

**MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS
DECISION NOTE**

Date: April 26, 2017
CLIFF: 228603

PREPARED FOR: Tim Sheldan, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, and Doug Caul, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

ISSUE: Signing Strategic Forestry Envelope Agreement with the Council of Haida Nation

BACKGROUND:

Over the last year, a district team has been negotiating a strategic land management agreement with the Council of Haida Nation (CHN) as part of a mandate approved under the Strategic Forestry Envelope (SFE) initiative. Both district staff and CHN have worked diligently trying to reach agreement prior to the fiscal year end. Unfortunately, agreement on the final language changes was not reached until early April 2017, complicating signing approval during the interregnum period.

The \$217,000 (\$200,000 from SFE and \$17,000 from Haida Gwaii Natural Resource District) funding under the SFE agreement will ultimately create two jobs that will allow Haida members to build capacity within their community to: 1) development guidance and management practices for log handling facilities to support forest management and planning in marine or marine-terrestrial interface areas; and 2) conduct Forest & Range Evaluation Program (FREP) and Ecosystem-based Management monitoring to gather information on forest ecosystem health and resource values, monitor the effectiveness of the Haida Gwaii Land Use Objectives Order, enhance and improve forest resource development, and further inform decision making frameworks.

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This SFE agreement will assist the provincial team to work hand in hand with CHN to meet important reconciliation goals. This note is seeking authority to sign the SFE agreement with CHN during the interregnum period.

DISCUSSION:

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There is a strong need to continue to foster and formalize positive working relationships and opportunities at this time.

The Province has an obligation under the Marine Planning and Implementation process to ensure timely implementation. The Haida Gwaii Marine Planner just started in his new role but has had minimal interface with CHN on the Marine Plan thus far due to CHN's current resource constraints. This funding will allow for collaboration on implementation on the Marine Plan which has 143 strategic commitments to meet, jointly agreed to by the CHN and Province, some of which are time and weather sensitive.

Furthermore, the FREP season is starting imminently and has a limited time window for particular values. Delaying the implementation of a collaborative FREP/Ecosystem-based Management

monitoring approach within the field season will reduce the volume of data collected, limit opportunities for effective CHN and Province integration at the operational level, and impact the ability to improve forest stewardship and natural resource decision making.

This agreement has an approved mandate, has been reviewed by Ministry of Justice and Attorney General, and the SFE initiative has access to contingencies up to \$17 million in 2017/18.

OPTIONS:

Option 1: Sign agreement during the interregnum period.

Implications:

- Maintains momentum on a good working relationship;
- Ensures field work is done in a comprehensive and timely fashion;
- Ensures immediate engagement with the new Haida Gwaii Marine Planner;
- Ensures timelines for implementation of the Marine Planning process are met;
- Ensures comprehensive information is available for the decision maker; and
- Limited financial risk on the overall SFE spending plan.

Option 2: Delay signing until after the interregnum period – earliest June 1, 2017.

Implications:

- Is likely to negatively impact the good working relationship that has been achieved;
- Will limit field season, impacting both the quality and quantity of the data;
- Impacts the comprehensive information available for the decision maker; and
- Impacts the Province's obligations for timely process for Marine Planning and Implementation.

RECOMMENDATION:

Option 1: Sign agreement during the interregnum period.

Approved / Not Approved

Signature
Tim Sheldan, Deputy Minister, Ministry of
Forests, Lands and Natural Resource
Operations

Date

Approved / Not Approved

Signature
Doug Caul, Deputy Minister, Ministry of
Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

Date

Attachment: Final Draft of SFE Agreement

Contact:
Craig Sutherland
Assistant Deputy Minister
Coast Area
Phone: 250-387-9773

Alternate Contact:
Len Munt
District Manager
Haida Gwaii Natural Resource District
Phone: 250-559-6200

Prepared by:
Emma Dooley
Senior Policy Analyst
First Nations Relations Branch
Phone: 250-356-6079

Reviewed by	Initials	Date
FLNRO DMO	JV	May 3/17
MARR ADM	DS	April 28/17
FLNRO ADM	CS	April 27/17
FLNRO A/RED	DC	April 27/17
FLNRO Director, WC	JC	April 26/17
FLNRO MGR, FNRB	SA	April 25/17