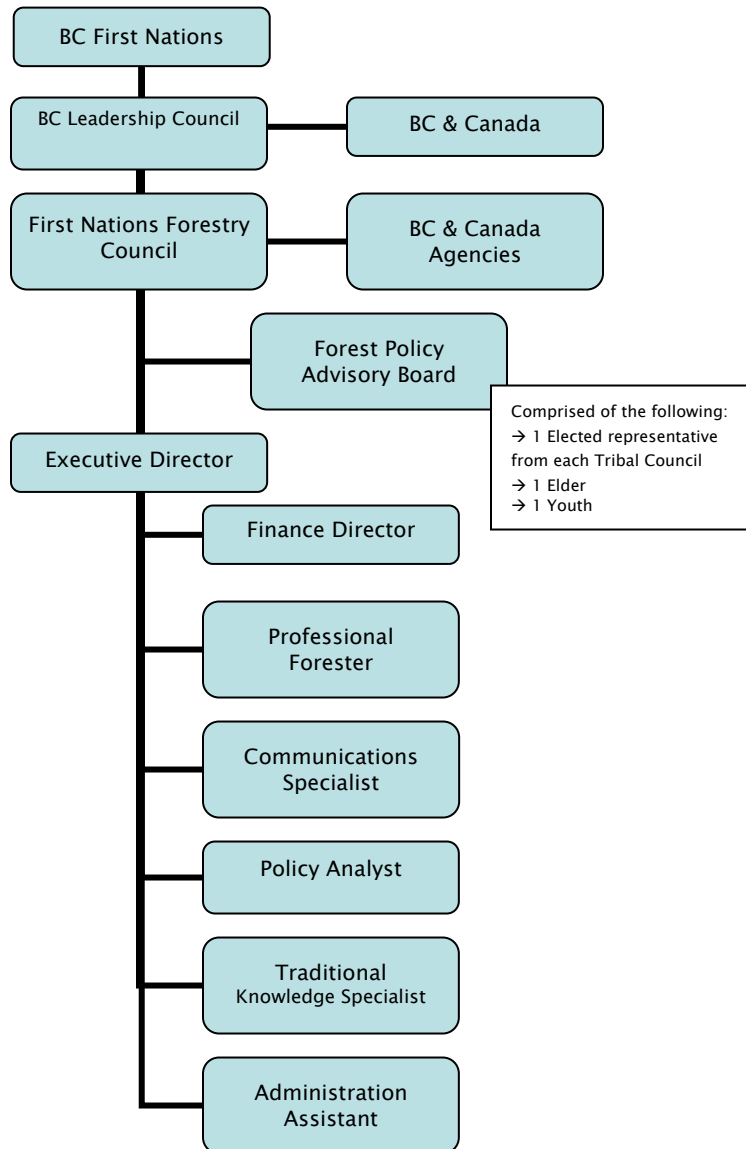
FNFC Technical Staff

Discussion

- *Acknowledging that there is a need for more technical support staff, specific recommendations should be made to balance and reflect the needs of First Nations community support. Examples are, a forestry professional, a professional policy analyst and a traditional knowledge specialist(elder) to ensure all First Nations values are considered.*
- *Attendees also recommended that a communications specialist be hired to work closely with the FNFC Board of Directors and the Forest Advisory Board to get timely and prudent information out to First Nations stakeholders.*

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE RECOMMENDATIONS

The adoption of the following governance model and recommendations was based on the majority of opinions and recurring themes expressed during discussions on governance structures.



RECOMMENDATIONS OF FIRST NATIONS FORESTRY COUNCIL

Please refer to Appendix C for a complete version of the proposed language which should be adopted for the province wide "Call for Nominations".

- a. A province wide call for nominations will be made, collected and submitted to the Leadership Council for consideration.
- b. There will be seven positions in total on the FNFC Board of Directors
 - i) Two of the original members of the Mountain Pine Beetle Interim Working Group should be encouraged to serve for an additional year in order to allow a period of transition for the new FNFC Board.
- c. Representations will be primarily concerned with skill set rather than geography. It will be expected that Board members will serve with a clear mind for the better good of the whole of the province as regards First Nations forestry issues.
- d. Members must be of First Nations descent.
- e. This term will be considered independent of any other term previously held by the Board member.
- f. Nominees are encouraged to outline a skill set that is congruent with strong negotiation and leadership skills; have knowledge of the current forestry issues facing BC First Nations; demonstrate a strong knowledge of existing political climates and have previous board experience.
- g. Should nominees also serve within the Leadership Council, he or she should be aware of the possible conflict of interest. Familiarity with the conflict of interest policy should be expected.
- h. Each position on the FNFC will be considered on a three year staggered term in order to allow for transition and stability in the event of pending or active negotiations.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF FOREST POLICY ADVISORY BOARD

Please refer to Appendix D for a complete version of the proposed language which should be adopted for the Tribal Council “Call for Nominations”

- a. A call for nominations will be issued to each BC Tribal Council requesting a nominee or representative to serve on the Forest Policy Advisory Board.
- b. There will be two “members at large” positions advertised concurrently with the tribal council nominations.
- c. Nominees should not be limited to persons of aboriginal ancestry, but should be considered according to a skill set that reflects strong ties to a First Nations community as well as possessing a professional skill including, but not limited to professional forestry practices, professional biology, economics and markets as it relates to forestry, traditional knowledge, hydrology, land use planning and any other field that may be influential in making policy or legislative changes to the forest sector.
- d. Each position will be considered on a two year staggered term with an option to renew based on performance.
- e. Each member will be expected to attend every bi-annual meeting.

**RECOMMENDATIONS TO TECHNICAL STAFFING
REQUIREMENTS**

Considering the existing budget constraints, it is recommended that once the Executive Director and Director of Finance are in place, it will be their responsibility to prioritize and make appropriate recommendations based on the findings of this report.

VISION AND PRINCIPLES DISCUSSION

Discussions on the vision and principles which should guide the First Nations Forestry Council were varied, but always linked to the traditional values of First Nations and based on assertion of aboriginal rights and title. The following are a list of the common themes which emerged from the consultation meeting. The ideas are presented in order of popularity and recommendations will be based on the number of times they were discussed at the regional meetings.

1. Respect the values and interests of First Nations

- a. First Nations should receive priority on Provincial land management and stewardship based on their Aboriginal title and rights.
- b. Continue to support the many First Nations who have already mapped their lands to reflect traditional use studies required under treaty process (i.e., game trails, villages sites, cultural sites).
- c. First Nations interests extend well beyond the boundaries of "Indian reserve" lands.
- d. Maintain those traditional practices that are tied to the land as it reflects the traditional land base of all First Nations in B.C.
- e. Make First Nations values part of the RFP process.
- f. Acknowledge and promote First Nations traditional relationship to the land (still consistent with their contemporary views).

2. Communication is essential to the success of the First Nations Forestry Council

- a. Active consultation with First Nations.
- b. Communication is the key to keeping First Nations informed.
- c. Annual report on First Nations Forestry.
- d. Provide technical resource information to all communities (i.e., best practices manual and one on one technical support).
- e. Building strong relationships through networking and connectivity to support the FNFC
 - i) Establish a direct relationship with RFP organization
 - ii) Cooperation

3. Lobby for policy that functions in concert with First Nations values

- a. Respect for the environment.
- b. Special attention to watersheds.
- c. Develop a healthy ecosystem model based on traditional values and knowledge.
- d. Re-establish the authority to be “Stewards of the Land”.
- e. Co-management model between First Nations and government.
- f. Use industry when possible to influence policy change.

4. Values should be equally balanced between business and the environment.

- a. Protect First Nations business interests (i.e., taxation issues).
- b. Support building a strong and diverse economy for First Nations (i.e., tourism and mining through positive land use planning, sustainability and secured funding).
- c. Understand that forestry will not be a viable economy in the future and develop an exit plan (especially for those living in mountain pine beetle impacted territory).
- d. Operate under a broader mandate than just forestry management: include overall resource management.
- e. Consider the relationship between forestry and agriculture.

5. Create an environment that recognizes the differences between First Nations governance and provincial/federal governance.

- a. Accountability.
- b. Sustainability
 - i) Sustainability for the FNFC organization
 - ii) Economic/cultural sustainability of the land.
- c. Be inclusive; work with all First Nations in BC including national organizations such as the National Aboriginal Forestry Association, National Aboriginal Forest Industry Council (AFICC) and others.
- d. FNFC should be proactive on policy issues that affect them.
- e. Develop and build capacity to complement commitments made under the terms of the New Relationship.

- f. Serve as a united voice in resource management.
- g. Clearly define roles at each level of management in order to be more effective and efficient.
- h. FNFS should strive for self-sufficiency and build capacity in order that they may not be dependent upon provincial funding.

6. Funding

- a. Work with funding agencies and partners to coordinate initiatives, in order to maximize benefits and reduce duplication.
- b. Work with the Forest Investment Account (FIA) to access funding.
- c. Avoid duplication of funding.
- d. Do not compete with First Nations organizations for funding allocations.

7. Need to operate under a solid strategic plan

- a. Provide both a short and long term vision.
- b. Develop criteria that are consistent with FNFC funding guidelines.
- c. Use an adaptive management approach.
- d. Ensure strong measurements for success.
- e. Maintain focus on plans and priorities.

8. Education

- a. Assist First Nations with curriculum development and explore opportunities to bring education closer to rural reserves.
- b. Building capacity among First Nations is imperative to sustainability and First Nations employment.

9. Be understanding and flexible to the needs of the various regions in the province

10. Understand the rationale for compensation with respect to past and existing impacts (e.g., impact benefits)

11. FNFC should assert and exercise aboriginal rights and title to lands
12. Understand that First Nations vary in their development

VISION AND PRINCIPLES RECOMMENDATIONS

In response to the most popular ideas and recommendations to emerge from discussions on the “vision and principles” to guide the First Nations Forestry Council, the following vision statement and list of guiding principles reflect the common themes to have captured the spirit of these discussions.

FIRST NATIONS FORESTRY COUNCIL VISION STATEMENT

“A healthy forest that continues to sustain the cultural, spiritual, economic and social lives of BC’s First Nations and is managed through respectful government to government relationships”

This vision is based on the important principles of nationhood which state that aboriginal people have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership.

BC First Nations have the inherent right to the continued conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or traditional territories and resources. Canada shall consult in good faith with BC First Nations with respect to any project affecting their lands and resources. Consistent with case law and international conventions, the free, prior and informed consent of First Nations will be required prior to the approval of any project.

First Nations forestry can be seen as sustainable forest land use practices that incorporate the cultural protocols of the past with interactions between the forest ecosystem and today’s Aboriginal people for generations unborn. Aboriginal forestry combines the strengths of current forest management models with traditional cultural Aboriginal forest practice. Aboriginal forestry practice is more than just following a prescription outlining when, where, and how to harvest, but prescribes how a respectful relationship with the natural world can be developed.

There have been several factors driving Aboriginal forestry: forest certification, landmark court cases on Aboriginal rights and title, meaningful consultation and accommodation of potential infringements upon Aboriginal rights, modern treaty-making processes, and modern comprehension.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. The values that the First People have with the forest are worth protecting.
2. The First Nations Forestry Council has a duty to adhere to open lines of communication and must accept the priorities set forth by First Nations communities.
3. A strong and united voice by the First Nations Forestry Council will promote positive policy change that will improve the business relationships among industry and First Nations, and among First Nations and governments.
4. The First Nations Forestry Council will support and not compete with First Nations in order to exercise a coordinated effort that would conclude with a co-management model at the provincial and federal level with First Nations.

STRATEGIC GOALS & PRIORITIES DISCUSSION

At the commencement of each regional consultation meeting it was explained to participants that the feedback from discussions would assist in formulating a strategic plan.

The priorities from these discussions have been grouped according to trends that were noted with due consideration given to the values and principles already formulated.

1. Communication Strategies

- a. Establish a resource library
 - i) *Traditional use studies*
 - ii) *GIS Mapping (including spot treatments)*
 - iii) *Best practices policies*
 - iv) *Database of preferred consultants*
 - v) *Best practices and forest stewardship plan samples*
 - vi) *Develop and collect position papers for First Nations review*
- b. Establish an accountability process for consultation with First Nations communities
 - i) *Establish strategy for the development of First Nations consultation policy*
- c. Establish communication with regional sub-councils
- d. Ensure information sharing amongst First Nations; create forum/discussion opportunities and explore options.
- e. Host information sessions on matters such as FRO/FRA and develop a sectoral agreement.
- f. Build relationships with industry councils
- g. Develop a media strategy that can be utilized to mobilize First Nations as developments occur
- h. Disseminate information about forest-related industries
- i. Develop a communications strategy with non-aboriginal sector
- j. Develop a communication strategy for reporting on important research findings.
- k. Work with First Nations to develop linkages and open lines of communication between themselves and the Leadership Council

- l. Develop a public education program which reflects First Nations needs and philosophy (holistic point of view e.g, how a respectful relationship with the natural world can be developed)
- m. Foster a First Nations network with other organizations including but not limited to national and international organizations.

2. Research and Development

- a. Research how other provinces and countries have dealt with similar epidemics and outcomes
- b. Lobby for more involvement in research and development on forestry related issues at the local and grass roots level
- c. Become more informed about ongoing and completed research
- d. Find alternatives to MPB wood
- e. Conduct research on value added markets as well as alternate ones
- f. Research new economic strategies that are feasible to First Nations communities.
- g. Develop pilot projects to test First Nations ideas and strategies.
- h. Implement studies on global warming e.g., How to deal with climate change
- i. Research cumulative impacts within traditional territories and how it will affect long term land use planning. i.e., water quality, sustenance and First Nations culture

3. Forestry Sector Business

- a. Jointly manage and plan the harvesting levels of an Annual Allowable Cut (AAC)
- b. Forest Tenures
 - i) Pre-screening for tenure allocation*
 - ii) Revenue sharing from all tenures*
 - iii) Sustainable stewardship tenures * area vs. volume*
 - iv) Tenure reform; i.e., First Nations tenures, First Nations management model*
 - v) Advocate for Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification for both mills and forest managers. Prepare First Nations for the fall down effect – tenure control*
- c. Licenses

- i) Lobby for longer term licenses*
 - ii) Accountability for all licenses in the territory i.e., take inventory*
 - iii) Strategy to deal with the new softwood lumber agreement and how the tax will impact First Nations licenses*
 - iv) Lobby for larger replaceable licenses*
- d. Develop secondary industries
- e. Stumpage
 - i) First Nations stumpage and revenue sharing*
 - ii) First Nations forestry values must be considered*
 - iii) How would they be applied?*
 - iv) Should they be fixed?*
 - v) Volumes geared to major licensees*
 - vi) Increased cost to manage First Nations values ... hold stumpage trust*
 - vii) Subsidy*
- f. FRA/FRO's look at alternatives to make licenses economically viable
 - i) Revenue-sharing mechanism*
 - ii) Develop a Forest and Range Opportunity (FRO) template*
 - iii) Revenue-sharing NOT per-capita based, develop model to link to other revenues*
- g. Lobby for more benefits derived from the natural resources on traditional territory
- h. Lobby for a fair allocation of funds to all regions in BC
- i. Get access to business statistics and related business plans
- j. Develop workable business models for First Nations
- k. Develop a post MPB vision for the forest and economy
- l. Promote Equal First Nations influence on TSA's (timber supply areas) and management
- m. Attract and raise capital from socially responsible investors
- n. First Nations Management Strategy for NTFP (non timber forest practices)

4. Policy Change

- a. Draft First Nations traditional knowledge language into legislation
- b. Lobby for amendments to the referral process
- c. Lobby for more First Nations jurisdiction

- d. Use policy changes to impact the operation of related industries i.e., ranching, mining, oil and gas
- e. Provincial ecosystem stewardship planning had to include First Nations
- f. Lobby for joint decision making
- g. Conduct analysis on existing barriers within the current law and identify both short and long term goals for change
- h. Lobby for change in the timber supply review; output of First Nations planning
- i. Develop a First Nations stumpage system (or overall stumpage reform)
- j. Advocate seeking tax returns internally and externally
- k. Gain more jurisdiction on non-timber forest products
- l. Prioritize regional issues
- m. Involve more First Nations in forest practices i.e., controlled burns, reforestation
- n. Compensation and accommodation for lost resources

5. Environment

- a. Develop a sensitive land protection strategy
- b. Lobby for joint management rather than just consultation
- c. Advocate for ecological resilience to combat global arming
- d. Advocate for protection of sensitive sites (i.e., watersheds and culturally sensitive areas)
- e. Protect watersheds
- f. Fuel management

6. Education

- a. Actively advocate for education in order to build capacity locally for First Nations especially those in isolated communities
- b. Strategize to get more funding for education
- c. Develop a recruitment strategy

7. Marketing

- a. Develop a marketing strategy for First Nations wood vs. B.C. wood; First Nations fiber flow facilitator
- b. Seek funding for market research opportunities for First Nations i.e., \$20M FIA
- c. Locate and research other potential markets internationally i.e., First Nations branding
- d. Establish more representation on organizations such as the National Aboriginal Forestry Association
- e. Representation at North American Free Trade Association (NAFTA)
- f. Diversify economies and develop markets

STRATEGIC GOALS AND PRIORITIES RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are based on the number of times a particular issue was discussed over the course of the regional meetings

1. Develop a communications strategy that incorporates the following components

- i) A resource library for First Nations organizations
- ii) The establishment of a consultation process that reflects the needs of First Nations communities
- iii) Provide a linkage with industry councils
- iv) Design a media/external communications plan that provides public education on First Nations forestry issues.
- v) Provide a linkage for First Nations communities to the Leadership Council

2. Research and Development

- i) Study alternative uses for mountain pine beetle wood
- ii) Research the applications of value added wood

3. Forest Business

- i) Advocate for tenure process that is more conducive to First Nations title and rights
- ii) Develop a strategy to deal with First Nations taxation issues within the new softwood lumber agreement
- iii) Lobby for larger replaceable licenses for First Nations operations
- iv) Re-develop stumpage rates that incorporate First Nations rights and title
- v) Develop a First Nations management strategy for non-timber forest products

4. Policy Change

- i) Lobby for co-management model of provincial ecosystem stewardship planning.
- ii) Advocate for First Nations tax exemptions

5. Environment

- i) Develop a sensitive land management strategy

- ii) Assist First Nations communities with fuel management plans

6. Education

- i) Promote the future of the forest sector in order to inspire more students into forest sciences

7. Marketing

- i) Explore new markets
- ii) Promote wood harvested by First Nations

SUMMARY

It was expected that the team assigned to work on the regional consultation meetings would draft a report that outlined the thoughts and feelings of the future direction of the First Nations Forestry Council.

Those ideas have been presented to the interim First Nations Forestry Council for its consideration in the form of this report

The overall impression of the meetings is that the FNFC is well supported within the communities.

The regional meetings were overall well attended with thoughtful and interested attendees.

Each attendee is expecting a copy of this report.