



**Community Futures Development Corporation
of Central Interior First Nations**

215-345 Yellowhead Hwy Kamloops, BC V2H 1H1
Phone: 250-314-1575 Fax: 250-828-9972

MEMO

TO: First Nations Forestry Council
FROM: CFDC of Central Interior First Nations
RE: Interim 'Phase II' Progress Report
DATE: September 7, 2007.

This memo outlines work initiated and completed to date on the three (3) components of the 'Phase II – Response to MPB Impact Assessment Program'. Despite summer slowdowns at the community level we have established and / or reconfirmed positive working relationships with all 103 MPB Impacted First Nations and are working with them to complete documentation required to access the various components of 'Phase II'.

A quick summary of activity and results to date follows with some commentary on progress in the supplementary detail that follows the summary.

I trust this information will meet your needs and am prepared to discuss details and issues at your convenience.

Summary of Phase II – Program Component Activities to August 31, 2007.

Best Practices submitted: 89 of 103 = 86%

- \$222,500 transferred to First Nations communities.

Phase II – 'Response' Contribution Agreements: 95 of 103 = 92%

- \$2,850,000 committed to date.
- \$2,280,000 transferred to First Nations communities.
 - Difference between commitment and funds transferred reflects holdback which will be disbursed to the First Nations once their deliverables have been submitted.

Partnership Incentives: Memoranda Of Understanding (MOUs) signed and on file: 14

- First Nations involved with signed MOUs: 30 of 103 = 29%
- Funds transferred to the FN Communities: \$300,000

More detail is available in the attached report.

For further information please do not hesitate to contact the following:

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Phase II – Response to FN MPB Impact Assessment Program
Interim Report to First Nations Forestry Council – August 31, 2007.

In April 2007 the First Nations Forestry Council (FNFC) initiated a Series of programs to assist Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) impacted First Nations to address local priority responses to impacts identified by each community. The First Nations Forestry Council engaged the Community Futures Development Corporation of Central Interior First Nations (CFDC of CIFN) to act as the delivery agent for these initiatives. This series of programs was promoted by the CFDC of CIFN, to established contacts at 103 First Nations identified as impacted by the Mountain Pine Beetle epidemic, through a series of community forums, broadcast Emails and follow-up phone calls. A summary of the program options follows with activity and results to date inserted for easy review.

First Nations Forestry Council (FNFC) Initiatives - 2007

1) **‘Best Practice’** is a brief summary of something your community is doing that addresses the impacts of the MPB infestation; harvesting dead pine? training community Fire Protection Workers; Cataloguing traditional foods and medicines that may be threatened by the dying pine and changing landscape. Submission of a digital copy (Email) of your Best Practice, along with the signed 1 page Contribution Agreement, will trigger a \$2,500 payment to the Band. Your submission will be posted to the web (along with 102 others) so that First Nations can learn from what other FNs are doing and contact someone to discuss. Available from April to June 2007.

Update: This program component was subsequently extended through to February 2008 with the goal of accessing a Best Practice from each of the 103 impacted FNs. Many groups are only now starting to implement strategies to deal with MPB impacts and did not feel they have established a best practice. With the goal of getting the funds into the hands of the communities discussion with senior FNFC staff determined that criteria would allow a problem statement (or outline of a particular issue being experienced by the First Nation) to trigger payment of the \$2,500. This information was passed on to the FN and results to date include:

- Best Practices submitted: 89 of 103 = 86%
- \$222,500 transferred to First Nations communities.

Notes:

- a) Contact with FNs not yet submitting a Best Practice or Issue Statement is being maintained with FN contacts encouraged to complete the submission.
- b) All Best Practices and Issue Statements have or will be posted to www.cfdcofcifn.com. Visit the site and click on ‘MPB Project- Inventories of Best Practices’ to view submissions from First Nations.



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2) 'Phase II - Response to First Nations MPB Impact Assessments'. The signed contribution agreement supported with a BCR and including 'Your Deliverables' (on page 8 & 9 of the agreement) will trigger the first \$24,000 payment of the \$30,000 contract. The final payment of \$6,000 will be sent when we get a report on 'Your Deliverables'. (Before Nov. 30, 2007).

Update: The contracting process and requirements were introduced at the community forums with printed materials being sent by Email, Fax or surface mail as required by each individual FN. While the contracting process has been simplified, eliminating an actual application form, delays processing BCRs of support, at the community level, have extended completion of the contracting process. Many groups have assigned responsibility to existing staff who struggle to respond to this opportunity while maintaining their original workload. CFDC of CIFN staff have extended offers of assistance, with site visits, email dialogues and phone calls, and generated the following results to date:

- Phase II – Contribution Agreements: 95 of 103 = 92%
 - \$2,850,000 committed to date.
 - \$2,280,000 transferred to First Nations communities.
 - Difference between commitment and funds transferred reflects holdback which will be disbursed to the First Nations once their deliverables have been submitted.

Notes: Ongoing efforts to connect with and assist First Nations who have not yet signed a contribution agreement provide evidence that the remaining eight (8) First Nations are working towards signing these contracts.

3) Partnership Incentive of \$10,000 per First Nation.....designed to encourage people to work together to generate common solutions to common issues.... a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), outlining who and what the partners are agreeing to, signed by at least 3 partners (could be other FNs, Industry, Local communities, Fish and game club, Cattleman's Association) will confirm the partnership. A BCR from each participating First Nation supporting the partnership and directing where the Funds should be sent (who will manage?) will trigger a one time payment of \$10,000.

Update: The uptake on this Phase II initiative has been slower with comments about the paper work being difficult to manage. Each partnership is to be supported with an MOU and a BCR from each participating First Nation. The coordination of document development and signing is left to the potential partners with already busy schedules. Once an MOU is agreed to and signed by all parties the document has to be taken to each participating FN Council for a BCR of support. With summer holidays and other community priorities in the mix, coordination and completion of documentation has been difficult. CFDC of CIFN staff continue to support and encourage partnership development and documentation with results to date as follows:

- Partnership Memoranda of Understanding signed and on file: 14 MOUs
- First Nations involved with signed MOUs: 30 of 103 = 29%
- Funds transferred to the FN Communities: \$300,000



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Notes: Given that the goal of this Initiative is to encourage and support the establishment of common issue partnerships further development and encouragement will be provided through to the end of the project (January 2008). It is important to allow time for potential partners to define their common issues and it is anticipated that common solutions will continue to be generated by these partnerships beyond the term of the delivery agent agreement.

At this time CFDC of CIFN staff will continue to engage, encourage and facilitate FNs participation in the Partnership Incentive initiative under existing criteria. The goal remains 100% participation and maximum possible transfer of funds to First Nations communities.

A review of required documentation may be in order to streamline access to ‘partnership funding’ in the future.

Notes by bv.
August 31, 2007.