

January  
2006



# NAFA



# NATIONAL ABORIGINAL FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

## Forest management guidelines

The National Aboriginal Forestry Association (NAFA) conducted a workshop on First Nations Forest Management at a recent conference for the National Aboriginal Land Managers Association (NALMA) held in Halifax, NS in December 2005. This workshop evolved as a result of a partnership project with NALMA.

Last year NAFA worked in partnership with NALMA to develop a forestry training module which describes what Lands Managers on reserve are required to know in order to fulfill their duties as they relate to the *Indian Act* and the Indian Timber Regulations.

The training module explains, when to use timber permits or licenses and the regulatory requirements which need to be addressed, including the application of the Canadian Environmental Assessment and Approvals process.

The module discusses the basics of dealing with timber



(Left to right) Janet Pronovost, National Aboriginal Forestry Association, Leona Irons, Executive Director National Aboriginal Land Managers Association (NALMA) and Lorraine Rekmans, Executive Director NAFA, at a recent Halifax conference for Land Managers

harvest on reserve lands and includes a section which deals with selling or transporting off reserve, export licenses, timber marks, etc.

This workshop was delivered in a two-part session, with the first part dealing with requirements specific to the *Indian Act*. The second part of the workshop dealt with issues related to sustainable forest management in the context of current and

evolving legislation. This workshop discussed some of the challenges managers experience in fulfilling their duties as they pertain to forest management.

In 1996, NAFA developed *Aboriginal Forest Land Management Guidelines: A Community Approach* to help communities carry out activities on forest lands.

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*NAFA will be hosting a meeting of the National Forest Strategy Team 3 in April 2006 at the Holiday Inn on Cooper St. in Ottawa.*

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

# Implementing National Forest Strategy Commitments

NAFA is a member of the National Forest Strategy (NFS) Coalition Theme 3 of the 2003-2008 NFS is *Rights and Participation of Aboriginal Peoples*. The overall Objective of Theme 3 is to accommodate Aboriginal and treaty rights in the sustainable use of the forest while recognizing the historical and legal position of Aboriginal Peoples and their fundamental connection to ecosystems. Within Theme 3, there are seven action items.

NAFA has been designated Theme 3 Champion, and in this role we have established a diverse team of partners to advance the action items. Team 3 membership is open, and we are continually involving new participants.

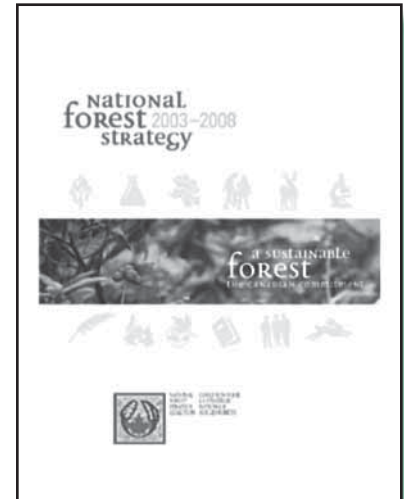
Throughout the summer and fall of 2005, Team 3 was engaged in developing a joint workplan. Projects currently under development include:

- Building capacity for tracking progress in Aboriginal forestry.
- Enhancing funding programs for First Nations forestry.

- Developing a federal Métis Forestry Program (led by Métis organizations).
- Establishing an “Aboriginal forestry resource centre” on the NAFA website.
- Developing resources to support the appropriate treatment of traditional knowledge in forest management.
- Developing resources to support appropriate treatment of trapping interests in forest management.

If one phrase can summarize the work of Team 3 as described in the above projects, it is “building capacity”. We serve as a forum for learning and developing tools. The role of individual communities, organizations, and governments is to decide how these lessons and tools can be useful in specific local and regional contexts.

The coming months will be a time for assessing progress and determining next steps. On February 21, 2006, the NFS Coalition will hold its Annual Meeting in Victoria. In April, NAFA will host a second general meeting of Team 3. The April meeting in particular will provide an



opportunity for the team members to engage in a focused review of draft proposals and deliverables currently in development, as well as in-depth discussion of some complex issues in Aboriginal forestry. The result will be a solid foundation to forge ahead with cooperative action on a number of fronts throughout 2006 and into 2007. To learn more or to get involved, please contact the NAFA office or website. 🌲

## Aboriginal Forest Research — NAFA calling for input

NAFA's mandate includes research and advocacy activities which will advance Aboriginal interests in the forest sector. This goal was adopted at NAFA's founding meetings and conferences back in the early 90's in recognition of the need to influence forest policy and to address the underlying issues which systemically deny our more meaningful participation in the sector. Over the past several years, we have come to the realization that forest research itself and the way it has been conducted, is one of the major institutional obstacles. However, we also recognize that forest research is the key to change providing that the research arrangements and methodologies enable our organizations and communities to

define the objectives, conduct the research and formulate the solutions, on matters that impact our well-being and therefore are of direct concern to us. Furthermore, forest research is the primary means by which we can articulate our aspirations in terms of contemporary natural resources management.

Today at NAFA, much of our attention is on advocacy for more appropriate institutional arrangements to conduct forest research. Forest-related research is an activity in Canada that is supported by the federal and provincial governments, the forest industries, and nongovernmental and philanthropic organizations.

It is delivered primarily through government departments and agencies; e.g., the Canadian Forest Service and the Alberta Research Council, research institutes; e.g., Paprican, Forintek, and FERIC, and university-based research programs. Larger forest companies contribute financially as members to forest product and other research institutes.

They as well, carry out their own research, as do several of the larger non-governmental organizations. Funders of forest research are usually quite specific as to the purpose of the research they will support. Almost always, the research must be consistent with, and supportive of, the objectives of the funding organization.

*Continued on next page*

# Thessalon First Nation Bio Centre to grow yew

ONTARIO — Thessalon First Nation has entered into a partnership with the Quebec pharmaceutical company, Bioxel Pharma to grow Canada yew.

The project which is a partnership between the First Nation, the Ontario Forest Research Institute and the Upper Lakes Environmental Research Network and the Canadian Forest Service received a grant from Fednor to develop Canada Yew for

## continued... Research

Currently, the Sustainable Forest Management Network (SFMN) (a centre of excellence) is the only organization that has a budget dedicated to research Aboriginal forest issues. The SFMN's expenditures on Aboriginal forest research is approximately \$500 \$700,000 annually or about 2% of all forest-related research in Canada. Other research organizations do conduct occasional research on Aboriginal issues but not through a program with a dedicated budget and stated strategic objectives. The SFMN, in its present form, will cease to exist in 2009 when Network Centers of Excellence funding expires. Where does this leave Aboriginal forest research? NAFA is of the view that an Aboriginal Forest Research Institute is needed, appropriately linked with other research institutes, but taking its direction from the Aboriginal community. A key function of the institute would be to develop Aboriginal perspectives on major forest management issues and to ensure that there is appropriate consideration of Aboriginal perspectives in any and all proposed approaches to the issues. In this way Aboriginal interests will be addressed and form part of the solutions to the many pressing issues facing the forest sector.

We would like to hear your views on Aboriginal forest research or other means by which forest management regimes can be changed to better meet the needs of Aboriginal communities.

**Contact: Harry Bombay,**  
**Director of Strategic Initiatives** 🌲

its cancer fighting properties. The project will establish an agricultural centre where partners will produce approximately 15,000 Canada yew at a variety of locations. These plants will then be subjected to a selection process where elite plants which have tested highest for taxane will be produced to ensure an optimum yield of paclitaxel.

Canada yew contains Paclitaxel, which is one of the largest selling anti-cancer drugs in the world. It is one of three taxanes of pharmaceutical interest naturally present in Canada yew which is also known as eastern yew or ground hemlock.

Phase I of this project will see the installation and operation of a Canada yew propagation system at the Thessalon First Nation Bio Centre Greenhouse and Nursery. The Bio Centre produced 35,000



*Canada yew — Taxus canadensis*

Canada yew plants. Six people were hired and trained to carry out the work.

The Bio Centre site is located about 10 km north of Thessalon on Hwy 129. It comprises 45 hectares of farmland, 16 greenhouses and 15 support buildings including a testing lab and 8,000 square-foot refrigeration unit. 🌲

## NAFA undertakes research on impacts of forest certification in Ontario

NAFA in partnership with Brubacher Development Strategies Inc. and Dr. Shashi Kant of the University of Toronto have successfully secured project funding from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources under the Enhanced Forest Productivity Science Program to conduct a research project on Aboriginal expectations of sustainable forest management and the perceived effectiveness of Ontario forest practices and forest certification.

This project is also supported with a grant from the First Nations Forestry Program (Ontario) and the Canadian Boreal Initiative.

This two-year research project will explore the extent to which forest management practices in Ontario meet the expectations that First Nation peoples have of the way forest lands within their traditional territories should be managed. The project will also examine the extent to which actual application of Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Canadian Standards Association (CSA) certification is perceived to improve the

ability of forestry operations to meet Aboriginal expectations.

This project will also assess the degree to which the content of Ontario's forestry guidelines (the Forest Management Planning Manual) addresses Aboriginal expectations. It will provide data on forest certification, First Nation and other perceptions and expectations and a synthesis report. This project will also develop a conceptual framework that can be used in future assessment and evaluation of forest certification with respect to First Nation issues. This research is timely in that it will assist the forest sector by providing an improved understanding of the role of forest certification schemes in meeting First Nation expectations.

The Ontario Deputy Minister of Natural Resources, Gail Beggs, has indicated Ontario's support for third party certification and stated at the Forest Leadership Conference in 2005 that Ontario seeks, "to involve Aboriginal people and organizations in planning for and carrying out forestry operations". 🌲





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**“Advancing the concepts  
of sustainable forest  
management.”**

**www.nafaforestry.org**

**continued from front page... Guidelines**

The Aboriginal Forest Land Management Guidelines (AFLMG) were used as a basis for discussion in this workshop to outline many considerations for sustainability when planning and carrying out forest management. The guidelines to some extent address the issue of the increasing demands placed on forest managers to account for a full range of values placed by society on the forest. Values mapping, for example is increasingly being undertaken in some jurisdictions to identify values of significance to local First Nations with respect to Aboriginal rights and title.

There are new approaches linking production to management and marketing, environmental services, public participation and consideration for balancing current and future potential. The role of the forest manager continues to evolve and expand accordingly. Important changes in the role Aboriginal communities play in the management of both on-reserve and off-reserve forest lands have occurred since the Guidelines were first developed and NAFA, in tracking

these changes through research has determined that although the original framework of the AFLMG continues to be useful and relevant, there is a need to update the AFLMG.

In light of important changes that have occurred in forest management over the past ten years, both in the role of Aboriginal communities in forest management and in the approaches and technologies used in forest management, it is time to revisit what is needed to ensure that Lands Managers have the information they need to carry out sustainable forest management. NAFA with a view to providing the most current information has conducted a detailed review of the AFLMG to determine how they can be updated. NAFA is now developing a proposal to secure the funding needed to update the AFLMG to make the document more of an applied workbook with less text and more checklists and information on best practices. The AFLMG will include updated references, including provincial legislation. 🌲

**National Aboriginal Forestry Association**

The goal of NAFA is to promote Aboriginal involvement in forest management and related commercial opportunities. NAFA is committed to holistic or multiple-use forestry, which implies the rebuilding and the sustainable development of the forest resource to serve a multitude of community needs.

NAFA is a grass roots initiative backed by First Nations and other Aboriginal groups and organizations that function at either the regional or community level in the area of forestry. 🌲



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**NAFA Newsletter**

Printed: Anishinabe Printing  
Translation: R&D Translation Services  
Printed on FSC Paper

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