

Northeast Superior Regional Chiefs' Forum (NSRCF) Forestry Agenda

Presented at the NAFA-FPIC Conference
April, 2016

Colin Lachance, B.A., M.E.S.
NSRCF Corporate Secretary

Approach

- Ontario forest tenure modernization process creates an opportunity for the Crown to reconcile with First Nations
- Northeast Superior Enhanced Sustainable Forest Licence (NS-ESFL) development process, like the NSRCF agenda, takes a principled approach

It is Time to Reconcile

- Reconciliation driven by twenty years of Court rulings
- Tracked by *Megatrends* (1984) and other works
- Global best practices are moving toward community forestry, return of the feminine spirit, greater environmental and social responsibility....
- Reconciliation predicted by Eighth Fire prophecies

NSRCF FPIC Approach

- Holistic: only as strong as the weakest link
- Includes governance, economic, ecological, cultural, social and fiscal components
- Lead by example: act as though rights restored
- Public education and moral suasion tools emphasized
- Brinkmanship mechanism: stand down once movement is demonstrated

Governance: NS-ESFL

- Combination of Magpie and Martel Forests
- Special status for the Chapleau Crown Game Preserve
- Started with a FN-municipal community approach
- Gained government-to-government traction
 - OMNRF commitment letter a game changer
- All process stakeholders are now engaged
- Renewed commitment from municipal partners

Economic: Condition 34

- Started with OMNRF political petition
- Moved to a business-to-business agenda with industry
 - New entry focus, no displacement of status quo
 - Commitment wavered once wood fibre allocated
- NSRCF then created a non-political business model
- Economic agenda now moving forward rapidly

Ecological: Guardianship Program

- Conservation Economy branding underway
- Reconnecting youth with the land through Elders
- Merit based: Addresses ECO concerns for monitoring
- Science-traditional EFRI pilot project underway
- Moose Recovery Strategy developed for the CCGP

Cultural: Return to Spirit

- NSRCF guided by an Elders Council
- Manitou Mountain Protection Plan is the centrepiece
- Commitment for a healing lodge in each community
- Several cases of spiritual intervention that improved government decision-making
- ABIR cross-cultural best practice tested

Social: CCP

- Comprehensive community planning underway
- Tied to a regional planning process
- Creation of a regional development corporation
- Non-political, strategic, collaborative focus
- Municipalities invited to the table

Fiscal: Resource Revenue Sharing

- NSRCF-Ontario two year pilot project
- Off to a bad start but corrective measures taken
- NSRCF poised to expand forestry pilot and replicate process to the mining and energy sectors
- Supported by NS-ESFL fee-for-service agenda
- Merit-based approach advocated

Conclusions

- Huge resistance to change fuelled by absence of information and lack of ethics
- Adaptive management approach promotes continual improvement through “shifting on the fly”
- Need to de-politicize resource decision-making
- Provincial forestry centre being proposed