

May 2003



Band Council of the
Huron-Wendat Nation
Conseil de la Nation
Huronne-Wendat



First Nations of Quebec
and Labrador Sustainable
Development Institute
Institut de Développement
Durable des Premières Nations
du Québec et du Labrador



National Aboriginal
Forestry Association
Association Nationale
de Foresterie Autochtone

TO: Aboriginal Forestry Interests in Canada
(Including First Nations, Aboriginal Organizations,
PTO's and Tribal Councils)

RE: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' FOREST FORUM

Canada is hosting the XII World Forestry Congress (WFC) in Quebec City, from September 21 to 28, 2003. This forum entitled "Forests, Source of Life" will attract nearly 5,000 participants from 160 countries and its outcomes will influence future forestry policies, practices, research and international co-operation. An Organizing Committee, a WFC Secretariat, and numerous sub-committees have been established to plan for this preeminent international forestry event.

The staging of the XII WFC in Canada presents an opportunity for Aboriginal Peoples of Canada, and for Indigenous Peoples from around the world, to focus and raise awareness of Indigenous forest management initiatives, practices, and related aspirations, and to ensure that Indigenous Peoples' issues are more greatly recognized in future forest policy, plans and management processes. For Aboriginal people of Canada attending the XII WFC a number of special Indigenous Peoples' Activities and Events are being planned (see attached). These venues will, for the first time, generate global discussion amongst Indigenous Peoples about their forests. For example, about 300-400 Indigenous participants are expected to attend the two-day sanctioned side event Indigenous Peoples' Forest Forum to be held September 19-21, 2003, immediately prior to the WFC. We are also organizing an Indigenous Peoples' Forest Pavilion as part of the WFC Exhibit, and are calling upon Indigenous Peoples' organizations for papers on key issues facing Indigenous Peoples and their forests. To provide an environment conducive to Indigenous participation, the Huron-Wendat Nation will offer a series of cultural activities in Quebec City and in their community. Wendake will be hosting a gala on the evening of the 20th.

The attached notice summarizes the Indigenous Peoples' Activities and Events. You will note that there is a steering committee for these activities and events established which we jointly chair. We are also members of the WFC Organizing Committee.

Contact NAFA or the AFNQL Sustainable Development Institute for further details on Indigenous Peoples' Activities and Events at the XII WFC. Enclosed is a registration form for the Forum or visit our website at www.nafaforestry.org/forum.php. Further information on registration for the WFC and room reservation can be obtained on the WFC Secretariat website at www.cfm2003.org.

We look forward to your participation in Quebec City this coming September.

Harry M. Bombay
Executive Director
National Aboriginal Forestry Association

Lucien Wabanonik
First Nations of Quebec and
Labrador Sustainable Development Institute

NAFA
875 Bank Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1S 3W4 CANADA
Tel.: (613) 233-5563 / Fax: (613) 233-4329
Email: forum@nafaforestry.org
Website: www.nafaforestry.org

Institut de développement durable APNQL
250, Place chef Michel Laveau, suite 201
Wendake (Québec) G0A 4V0 CANADA
Tél. : (418) 842-5020 / Téléc. : (418) 842-2660
Courriel : forumidd@apnql-afnql.com