

# First Nations Forestry Council



## Strategic Plan

### A. VISION

The First Nations Forestry Council is recognized and respected for excellence in providing support and services to First Nations. The Council is well managed with a worldwide reputation for leadership, innovation, and excellence in its people, products and services. The First Nations Forestry Council exemplifies sustainability by respecting the Title and Rights that First Nations people have to their lands and resources, and by promoting in their use, balance between environmental, economic, social and cultural values. The First Nations Forestry Council strives to achieve practical solutions to policy issues and mutually beneficial partnerships with others.

### B. MISSION

The First Nations Forestry Council supports First Nations in promoting and protecting the environmental, economic, social and cultural values of forests and lands in their territories. The Council assists First Nations in their efforts to improve and sustain the economic wealth and wellbeing of BC First Nations based on sustainability principles that ensure the viability of the forests and lands for current and future generations. The Council supports First Nations in their work with other governments and others to ensure that First Nations' needs, values, and principles are factored into forestry-related legislation, policy and program development.



## C. PRINCIPLES

### Respect, Recognition & 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.





## D. GOALS

The First Nations Forestry Council operates to provide tangible results for First Nations on the following goals:

### 1. Support the Creation of First Nation Business Opportunities

Identify and facilitate the development of forest sector business opportunities and partnerships for First Nations.

### 2. Provide an Integrated Information Service and Referral Centre for First Nations

Establish a forestry information and referral resource for First Nations to support their collaboration with other governments and partners on legislation, policy, regulations, and practices. The Council also supports First Nations on program and partnership development to take advantage of forest sector business opportunities.

### 3. Participate in the Development of Forestry Legislation and Policy

First Nations contribute effectively to the development, review and monitoring of forestry legislation and policy pertaining to lands and resources that affect the Aboriginal Title and Rights interests of First Nations.

## E. OBJECTIVES

### GOAL 1

**Support the creation of First Nations forestry business opportunities.**

1. Develop protocols and benefit-sharing agreements stemming from Aboriginal Rights and Title for businesses that use lands and resources in First Nations territories;
2. Provide First Nations up-to-date information on existing forestry business and service contracting opportunities;
3. Provide business planning support to First Nations;
4. Identify, establish and maintain strategic relationships and protocols with organizations that provide resources, services and programs that complement those of the First Nations Forestry Council to support First Nations participation in the forestry economy.

### GOAL 2

**Provide an Integrated Information Service and Referral Centre for First Nations.**

1. Establish a forestry information centre including a comprehensive, integrated information resource for First Nations on forestry programs and policy to support their participation in forestry activities and the economy;
2. Establish a forestry business and partnership referral and support centre for First Nations;
3. Establish and maintain a roster of experts, professionals, and prospective partners that First Nations, their communities and businesses may access to support work on their forestry interests and initiatives;

### GOAL 3

**Participate in the Development of Forestry Legislation and Policy.**

1. Coordinate First Nations input to the development and review of forestry legislation and policy.