



Protocol Agreement
Between
First Nations Forestry Council (FNFC)
And
Association of BC Forest Professionals (ABCFP)

(Collectively the “Parties”)

Whereas:

- A.** The FNFC purposes include, but are not limited to, the following:
- a. working with First Nations in British Columbia (“**BC First Nations**”) to develop policies, programs and research to advance BC First Nations’ forestry interests;
 - b. working with the First Nations Leadership Council to communicate policy, program and research needs with respect to BC First Nations’ forestry interests to Canada and the Province;
 - c. working with Canada and the Province in the development and implementation of policies, programs and research to address issues affecting BC First Nations’ forestry and forestry development;
 - d. the monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of the programs, policies and research developed to promote the sustainable growth of BC First Nations’ forestry; and;
 - e. the undertaking of First Nation community relations and communications programs designed to inform the public of BC First Nations’ forestry and forestry development.
- B.** The ABCFP:
- a. Is an association of Registered professional Foresters and Technologists in British Columbia.
 - b. Regulates the members of the forestry profession, ensuring British Columbia has qualified professionals
 - c. Supports the members of the forestry profession in providing excellence in forest stewardship;
 - d. Advocates on behalf of good forest stewardship in British Columbia.



- C. The Parties recognize the complementary nature of their respective mandates, and that cooperation and coordination will be of mutual benefit.

We therefore agree as follows:

1.0 Purpose

1.1 The purposes of this Protocol are to:

- a. establish understandings between us that will encourage an enduring and respectful relationship;
- b. affirm our intentions to work together in a cooperative and collaborative manner with respect to advocacy of good forest stewardship, and the advancement of good stewardship through policy, programs and research;
- c. provide reciprocal support for initiatives and actions of common interest as they relate to good stewardship and professionalism; and
- d. mutually work towards ensuring that First Nations people have opportunities to succeed in becoming forest professionals.

2.0 Mutual Understandings

2.1 The implementation of this Protocol will be guided by the following mutual understandings:

- a. mutual respect for one another's interests and values, vision, purpose and mandates, which is fundamental to a productive relationship;
- b. Aboriginal title and rights, and treaty rights will be respected and recognized;
- c. open and frank communications between the Parties and their constituents is critical to building positive and constructive working relationships, and achieving a mutually acceptable level of communication and understanding;
- d. communications will be conducted by the person(s) and/or medium that will be most efficient and effective for the issue at hand, and at times may be a joint exercise;



- e. this Protocol is not a legally binding document but a mechanism to guide the development and implementation of respectful communications and collaboration opportunities and imposes no commitments to any organization other than the ABCFP and FNFC; and
- f. each Party's ability to fulfill the spirit and intent of this Protocol is dependent upon its available human and financial resources.

3.0 Communications

3.1 The ABCFP and FNFC agree:

- a. that communication of this agreement and its progress will only be discussed in the media or other public forum with express permission of the other organization;
- b. to develop and implement an effective and efficient communications process to: share information and requests between the FNFC and the ABCFP and with First Nations communities;
- c. to inform one another of independent actions planned or taken that may influence or impact the delivery of the mandate of the other Party;
- d. to communicate success stories and lessons learned as a result of this Protocol that can be of use to other relationship-building processes; and
- e. to reference activities with respect to this Protocol in annual reports or other reporting mechanisms.

4.0 Collaboration

4.1 The ABCFP and FNFC will work collaboratively on:

- a. identifying forest management and stewardship interests and priorities of First Nation communities;
- b. identifying initiatives of common interest (e.g., Legislation, Regulation and policy, related to stewardship);
- c. approaching other organizations relative to stewardship and policy related issues; and
- d. other issues of mutual interest.




- 4.3 The Parties agree to develop an action plan, in order to achieve mutually acceptable goals and build and/or maintain a positive working relationship.
- 4.4 The Parties will establish a process for tracking progress under this Protocol.

5.0 Term of the Protocol

- 5.1 No Party is obligated to continue participation within the terms of this Protocol Agreement and may terminate involvement by providing written notice, within 90 days, to the other Party. Upon termination, neither party is bound by the commitments within this Agreement.

Signed this 8 day of February, 2010.



Leonard Thomas, President
First Nations Forestry Council



Jonathan Lok RFT, President
Association of BC Forest
Professionals Council