



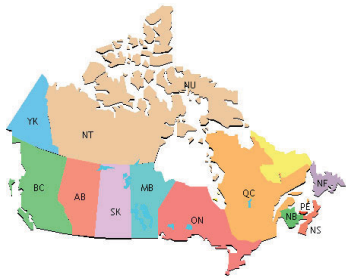
# NAFA NEWSLETTER

## Fall / Winter 2009

### NATIONAL ABORIGINAL FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

#### NAFA OBJECTIVE

To promote and support increased Aboriginal involvement in forest management and related commercial opportunities, while staying committed to holistic or multiple-use forestry, to build sustainable Aboriginal communities.



## NAFA LAUNCHES THE NATIONAL ABORIGINAL FOREST SECTOR DIRECTORY

*National Aboriginal Forest Sector Directory*



Visit the Directory On-Line at: [www.nafaforestry.org](http://www.nafaforestry.org)

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Is your operation or business part of the National Aboriginal Forest Sector Directory?

**Diversifying Aboriginal Forestry**  
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## WELCOME TO THE NAFA NEWSLETTER ON FOREST DIVERSIFICATION



**Harry Bombay,**  
Executive Director

The NAFA office has been busy in the past few months working on the creation of the **National Aboriginal Forest Sector Directory**.

You can become part of the new directory by first visiting the NAFA website at [www.nafaforestry.org](http://www.nafaforestry.org), and listing your business as per instructions given.

The directory is a guide to “who’s who” in the Aboriginal forest sector, in addition to being a promotional tool for trade, procurement and partnerships. Having the directory available on-line provides increased exposure to the Aboriginal organizations and businesses listed. Statistics indicate that 80% of all transactions today are now connected somehow to the internet.

**80% of all transactions are now connected somehow to the internet.**

I would like to thank the staff working in the **First Nations Forestry Program (FNFP)** through Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) for their help, guidance and funding of this project.

With the creation of the directory, it was decided that the theme for this newsletter be focused on forest diversification. The forest sector in general, is going through a change as a result of the different forces in effect, notably the market downturn and the issue of climate change fueling a push for alternative energy, green technology and sustainable lifestyles. Forest sector opportunities for Aboriginal communities are changing as well - read on.



**Miigwetch!**  
**Harry Bombay,**  
Executive Director, NAFA

## The Ulchi People from Khabarovsk Territory of the Russian Far-East Visit NAFA

On December 9th, 2009 NAFA was host to the delegation from the Khabarovsk Territory of the Russian far-east. They are part of the Canada-Russia Northern Development Partnership Program (NORDEP) which is a four year program funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) with counterpart funding from the Russian partners and managed by the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC).

The Ulchi, with a population of less than 4000, are one of the twelve Indigenous peoples in Khabarovsk Krai. Under NORDEP, a Model Traditional Natural Resource Management Territory of 1.1 million hectares is being established. Based on a zoning system for the Ulchi Territory, the Indigenous peoples acquire priority access to natural resources (timber and non-timber) for both traditional and contemporary use.

The development prospects include the integration of the interests of the Aboriginal peoples in the long-term production plans via creation of special instruments of administrative law in addition to rational, sustainable natural resource management, allowing for regeneration and preservation of natural resources.



NAFA's Harry Bombay (3rd left) and Verna McGregor (2nd right) meet with representatives of the NORDEP Program on December 9th, 2009

The management system for the Model Traditional Territory is overseen by a Supervisory Committee with working groups and expert groups as the working bodies, i.e. Public Council.

More information on the NORDEP Program can be found at: [www.nordep.net](http://www.nordep.net)



## Diversifying Aboriginal Forestry - Broad Directions

By Harry Bombay, Executive Director, NAFA

The forest sector is not what it used to be. Over the past five years there has been substantial change in areas of forest management policy and practise, international trade, and in the mix of goods and services that forests provide and how they are valued. For Aboriginal communities there is less opportunity in the area of timber harvesting as the downsizing and consolidation in the traditional forest industries – pulp and paper, lumber – has caused a drop in demand for wood supply. There are exceptions to this general observation as First Nations in BC are now harvesting timber in greater volumes than in any time previous as a result of the need to salvage **mountain pine beetle (MPB) killed wood**. A major concern in BC is that once the MPB infected wood is harvested, there will be a sharp reduction in available timber supply and First Nation timber harvesting will decline in many communities. What then?

If Aboriginal communities across the country are to derive economic benefit from the forest resources that surround their communities – for many this is the only major development option – then they need to develop strategies encompassing new and different approaches to forest-based development. Basically overall, there has to be a diversification of the Aboriginal forest-based economy and now is the time to address this matter.

The downsizing of large forest companies and their vacating of forest tenure and certain market niches is creating market space for smaller community-based enterprises. The forest sector appears ripe for those First Nations that have acquired or are seeking forest tenures, or are managing forested land acquired through land claim settlements, treaty entitlement, or other means. These and several other factors are contributing to the need for diversification in the Aboriginal forest sector.

Currently, there is increasing pressure for *forest conservation* reflecting the growing societal concern for protecting the ecological functioning of forest ecosystems and the role forests play in mitigating climate change. Considered gifts from Mother Earth by Indigenous Peoples, **ecological or environmental goods and services (EGS)** are defined as all the benefits that human populations derive directly or indirectly from healthy ecosystems. Forest conservation is the best option in ensuring that EGS from forests – namely biodiversity, air and water purification, and carbon sequestration, are maintained and in some cases enhanced.

There are two basic approaches to forest conservation. First, governments in Canada are committing to establishing forest protected areas to maintain the health of ecosystems and wildlife species, and to mitigate climate change. Forest policy such as that announced by the Quebec and Ontario governments in 2009 that 50% of the boreal forest within their respective jurisdictions will be protected is indicative of this broad direction.

Secondly, **market-based conservation** is now a feature of forest management in Canada. *Eco-tourism, forest certification and biodiversity offset projects*, all now play a part in linking forest conservation to the marketplace. More significant will be the establishment of a compliance based (regulated) carbon market for the trading of *carbon offset credits* once Canada and the USA are able to harmonize their overall approaches to climate change. In place now are several voluntary markets, e.g. Pacific Carbon Trust in BC and the Chicago Climate Exchange, through which carbon offset credits generated through specific initiatives, e.g. *forest carbon sequestration projects*, are bought and sold.

**Forest carbon sequestration projects** are widely acclaimed as a primary means of reducing greenhouse gas emissions thereby mitigating climate change. For this reason, projects that increase storage of carbon either in existing or new (afforestation) forests provide a service which has economic value. The carbon credit has value to business entities (the buyers), such as power companies and manufacturers that burn fossil fuels, who are seeking to offset their carbon dioxide emissions. Carbon credits in these projects are gained by actions taken by the project proponent (the sellers) that help store carbon dioxide thereby reducing emissions into the atmosphere. These actions can be the result of forest conservation practises related to *reforestation, afforestation and avoided deforestation*.

Engaging in what is being called the **conservation economy** has to be a key component of First Nations' strategies to diversify in the forest sector. It offers opportunity to strengthen the relationship with the land and to advance Aboriginal and treaty rights recognition. It requires however, the negotiation of long term tenure arrangements with other levels of government to define relationships and determine the nature of revenue generation, either in the form of carbon credits or *public payment mechanisms for EGS* or protected areas management.





## Diversifying Aboriginal Forestry - Broad Directions (continued from page 3)

By Harry Bombay, Executive Director, NAFA

In addition to the opportunities emerging from the broad forest conservation imperative, Aboriginal communities could diversify their forest interests through approaches that focus on **value-added wood processing, non-timber forest products (NTFP's) and forest bio-products**. These forest sub-sectors are targeted as key components of the future forest economy and governments have committed significant financial resources for research and development (R&D) and market development to support growth in these areas.

In these areas of development, Aboriginal communities and their enterprises should investigate; how government policy, R&D outputs, and support programming, can be tailored to their needs and circumstances, and, how competitive advantage can be gained through principles of **green marketing, corporate social responsibility, and buy – Aboriginal procurement programs**. Aboriginal enterprises in these forest sub-sectors should seek market differentiation for their products and services based on effective resource use and sustainability in forest practices. Aboriginal forest companies must represent their own interests in the market place, and in so doing, enhance their competitive advantage based on their relationship with the land and the willingness and desire of clients to do business with Indigenous peoples.

Typically, value-added products include treated lumber, engineered wood products, shakes and shingles, posts, poles, log and timber-frame homes, mouldings, pallets, boxes, cabinets, furniture, art and other finished or semi-finished goods. Value-added producers must be market-oriented focussed on the needs of end consumers. Often they require partnership arrangements with other forest companies to obtain wood supply and for primary breakdown. **There is opportunity here for Aboriginal communities to engage in traditional value-added production and to develop products which are distinctively Aboriginal based on traditional knowledge and the unique artistry that Aboriginal people possess.**

**NTFP's** include herbs, medicines, functional foods, arts and crafts materials, home decor and gardening products obtained from different types of forest plants. All Aboriginal communities utilize NTFP's though most not in a commercial sense. **Concern exists about any NTFP development relating to medicinal uses and overall ecological sustainability.** Nonetheless, diversification requires some consideration of NTFP potential bearing in mind that the commercialization of most NTFP's does not require the disclosure of traditional knowledge, and may

in fact contribute to a strengthening of cultural practises in a contemporary manner.

**Forest bio-products** are manufactured from wood and other *forest biomass* including plants and forest industry waste materials. They include textiles, fibres, polymers, adhesives, bio-insecticides, antibiotics, plant-derived pharmaceuticals, nutraceuticals, biochemicals and biofuels. There are an estimated 500 forest bio-products in commercial use today though the industry is deemed to be in its early stages of development.

**Manufacturing and bio-energy are two promising fields of opportunity for Aboriginal communities given their proximity to the raw materials needed, and in some cases, priority rights to harvest the natural resource.**

Approaches by Aboriginal communities to diversify their forest-based interests will often mean building on current initiatives and enterprises by adding value through ancillary economic activity, i.e. silviculture contracting added to logging operations. **Forming partnerships at a regional level is key to diversification**, as forest-based businesses are interrelated and often inter-dependent. Aboriginal communities need to consider *inter-nation* (groupings of First Nations with complementary development plans) *development strategies*, and relationships with research institutes and governmental agencies. Networking with all forest interests in a regional context is key to remaining current on sector issues and establishing oneself as an integral presence.

Diversification brings about the need for different skills, aptitudes and perspectives. Aboriginal communities that view the forest sector as a primary avenue for development, need to adopt and implement human resource development plans that will channel their youth towards education and training in natural resource management, wood science and processing, and various technologies, i.e. biotechnology. **The forest sector emerging will require a combination of science and business expertise, and for Aboriginal communities, their utilization of traditional knowledge will enable innovation and diversification in a truly unique manner.**

**Note:** This article provides a scan of options to diversify. Terms used and references made can be internet searched to obtain greater elaboration. We welcome feedback expressing views on any of the subjects raised in this article.



## FOREST DIVERSIFICATION AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL

The downturn in the traditional forest products industries i.e. commodity production: lumber, pulp and paper, has meant that many First Nation communities must look beyond timber harvesting, if they are to derive economic benefit from the forests that surround their communities.

Business initiatives described briefly below, indicate that First Nation communities are broadening their approaches to forest-based development.

**Non-Timber Forest Products: Awazibi Pure Maple Syrup**, owned by the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg First Nation in Quebec is a 17,000 tap state-of-the-art maple syrup processing facility.



**Value-added Processing and Inter-Nation Partnerships:** A value-added partnership project, **Two Feathers Forest Products** between First Nations: Pikangikum, Eagle Lake and Wabigoon and the Wood Tech Group, A Finnish forestry technology firm, will see green energy and lumber being used for assembling pre-manufactured chalets destined for Asian and European markets. The project will provide a manufacturing base and create 129 direct jobs.



Logs from the Whitefeather Forest at Pikangikum will be shipped to a sawmilling and kiln drying plant in Red Lake. The site will have log sorting and wood chipper stations, along with a 9.9 megawatt biomass co-generation plant supplying power for the operation and the Ontario grid.

Sawn lumber will be trucked 200 kilometers south of Eagle Lake, near Dryden, where it will be made into building components for pre-fabricated cottages for export.

The Eagle Lake plant will contain a wood planer, re-saw and assembly lines, storage for raw and finished products, and also a wood pellet plant.

The Wabigoon Lake First Nation with established businesses in logging and trucking, will be the administrative headquarters. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2011.

**Export: Coast Tsimshian Resources LP**, owned by the Lax Kw'alaams First Nation and located 35 kilometers north of Prince Rupert, B.C., is the largest First Nation owned logging company in B.C.



As part of an overall plan to grow the enterprise, the company is focusing on new opportunities in China, beginning with the export of lower-grade hemlock logs.

**Forest Carbon Management: The Carrier Sekani Tribal Council** in central B.C. is proposing a forest carbon sequestration project on an 80,000 square kilometer land base within the traditional territories of its members. In its preliminary stages, the project will allow the communities to restore and manage the forests while generating financial returns in the forest of carbon offset credits. Similarly, the **Wolf Lake First Nation** in Quebec is developing a Comprehensive Community Forest Carbon Development Plan focused on "avoided deforestation", a technical application which will address the need for "additionality", on lands which the Wolf Lake First Nation wishes to have protected.



**Forest Management Services: The Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources**, on behalf of the five First Nations of Cape Breton Island (Eskasoni, Membertou, Pottotek, Wagmatcook and Waycobah), represents the Mi'kmaq voice regarding natural resources and their sustainability. Through agreements with government and industry, the Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources provides forest planning, harvesting, silviculture, wildlife management and other related services.

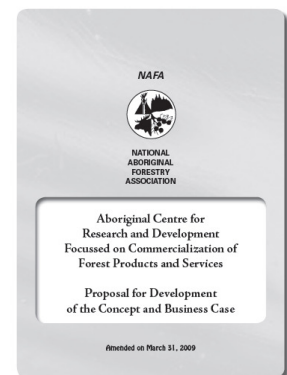


### An Aboriginal Centre for Research and Development Focused on the Commercialization of Forest Products and Services (concept and proposal document).

With the above title, NAFA has developed a concept paper, which outlines the need for specific support services for the Aboriginal forest sector considering the unique challenges that it faces.

Diversification of the Aboriginal forest sector is the underlying objective behind the concept. We invite you to comment on this concept.

Download a copy of the report at: [www.nafaforestry.org](http://www.nafaforestry.org)





## NAFA PRESENTS TO THE STANDING SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

The Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry recently released an interim report entitled, ***"The Canadian Forest Sector: Past, Present, Future"***.

The Standing Senate Committee is authorized to examine and report on the current state and future of Canada's forest sector. In particular, the Committee is authorized to examine the following:

- Examine the causes and origins of the current forestry crisis;
- Examine the federal role in the forest sector in Canada;
- Develop a vision for the long-term positioning and competitiveness of the forest industry in Canada;
- Recommend specific measures to be put forward by the federal government to lay the foundations of that vision.

The Committee will submit a final report to the Senate no later than June 17, 2010.

### NAFA PARTICIPATION:

As part of the process of compilation of this report, NAFA was requested to present to the Standing Senate Committee. NAFA's presentation focused on the inadequacy of governmental support for the Aboriginal forest sector. In view of the fact that the federal government has committed \$100's of millions to the forest sector, NAFA made the following suggestions:

Aboriginal peoples now have the potential to play a major role in forest management and other forest sector activity because of these facts:

- 80% of our communities are located in forested areas of the country;
- The protection of cultures, as expressed through the relationship with the land, and prospects for future well-being, are all linked to healthy forests and the sustainable use of forest resources;

**80% of  
Aboriginal  
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country**

- Aboriginal participation in the forest sector is conceptually, a fundamental component of sustainable forest management;
- Aboriginal and treaty rights have been recognized through the courts and are constitutionally protected. They are in effect a form of forest tenure which must be reconciled with other forest tenure systems.

### OTHER FACTORS FAVOURING AN ENLARGED ABORIGINAL FOREST SECTOR ROLE:

- Rights recognition, Crown duty to consult and accommodate;
- Sustainable forest management and forest certification;
- Aboriginal demographics and labor force;
- Indigenous knowledge;
- Increased access to forest resources.

### KEY RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Federal Government clearly define and promulgate its role in supporting the Aboriginal forest sector and the contribution it can make to the socio-economic advancement of Aboriginal peoples and to sustainable forest management generally;
2. The establishment of a national research and policy institute on First Nation forest/natural resource management and development.
3. Development of a policy framework to support Aboriginal capacity-building;
4. The establishment of an Aboriginal Centre for Research and Development Focussed on the Commercialization of Forest Products and Services.
5. Renewal of the FNFP Program with the scope of the program enlarged to include First Nation seed funding in forest management and land use planning.
6. The Federal Government undertake a review of Indian reserve forest management policy and practice to improve forest management.
7. That all federal policies, programs and initiatives in the forest sector contain an Aboriginal component with a dedicated budget.

To obtain a copy of NAFA's presentation see:

[www.nafaforestry.org](http://www.nafaforestry.org)



## B.C AND HAIDA ACHIEVE HISTORIC RECONCILIATION PROTOCOL

VANCOUVER – Greater certainty in land use decisions through shared decision making, increased prosperity through responsible economic development on the land base and a commitment to continue working together towards a comprehensive reconciliation will all result from a historic reconciliation protocol. Kunst'aa guu - Kunst'aayah, which means “the beginning” – was signed by Premier Gordon Campbell and Guujaaw, President of the Haida Nation.

In recognition of the long history and habitation of the Haida Nation, the Queen Charlotte Islands has been officially renamed as Haida Gwaii.



**It's official ..the Queen Charlotte Islands will be Haida Gwaii in recognition of the long history and habitation of the Haida Nation**

“This protocol acknowledges the unique place Haida Gwaii and the Haida Nation hold within the province of British Columbia, and it demonstrates B.C.'s continued commitment to the New Relationship,” said Premier Campbell. “The protocol will support the Haida in their goal of

building economic and social well-being on the Islands by creating jobs and economic opportunities for members of the Haida Nation and their neighbours on Haida Gwaii. I want to thank the Haida Nation for their commitment and leadership to build a strong future for their people and all British Columbians.”

“After a hundred years of conflict, we have set the ground for a more productive era of peace,” said Guujaaw. “We have already agreed to the care and protection of the land; and now we develop processes for more responsible management. This marks an opportunity to build a relationship on mutual trust and to design a model for a sustainable economy.”

The protocol builds on the success of the Strategic Land Use Agreement signed between B.C. and the Haida in 2007, which laid out how Crown land and forest resources of the islands will be used, establishing zones for both economic activity and ecosystem protection.

The model for shared decision-making negotiated in this protocol is founded upon the collaborative decision making that led to that agreement.

### SUSTAINABLE FOREST INDUSTRY

While supporting a sustainable forest industry is key to the agreement, recognizing new ways of sharing resources and supporting jobs is also included; the protocol commits B.C. and the Haida to developing a carbon-offset sharing agreement that would see revenue from future carbon offsets shared between the Haida and the Province.

Through the New Relationship, government and First Nations are achieving agreements that are resulting in positive change in communities around the Province.

**While supporting a sustainable forest industry is key to the agreement, recognizing new ways of sharing resources and supporting jobs is also included.**

### THE AGREEMENT INCLUDES:

- A two-level shared decision-making on resource uses, including the creation of a Haida Gwaii management council. The council will implement the strategic land-use agreement, establish objectives for forest practices, approve Haida Gwaii's annual allowable forest harvest and approve management plans for protected areas.
- \$10 million from the province to purchase forest licences from companies that currently own them.
- An additional 120,000-cubic-metre provincial forest licence.
- An agreement to pursue revenue-sharing from future resource development projects that would generate provincial royalty payments.
- A commitment to quantify and share the value of carbon credits in Crown forests on Haida Gwaii, which would allow the Haida to capitalize on protecting forests in future carbon trading.

**For a complete copy of the protocol, visit:  
<http://www.gov.bc.ca/arr>**





## National Aboriginal Forest Sector Directory

### Categories

Aboriginal Organizations in the Forest Sector	Non-Timber Forest Products
Cultural and Traditional Economic Goods and Services	Paper Products
Ecological Goods and Services	Primary Wood Products
Forest-Based Tourism and Recreation	Secondary and Value-Added Wood Products
Forest Bio-Products	Timber Harvesting
Forest Fire Fighting	Training, Education, and Research Institutes
Forest Management Services	Wholesalers - Distributors - Buyers - Brokers
Government Support Services to the Forest-Based Economy	
Non-Governmental (NGO) Support Services	

Visit: [www.nafaforestry.org](http://www.nafaforestry.org)  
To be listed in the National Aboriginal Forest Sector Directory!

### Why Become a NAFA Member!

In addition to receiving the following:

- special discounts on **NAFA** workshops and conferences;
- **NAFA** Newsletters and reports;

**NAFA** provides a forum to collectively raise concerns and provide constructive input into development of national forest policies and forest land management systems.

**NAFA** members are kept apprised of **NAFA** activities through annual general meetings, annual reports, newsletters, and special events and publications.

For a Membership Application please visit the NAFA website at:

[www.nafaforestry.org](http://www.nafaforestry.org)

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### NAFA Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is comprised of ten representatives:

Province & Representative	
Alberta	Darrell Gerritts, Bigstone Cree Nation
British Columbia	Terry Teegee, Takla First Nation
Manitoba	Vacant
New Brunswick	Dennis Simon, Elsipogtog First Nation
Northwest Territories	Vacant
Nova Scotia & Newfoundland	Alton Hudson, Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq
Ontario	Raymond Ferris, Constance Lake First Nation
Quebec	Larry Paul, Eagle Village First Nation
Saskatchewan	Vacant
Yukon	Geraldine Pope, Kluane First Nation