

**National Aboriginal Forestry Association**

# **Summer Newsletter 2024**

**“Advancing the  
Indigenous Forest Sector.”**

## **SAVE THE DATE**

**October 8–10, 2024  
National Summit on  
the Indigenous  
Forest Bioeconomy**

**Thunder Bay, ON  
Waterfront Delta Hotel**

**More Details to Follow**

## **NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS**

NATIONAL SUMMIT 2024

CANADIAN RESEARCH CHAIR  
IN INDIGENOUS PEOPLES,  
GOVERNANCE AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL RELATIONS.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES  
HISTORY MONTH

FORESTRY LOG HAUL STEP  
PROGRAM

CARBON TRADING ON-  
RESERVE

INDIGENOUS TRADE LETTER





### Congratulations

NAFA joins UBC Forestry to celebrate Dr. Warren Cardinal-McTeague's appointment as Canadian Research Chair in Indigenous Peoples, Governance and Environmental Relations. His research focuses on plant biodiversity, Indigenous land relationships, and ecosystem health monitoring. As an assistant professor in the Department of Forest and Conservation Sciences, Warren integrates science, art, Indigenous perspectives (Métis and Cree), and decolonial practices in his work

Source: <https://forestry.ubc.ca/awards/warren-cardinal-mcteague-awarded-canada-research-chair-position/>

### Did you know? George Manuel

George worked as a Boom Man early in his career in the Canadian Forest sector, one of the first Indigenous People to occupy that role in Canada's history. He went on to lead the National Indian Brotherhood as Chief from 1970 to 1976. In 1975, he founded and became president of the World Council of Indigenous Peoples, serving until 1981. In 2023, George was immortalized in a stamp collection produced by Canada Post.

NAFA celebrates National Indigenous Peoples History Month 2024 by acknowledging the legacy of this inspirational Indigenous forester.

The Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (SIIT), in partnership with the Saskatchewan government, is launching the Forestry Log Haul Step Program to enhance Indigenous participation in the forest sector. This initiative, highlighted by Minister Jeremy Harrison, aims to fill labour market gaps in northern Saskatchewan by training up to 20 individuals to become fully licensed log haul drivers. With 980 hours of experience, the program also assists graduates in securing employment and connecting with industry employers. Lisa Shingoose, SIIT's Vice-President, underscores the program's commitment to fostering First Nations' growth in natural resource sectors, emphasizing sustainable land stewardship. This strategic investment not only addresses immediate workforce needs but also supports long-term community and economic development in the region.

Source: <https://www.woodbusiness.ca/saskatchewan-invests-500k-to-grow-indigenous-workforce-in-forestry/>



# Federal offset protocol for carbon trading, on-reserve: Improved forest management on private land through Improved Forest Management

Forests have a large capacity to sequester carbon by removing carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from the atmosphere and converting it into biomass through photosynthesis. This carbon is stored in the forest as live biomass as well as dead organic matter and forest soil.

The Improved Forest Management on Private Land federal offset protocol creates an incentive for forestland owners and project proponents to carry out forest management activities that go beyond their business-as-usual management practices to increase the carbon stored within managed forests. These activities will generate greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions and removals for which federal offset credits may be issued under the Canadian Greenhouse Gas Offset Credit System Regulations. Examples of activities include reducing harvest, thinning, increasing rotation ages, and reducing competing brush.

The protocol is applicable to projects on private land and land where Indigenous people have exclusive use and occupation. It is not applicable to projects on provincial or federal Crown lands (except First Nation reserves) and public lands in the territories.

The protocol was developed by Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) with input from a team of external technical experts, including those with expertise in forest offset project development and implementation, GHG quantification, verification, offset protocol development, and relevant academic research, as well as from experts in the Government of Canada, provinces and territories.

Indigenous people were engaged on the development of the protocol. A Protocol Focus Group (PFG) composed of participants with experience and knowledge regarding Indigenous-led offset projects, forestry or community interests was formed to gather perspectives on the protocol.

Source: [Government of Canada](#)



# **Update on Indigenous Trade: A Letter from the Global Affairs Canada**

Dear Members of Global Affairs Canada Indigenous Working Group on Trade,

On this significant occasion of National Indigenous Peoples Day, I want to pause and acknowledge the rich cultural heritage and invaluable contributions of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis People. It is also an opportunity to extend my team's and my appreciation and thanks to the Indigenous Working Group on Trade (IWG) for their valuable work and support in advancing international trade and Indigenous Peoples policy.

Global Affairs Canada is committed to advancing reconciliation in all its forms, including promoting and advancing Indigenous Peoples' participation in international trade and economic empowerment. Over the past year, our work to advance the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples in international trade through a variety of trade initiatives has achieved important milestones that we would like to share with you.

On the trade policy and negotiations side, in November 2023, the Indigenous Peoples Economic and Trade Cooperation Arrangement (IPETCA) Partnership Council, a vital platform for fostering key relationships and advancing Indigenous Peoples' participation in trade, held its inaugural meeting in San Francisco. At the Partnership Council's second meeting in May 2024, the participating economies adopted the 2024-2026 IPETCA Workplan, which establishes a clear way forward for the work to be done, and welcomed the United States as an Observer Economy.

In July 2023, Canada published its Inclusive Trade Action Group Three-Year Review Report, which examined the effectiveness of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) in advancing six global inclusive trade issues, key among these was the economic development and participation in trade for Indigenous Peoples. The Report's findings contributed to building a better understanding of ways in which the CPTPP is advancing this interest and identified additional opportunities and recommendations for improvement. In the context of the CPTPP's 5 year General Review, Canada and New Zealand have asked CPTPP members to consider modernizing the Agreement through targeted provisions that support greater Indigenous participation and to address trade barriers.



In March 2023, with your instrumental assistance, Canada concluded its first Trade and Indigenous Peoples chapter, alongside an Indigenous General Exception, under the modernized Canada-Ukraine Free Trade Agreement. Canada is eager to implement this chapter and ensure that Indigenous Peoples benefit from the Agreement.

Continuing in the vein of negotiations, despite the pause in the Canada-UK FTA negotiations, we acknowledge the efforts and contributions of the IWG throughout the process and remain committed to moving this important work forward when the negotiations resume.

Our Trade Commissioner Service (TCS) continues to advance economic reconciliation by promoting and advancing Indigenous Peoples' participation in international trade. Last year, the TCS organized approximately twenty initiatives to help Indigenous-owned businesses explore and access opportunities in international markets, including a business delegation for 35 Indigenous-owned SMEs to attend the annual Reservation Economic Summit—North America's largest trade show for Indigenous-owned businesses. To date, more than 400 Indigenous-owned businesses have accessed our services and initiatives. Additionally, through our CanExport funding program, we have helped fund more than 150 Indigenous-led initiatives aiming to expand into global markets since 2016.

To better understand the experiences of Indigenous exporters, Global Affairs Canada's Office of the Chief Economist and the Canadian Council for Indigenous Business continue to work together on an in-depth multiphase project called Adawe: The Export Experiences of Indigenous Entrepreneurs. In September 2023, they co-published a groundbreaking report which uncovered many successes—including the outsized contributions of Indigenous women in trade— and identified a gap in export participation, with Indigenous-owned SMEs exporting at lower rates than the national average. To better understand this gap, a second co-authored report is forthcoming. The second report, which will inform our trade policies and services, will examine in greater depth the exporting and business growth challenges affecting Indigenous Peoples.

Looking ahead, Global Affairs Canada will remain committed to advance reconciliation, including through policy, programs, and research. Our work will remain informed by Canada's commitment to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, as well as the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. Lastly, we remain committed to meaningfully engage with Indigenous partners, including with you, valued members of the IWG, to deliver on our commitment.

Wishing you a joyous National Indigenous Peoples Day and a wonderful summer ahead.



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 grassroots 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.

The Board of Directors is comprised of ten representatives, one from each of the provinces and territories, except for the Atlantic region which has two directors.

**New Brunswick & P.E.I.**

Brad Sappier

**Nova Scotia & Newfoundland**

Elizabeth Jessome

Mi'kmaw Forestry Initiative

**Quebec**

Brenda St-Denis

Wolf Lake First Nation

**Ontario**

Raymond Ferris

Aroland First Nation

**Manitoba**

Peter Norman

Swampy Cree Tribal Council

**Saskatchewan**

Chief Blaine Fiddler

Waterhen First Nation

**Alberta**

Darrell Anderson

**British Columbia**

Lennard Joe

BC First Nations Forestry Council

**Northwest Territories / Yukon**

Vacant

NAFA is Canada's national Indigenous forest sector voice. Over 80% of First Nations are found in the forest, holding over 19.4 million cubic metres of annual allowable cut in aggregate. Driving performance with these nations through Free, Prior and Informed Consent can create over 5,100 new jobs and over \$2.4 billion in additional GDP, while protecting the environment and respecting culture.



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