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OCTOBER 6, 2023  
MINISTER MEETING BACKGROUND**

**DATE:** September 26, 2023

**PREPARED FOR:** Honorable Bruce Ralston, Minister of Forests

**REGARDING:** Quw'utsun (Cowichan) Nation/BC Political Forum Meeting

Note: Staff from the Ministries of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR), Forests (FOR), and Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS) have prepared this joint briefing note for their respective Ministers given the cross-government approach to implementing the *Quw'utsun Nation/BC Government to Government Agreement*. Minister-specific speaking points and key messages are attached.

**BACKGROUND:**

- The *Quw'utsun Nation/BC Government to Government Agreement* (G2G Agreement) was signed in September 2021, and established collaborative structures and priorities between the parties with the goal of negotiating future agreements and resolving disputes within the shared Quw'utsun territory.
- The G2G Agreement includes the establishment of the following engagement structures to ensure timely, effective, and proactive communication and direction at appropriate levels between the parties:
  - Political Forum: responsible for guiding the relationship between the Parties, providing strategic direction and oversight, and addressing disputes that cannot be resolved elsewhere. This will include the Chiefs of each of the Quw'utsun Nation member communities, the Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (IRR), the Minister of Forests (FOR), and the Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS). Other Ministers can be invited to participate. It is intended to meet annually and to operate by consensus on any decisions required.
  - Solutions Forum: enables effective dispute resolution through early identification and intervention on issues, providing effective conflict management and support for implementing solutions. This will be established when required and will likely include senior representatives of the Parties (provincial Assistant Deputy Ministers).

- Quw'utsun Nation – British Columbia Board: meets actively and oversees implementation of all aspects of the Agreement, including all priorities noted below, and negotiating further agreements. This includes three representatives from the Province (Kathy DesRochers – FOR, Caitlin Dorward – WLRS and Ron Strangway – MIRR), and three representatives from the Quw'utsun Nation. Additional technical working groups are established as needed.
- The first annual meeting of the Political Forum was held on June 29, 2022. The October 6, 2023, meeting is the second annual Political Forum.
- The Parties have identified the following initial priorities for the implementation of the G2G Agreement:
  - building understanding and seeking to advance reconciliation regarding the national interests of the Quw'utsun Nation, including the implementation of Quw'utsun Nation laws, traditions, customs, and practices;
  - supporting the further advancement of Quw'utsun Nation self-determination and self-government;
  - identifying co-operative processes for decision-making and the resolution of disputes;
  - identifying economic and socio-cultural well-being opportunities; and
  - other topics as may be agreed to by the Parties.
- s. 16
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- The G2G Agreement has proven to be an important tool for strategic Provincial engagement with the Quw'utsun Nation collective.

**Attachments:**

Attachment 1 - QN-BC 2023 FOR Topics and Speaking Notes

Attachment 2 - Quw'utsun Nation – FOR Community Profile

Attachment 3 - s. 13, s. 16, s. 17

Attachment 4 - s. 13, s. 16

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**REVIEWED BY:**

	Initials	Date
Deputy Minister		
Associate DM		
ADM		
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**Quw'utsun Nation  
COMMUNITY PROFILE  
Ministry of Forests**

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**COMMUNITY NAME:** Quw'utsun Nation (ko-whuts-sun)

**LOCATION:** Cowichan Valley, Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands, the Sunshine Coast, and the lower Fraser River  
**REGISTERED POPULATION:** approx. 8405 (CIRNAC April 2023)

**AREA:** Coast

**REGION:** West Coast, RED Sharon Hadway

**MEMBER OF:** All QN member First Nations, with exception of Stz'uminus, are also members of the Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group (HTG)  
**ADDRESS:** N/A

**KEY FACTS:**

- The Quw'utsun Nation (QN) is a rights and title holding collective working together to address the Nations' broader regional interests in the Cowichan and Ladysmith areas. QN members are Cowichan Tribes, Halalt, Lyackson and Stz'uminus First Nations, and Penelakut Tribe.
- QN is currently litigating against the Province, the City of Richmond, the Vancouver Port Authority, Musqueam and Tsawwassen First Nations, for recognition of their Aboriginal title and fishing rights in areas of the lower Fraser River, and a specific village site known as "Tl'uqtinus". The trial started September 9, 2019, and is expected to conclude in late 2023. QN is represented by Woodward and Company LLP.
- The Cowichan Nation/BC Government to Government Agreement (G2G Agreement) was signed in September 2021 and established collaborative structures and shared priorities, with the goal of negotiating future agreements to further advance QN self-determination and self-government, resolve disputes within the shared QN territory and reduce the likelihood of future conflict and recourse to the courts.
- A Quw'utsun Nation/British Columbia Board has been established and meets regularly to oversee implementation of all aspects of the G2G Agreement. A "Political Forum" meeting is held annually and includes the Chiefs of each of the signatory First Nations, the Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (IRR), the Minister of Forests (MOF), and the Minister of Water, Lands, and Resource Stewardship (WLRS).
- s. 16
- s. 13, s. 16

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s. 13, s. 16

s. 13, s. 16, s. 17

s. 16

- Quw'utsun Nation representatives have expressed their satisfaction with current provincial government direction and their desire to advance the relationship through collaborative projects.

**GOVERNANCE:**

Cowichan Tribes – Indian Act Band

- Elected Chief Lydia Hwitsum and 12 Elected Councillors
- Term February 26, 2022 to February 25, 2024

Halalt First Nation – Custom Electoral System

- Elected Chief James Thomas and 2 Elected Councillors
- Term September 13, 2023 to April 30, 2027

Lyackson First Nation – Custom Electoral System

- Hereditary Chief Richard Thomas and 2 Elected Councillors
- Term (for Councillors) July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2026

Penelakut Tribe – First Nations Elections Act System

- Elected Chief Joan Brown and 9 Elected Councillors
- Term February 20, 2020 to February 19, 2024

Stz'uminus First Nation – Custom Electoral System

- Elected Chief John Elliott and 9 Elected Councillors

**Quw'utsun Nation  
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- Term April 5, 2023 to April 2, 2026

**TENURE, PARTNERSHIPS, AND PERFORMANCE:**

s. 16, s. 17

s. 16, s. 17

- s. 13, s. 16

- Cowichan Tribes – CLIFF 272554 – Cowichan Weir
  - September 14, 2023 Letter from Chief Lydia Hwitsum in her role as co-chair of the Cowichan Watershed Board, requesting a meeting with WLRS and FOR Ministers regarding the urgent need to replace the Cowichan River weir. Issue was directed to WLRS for response given WLRS was now lead on the file.
- s. 13, s. 16

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- s. 13, s. 16
- Cowichan Tribes – CLIFF 274756 – Cowichan Lake Road Flooding Concerns
  - June 20, 2023 EWN outlining that the flooding was the result of the installation of an undersized replacement culvert by the landowner. The ministry took no further action following assessment and encouraged landowners to work together to address flooding concerns.
- Cowichan Tribes – CLIFF 274763 – Fish Stocking
  - June 9, 2023 Letter from Chief Lydia Hwitsum urging FOR and WLRS to restrict withdrawal of water from Cowichan River so as to improve survival potential for salmon fry.
- s. 13, s. 16

**G2G AGREEMENTS REVENUE SOURCES/SHARING:**

- s. 13, s. 16, s. 17
- Cowichan (Quw'utsun) Nation/British Columbia Government to Government Agreement (2021)
- Hul'qum!num Treaty Group Transition to Stage 5 And Treaty Revitalization Agreement (2019) (*excludes Stz'uminus*)
- Cowichan Tribes Forest & Range Consultation and Revenue Sharing Agreement (2021) – FY23/24 Revenue Sharing Contribution = \$881,864
- Halalt First Nation Forest & Range Consultation and Revenue Sharing Agreement (2021) – FY23/24 Revenue Sharing Contribution = \$73,495
- Lyackson First Nation Forest & Range Consultation and Revenue Sharing Agreement (2021) – FY23/24 Revenue Sharing Contribution = \$70,487
- Penelakut Tribe Forest & Range Consultation and Revenue Sharing Agreement (2021) – FY23/24 Revenue Sharing Contribution = \$188,979
- Penelakut/British Columbia Incremental Treaty Agreement (2020)



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- Stz'uminus First Nation Forest & Range Consultation Agreement (2023) – FY23/24 Revenue Sharing Contribution = \$246,921
- Stz'uminus/British Columbia Reconciliation Agreement (2022)

Last Updated: September 24, 2023  
Updated by: Kathy DesRochers



## MEETING BULLETS

**DATE:** September 26, 2023

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable Bruce Ralston, Minister of Forests

**TOPIC / ISSUE:** Speaking Notes for Quw'utsun-BC Government to Government Agreement, Annual Political Forum, October 6<sup>th</sup> 2023

### BACKGROUND & KEY MESSAGES for MINISTRY OF FORESTS LED AND SHARED TOPICS

#### **Strategic Engagement Agreement**

##### Background

- s. 16
- s. 13, s. 16

##### Key Message (**FOR**)

- As the 'authorizations ministry', I am also pleased to hear about the progress made in clarifying, and modernizing how we engage with each other on natural resource authorizations and decisions. I too look forward to receiving updates on the implementation.

##### Key Message (IRR) – for reference

- s. 16

#### **Private Moorage**

##### Background

- s. 16
- s. 13, s. 16
- s. 13, s. 16
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- s. 13, s. 16

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#### Key Message (FOR)

- Ministry of Forests understands the need for progress on the private moorage issue and recognizes the complexity of the matter and its importance to Quw'utsun Nation.

- s. 13, s. 16

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#### Key Message (WLRS) – for reference

- s. 13, s. 16

### **Shared Decision Making**

#### Background

s. 16

#### Key Message (FOR)

- s. 16

## **Flooding**

### **Background**

- Regular major flooding occurs on Halalt's primary reserve, most recently in February 2020, November/December 2021, and December 2022. All on-reserve Halalt community members and many Cowichan Tribes community members were evacuated during the December 2021 flooding. The Halalt and Lyackson Band Offices remain unusable.
- The affected Nations continue to face substantial damage to housing and infrastructure, exacerbating an existing housing shortage.
- BC Wildfire crews and Canadian Military soldiers were deployed in December to assist with the flood response.
- Flood potential is very high on several reserves, and members of the Quw'utsun Nation are seeking measures from BC and Canada to reduce future flood risk and build flood-resilient housing on reserve.
- s. 16

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### **Key Message (FOR)**

- Forest harvesting operations on private managed forest lands are guided by the *Private Managed Forest Land Act* that sets out management objectives for key public environmental values, including fish habitat and water quality. Operators must also comply with the *Water Sustainability Act*. Ministry of Forests Authorizations staff prioritize WSA approvals for instream remediation and flood prevention works.

### **Key Message (IRR) – for reference**

- s. 13, s. 16

## **Forestry and BC Timber Sales (BCTS)**

### **Background**

- s. 16

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- **UPDATE:** We are implementing changes to the *Forest & Range Practices Act* that reshape our forest management planning framework to one that is values-based and done in partnership with Indigenous communities. This winter we expect to be rolling out an Old Growth Action Plan, developed with First Nations, setting out how we will implement the 14 recommendations from the Old Growth Strategic Review, and we are working closely with our colleagues in Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship in advancing work on the Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity Framework.

#### **Key Message (FOR)**

- Our government is committed to a new integrated management approach for old growth that provides for environmental, economic and reconciliation benefits.
- Ministry of Forests is implementing a new vision for forest management, in partnership with Indigenous Peoples – specifically forest landscape planning.
- Ministry of Forests staff are keen to advance the forest tenure interests of the Quw'utsun Nation, as volume and opportunities become available.
- We view partnerships between Quw'utsun Nation and BCTS as a sound mechanism to increase Quw'utsun Nation participation in the short-term and to facilitate an orderly transition as lands are transferred in the future.

#### **Koksilah Watershed Sustainability Plan**

##### **Background**

- The Koksilah Watershed (Xwulqw'selu Sta'lo') is located south of Duncan and within the traditional territories of Cowichan Tribes and other First Nations. It is important to the identity of Quw'utsun Peoples who use it for fishing, harvesting, and hunting. It is also valuable for fish, wildlife, forestry, agriculture, and recreation. Critically low summer flows are threatening these values.
- Work toward watershed co-management has been underway since 2019 and was formalized in May 2023 via a G2G agreement between Cowichan Tribes and BC (WLRS, FOR and AG). The Xwulqu'selu Watershed Planning Agreement (S-xats-thut tst, We Agree) commits the parties to work together to develop a Water Sustainability Plan and other stewardship initiatives.

- Water Sustainability Plans are an important tool in the Water Sustainability Act to address numerous watershed concerns and opportunities. The Koksilah Water Sustainability Plan will be the first of its kind in BC. In accordance with Cowichan Tribes' vision, it will address concerns related to water availability, low flows, critical fish habitat, and Indigenous cultural resources.

**Key Message (FOR)**

- The Ministry of Forests will be supporting this innovative work by providing scientific and technical expertise related to hydrology and authorizations to help ensure feasibility and executability of provisions arising from the Watershed Sustainability Plan.

**Key Message (WLRS) – for reference**

- The Province is pleased to have entered into a G2G agreement with Cowichan Tribes to formalize our commitment to co-develop a Water Sustainability Plan for the Koksilah Watershed. We recognize that this work is critical due to the importance of the Watershed to the identity and culture of Quw'utsun Peoples, and the many other values that the Watershed supports.
- Water Sustainability Plans are an innovative new tool to address concerns related to ecological, economic, and cultural values and the Koksilah Watershed Sustainability Plan will be the first of its kind in BC. We are confident that our Government to Government agreement provides a solid foundation for ensuring that Cowichan Tribes' priorities are well reflected in the Plan, and look forward to working together on its development through 2026.

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## BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

**DATE:** October 10, 2023

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable Bruce Ralston, Minister of Forests

**ISSUE:** Increased demand to manage backcountry road closures in the province's highest population areas in southwest BC.

### BACKGROUND:

- Ministry of Forests (FOR) District Managers are faced with increased pressure from local governments, First Nations, user groups, stakeholders and individual citizens requesting the closure of backcountry roads under the ministry's jurisdiction (e.g., Forest Service Roads (FSR) or road permit roads), to protect the province's wilderness and backcountry areas.
- The 2023 wildfire season has underscored the public's interest in protecting these values.
- By contrast, FOR often faces criticism from the public when the use of backcountry roads is restricted and public's access to Crown land is constrained (e.g., recreational uses, cultural purposes, and other non-timber harvesting uses).
- Although closures are issued throughout the province and typically associated with existing wildfire management, District Managers in Coast Area face the highest level of scrutiny and demand because of population density in the area.
- Any decision to implement a backcountry restriction is not made lightly, and risks to the public are constantly being evaluated relative to economic risks and stakeholder concerns when determining acceptable levels of access.
- Many remote Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities and residences rely on backcountry roads as their primary access, and many local businesses and seasonal tourism operators rely on access to the backcountry,
- It is important for the province to maintain access for the public whenever safely possible, allowing use of Crown lands.
- The public also serves an important role in helping to report wildfires, and other hazards.

### DISCUSSION:

#### Backcountry road closure process

The *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA) and the *Forest Service Road Use Regulation*, provide the tools that enable District Managers to restrict access to Crown Land to address imminent threats to property, public health and safety and/or the environment and are typically applied specific to inherent road conditions or use, sometimes in conjunction with other related orders.

In order to limit the risk of a wildfire, road closures can be considered under the *Wildfire Act* by the BC Wildfire Service (BCWS). District Managers work in coordination with BCWS to help inform their decisions regarding potential road closures, including, daily risk evaluation using a combination of weather forecasts and other modelling approaches.

Decisions to close roads often limit the public's right to Crown land and in some cases has led to litigation. When a closure is being considered, District staff prefer to first work with others, including local governments, First Nations and experts, to identify potential risks and then educate the public. It is only once all other options have been exhausted or the risks are too high that a closure may be issued.

**Current Issues**

Where possible, District Managers try to work with local governments, First Nations and other agencies to manage rather than completely restrict access. This may require involvement of First Nation Guardians and local government resources to support an inform, record and report approach. Subject to resourcing and staff availability, other tools that could assist include working with Conservation Officers and NROs to patrol and issue tickets.

District Managers can face additional complications when managing a backcountry closure request from a First Nation. In addition to assessing the imminent threats to the public safety and/or the environment, the District Manager must also consider the Nation's values that are present on the landscape, including cultural and ecosystem values. The District may also be in active land management conversations with the Nation, adding further pressure to the District Manager's decision to close a backcountry road.

FOR maintains consistent messaging in response to interested road users to open or close roads, which is to follow the recommendations of BCWS or other ministry technical experts, and that a closure represents a significant decision that is only implemented in extreme circumstances.

Road closures often lead to a high volume of exemptions from a variety of non-recreational users, such as commercial recreation operators, miners, ranchers, other utility operators such as BC Hydro. If an exemption is granted, there is limited capacity on the ground to monitor the road gates to ensure the exemption is properly being utilized. Further, responding to the high volume of exemption requests adds an added administrative burden to the District staff.

Enforcement of the closure orders falls to the Natural Resource Officers (NROs). NROs are tasked with monitoring a vast coastal area, and their current capacity to enforce closures while fulfilling their compliance mandate with other legislation (i.e., drought orders) would be impossible in a year such as 2023. This could question the efficacy of the closure and may contribute to a District Manager's decision whether to issue a backcountry closure.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: N/A****MINISTRY RESPONSE:**

- The Province makes every attempt to maintain access to backcountry roads for the public to enjoy where it is safe to do so.
- Wildfire risk is one consideration for backcountry road closures. District Managers on advice from the BC Wildfire Service (BCWS), rarely issue a closure, as BCWS views the public as serving an important role in helping to report wildfires.
- When considering a closure, District Managers will work with others, including First Nations, local governments and the BCWS, to assess potential risks and then educate the public and/or collaboratively manage access.
- The first priority is keeping people safe, however, if conditions reach an unacceptable risk level, a backcountry road restriction may be considered.

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## BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

**DATE:** Oct. 4, 2023  
**PREPARED FOR:** Minister Bruce Ralston  
**ISSUE:** Update on Wildlife Management and the North Area Wildlife Strategy

### BACKGROUND:

- Government is committed to working towards wildlife co-management guided by the *Together for Wildlife Strategy*.
- Government has made committed to Indigenous Nations across the North Area to advance co-management and shared decision making.
- In support of these commitments, and to establish clear and concise approaches going forward, the North Area Wildlife Strategy (NAWS) was created in the winter of 2022/23.
- NAWS is a FOR/WLRS collaboration that aims to establish strategic direction and consistency in wildlife decision making and First Nations engagement across the three northern regions (Skeena, Omineca and Peace).
- Initial lessons learned and guidance for NAWS in the development phase was provided in January 2023 as it explored regulatory certainty in the north (see Appendix 1: CLIFF 273587).

### DISCUSSION

The 2022 northeast hunting regulation change process (as a result of the Supreme Court Decision on *Yahey*) provided valuable learnings regarding Indigenous and public engagement design and the importance of strong decision rationales.

The resulting regulatory decision reduced both moose hunting and hunter density by 50%, eliminated caribou hunting, and included a ministerial commitment to re-visit the decision for the 2024 season. In addition, the 2022 decision creates concerns from stakeholders and First Nations with respect to shifting hunter effort, as well as expectations at other government-to-government tables, and a cross-northern approach is necessary to help align these processes.

Since January, regional and branch staff from both WLRS and FOR have been collaborating through NAWS on applying a principles-based approach leading up to the 2024 hunting regulatory cycle (see Appendix 2 for additional context). This work included intensive co-development through Spring/Summer 2023. In support of this work, a North Area Wildlife Strategy Director position has been created to help coordinate this work across ministries and regions, along with dedicated staff commitments to support both research and outreach.

This work is coordinating regulatory engagement across existing First Nations engagements in the North Area, including the Treaty 8 Wildlife Working Group (T8WWG) table in the Peace, and the 3N-BC Collaborative Stewardship Forum (CSF) in the Skeena.

As part of this process, specific approaches have been taken, including:

- Invitations to First Nations to co-develop regulatory proposals at the regional level.
- Focus on cultural/high use areas for specific action, with an effort to provide a greater degree of management and reduced hunter density (through proposals for targeted closures or Limited Entry Hunt zones), while differentiating them from less used, back country areas to remain on General Open Season.

- Maintaining regulatory window to match with the 2024 regulation cycle, ensuring full consultation can occur with affected stakeholders unless an emergency management concern is identified.

Additional NAWS work includes undertaking baseline reporting for the 3 northern regions, identify gaps, weaving together commitments into our everyday work, setting work priorities and expanding our communications with First Nations and Stakeholders in a more transparent manner.

s. 16

In addition to the specific challenges flowing from the northeast decision, Indigenous engagement around the Province (including outside of the north) has demonstrated the need for principles-based engagement. Concepts being applied for NAWS have potential to be exported (with some adjustments) to the central, south and coastal parts of the province.

#### FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

A commitment of 10 FTEs has been made, of which four are currently filled (Band 4, 50% of a Band 3 and two Bio 27s). Two more are underway. These positions are currently embedded in region.

#### NEXT STEPS:

- Underway: A pan-northern regulatory package has been shared with First Nations and key regional stakeholders in late August.
- Fall 2023: Regulatory proposals will receive review by Fish and Wildlife Branch against existing policy. High profile or complex proposals will be provided to Minister Ralston as part of an early information note, and a briefing opportunity will be available.
- December/January 2023/24: Following Branch review, supported proposals will go forward as part of the full Provincial regulatory package for public review.
- Spring 2024: Regulatory package to Minister Ralston for final review and possible approval.
- Summer/Fall 2025: Broader discussions begin leading to 2026 regulatory approaches, building in lessons-learned, and leveraging momentum from any 2024 successes to an enduring and principles-driven wildlife management regime.

#### APPENDIX:

- Appendix 1: CLIFF: 273587
- Appendix 2: Regulatory cycle primer
- Appendix 3: Power Point Presentation

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ED	RE	Oct 11, 2023
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## NATURAL RESOURCE SECTOR – JOINT MINISTRY INFORMATION NOTE

Date: Jan 24, 2023

CLIFF: 273587

**PREPARED FOR:** Matt Austin, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Forests, Mike Hykaway Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Forests, and David Muter, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

**ISSUE:** Guidance for the 2024 North Area Hunting Regulation Change Process

### BACKGROUND:

- The 2022 northeast hunting regulation change process was driven by government-to-government negotiations associated with the court declared infringement of Blueberry River First Nation (BRFN) treaty rights.
- Government is committed to working towards wildlife co-management guided by the *Together for Wildlife Strategy*.
- Government has made specific commitments to Indigenous Nations across the North Area for advancing co-management and shared decision making.
- The North Area is in the initial stages of adapting by creating a North Area Wildlife Co-Management Strategy to develop the knowledge, skills, and abilities for successful implementation of wildlife co-management and shared decision making.
- This note affirms interim direction for the North Area Directors, Resource Management for guiding the 2024 hunting regulation change process.

### DISCUSSION:

The 2022 northeast hunting regulation change process provided valuable learnings regarding Indigenous and public engagement design and the value of strong decision rationales. Recreating or expanding the approaches employed there without careful consideration of inter-regional negotiation tables and stakeholder impacts would be problematic.

The 2022 northeast hunting regulatory decision (hereinafter referred to as ‘the 2022 Decision’) to reduce both moose hunting and hunter density by 50% and eliminate caribou hunting must be revisited for the 2024 season as per ministerial commitment. It is plausible that hunting opportunity for BC licenced moose hunting in the northeast will be the same or less for the 2024 hunting season. <sup>s. 16</sup>

The pressure to make further regulatory changes will grow and are also influenced by the BRFN Agreement, the Treaty 8 Agreement, and the Tahltan Wildlife Accord - each committing the Province to work towards wildlife co-management and shared decision making. A coordinated approach is required to avoid unintended outcomes related to shifting hunting effort to open seasons, or expectations at government-to-government tables regarding both the scope and time frame of proposed

regulatory change. The following lessons from the 2022 Decision inform the subsequent proposed guidelines to enable coordination across regions.

### **Lesson 1: Way of Life Analysis**

Despite the *Yahey* decision not being expressly critical of hunting management, there is a transferable lesson found in the ‘way of life’ concept underpinning the Treaty 8 right to hunt, fish and trap. The way of life concept can help evolve hunting management to holistically assess the impact of Provincial hunting authorizations on Indigenous Nations. Hunting management strategies considering the biophysical (wildlife populations, habitat), geospatial (significance of certain areas to FNs), and socio/cultural/experiential (knowledge relevant and applicable etc.) aspects of Indigenous Nations rights are likely in line with the Court’s characterization of ‘way of life’ in *Yahey*” (MAG, 2022). The way of life analysis has the potential to guide the transition to a provincial co-management system.

### **Lesson 2: Engagement**

There were three problematic aspects of the engagement process in support of the 2022 Decision. First, the process commenced after the rest of the provincial engagement on hunting regulation change proposals occurred, which surprised many stakeholders and precluded opportunity for mitigating shifting effort issues. Second, ramifications from outlying regions were not captured, despite intense and inclusive engagement at the regional level. Third, the process and timelines were very challenging for refining the proposal and demonstrating responsiveness to feedback from stakeholders.

### **Lesson 3: Rationale**

The legitimacy of hunting management is contingent upon many things, but one of the most important is transparent decision rationales. The gravity of the Treaty infringement was not lost on stakeholders, but the scope of the decision was not seen as proportionate to the cause or the geographic scope of the Treaty infringement. In addition, although hunting was not specifically identified as a cause of declining wildlife populations, hunting does contribute to complex land use conflict resulting in the interference of Treaty rights. Moreover, the decision was publicly framed as a short-term decision until better information could be gathered, including Indigenous Knowledge. There is a public expectation, through the Together for Wildlife Strategy and through correspondence to stakeholders, that wildlife related decisions are evidence-based decisions. Evidence based decisions support strong decision rationales, which in turn maintains the legitimacy of the hunting management system as it transitions towards co-management.

## **CONCLUSION:**

### **Proposed Guidelines for North Area 2024 Hunting Regulation Change Coordination**

- 1) Director responsible for North Area Wildlife Strategy is responsible for coordinating proposals across the North Area and the various co-management forums.
- 2) Regulation change proposals that are potentially more restrictive than may be required for meeting established conservation guidance, must include a measure of success and a monitoring plan, so they can be tied to clear objectives.
- 3) All proposals must go through a regional and a provincial engagement and approval process.
- 4) Proposals must include applicable operational requirements including resourcing and timing.
- 5) Regional engagement processes must be inclusive, meaningful, and end by October 2023.

- 6) Regional Manager cannot forward a proposal to the Director of Fish and Wildlife without a rationale.

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PRGM Dir./Mgr.	DS	Jan 24, 2023

## REGULATORY PRIMER – WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

### ***Accommodating Indigenous Rights***

- Prior to the allocation of hunting opportunities, conservation priorities and Indigenous hunting rights are considered.
- Every 5 years (or more frequently when need arises) staff engage Indigenous Nations on hunting harvest objectives based on the following:
  - population status (population estimate and demographics)
  - species conservation needs (natural recruitment and mortality)
  - human caused non-hunting mortality (road, rail, poaching)
  - Indigenous harvest estimate
- Recommendations for hunting opportunities for both resident and non-resident (guided hunts) are then developed.
- This culminates into a recommended regulation package every two years, that are designed to meet species conservation objectives and indigenous interests.

**Table 1: Post – Indigenous Harvest: Wildlife Allocation means the distribution of sustainable hunting opportunity in BC to licenced hunters.**

Allocated Hunts – Limited Entry Hunts (LEH)	Unallocated Hunts - General Open Season (GOS) Hunts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are developed where demand for hunting outstrips the supply of sustainable hunting opportunity,</li> <li>• 5-year harvest objectives are set (number of animals that can be harvested) and determine the allocation of hunting opportunity.</li> <li>• Hunting authorizations then awarded via a lottery system (Limited entry hunts).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supply of sustainable hunting opportunity outstrips demand for hunting opportunity,</li> <li>• No 5-year harvest objectives.</li> <li>• Hunting authorizations are not limited, instead hunting success is managed for conservation by season lengths, bag limits, animal sex and age and antler restrictions.</li> </ul>

**Table 2: Overview of Hunting Management**

	Purpose	Frequency
<b>Monitoring and Assessment</b>		
<b>Species Inventory</b>	Updates species population and demographic trends and estimates.	Every 5 years (risk managed)
<b>Hunter surveys &amp; reports</b>	Updates estimates on hunting effort, success, and compliance.	Annually
<b>Adaptive Decision Making</b>		
<b>Allocation Decision</b>	Sets predictable supply of hunting opportunity for all hunters.	Every 5 years
<b>BC Licencing Decisions</b>	Authorizes hunting to meet harvest objectives set by Allocation Decision.	Annually
<b>BC Regulatory Decisions</b>	Varies hunts to meet allocation objectives or species conservation concern.	Biennially (unless exigent circumstance)



**Table 3: Primary Status Quo Hunting Management Decisions**

Decision	Decision Type	Decision Maker	Material Effect of Decision
<b>Allocation Decision</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy Decision guided by Allocation Policy.</li> </ul>	Director of Wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sets sustainable hunting level for a 5 year period for resident and non-resident hunters.</li> </ul>
<b>Limited Entry Hunting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statutory Decision guided by LEH Regulation, Allocation Policy and Indigenous Knowledge</li> </ul>	Director of Wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sets the annual limit on hunting authorizations by resident hunters.</li> </ul>
<b>Guide Outfitter Licence and Quota</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statutory Decision guided by Wildlife Act, Allocation Policy and Indigenous Knowledge</li> </ul>	Director of Wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Authorizes commercial guiding and limits non-resident hunting.</li> </ul>
<b>Biennial Hunting Regulation Changes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regulatory Decision for limiting hunting in relation to management or conservation concerns</li> </ul>	Minister/Cabinet (delegated to Minister)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Season lengths/types</li> <li>Bag limits</li> <li>Range of LEH authorizations</li> <li>Antler restrictions</li> </ul>

# Wildlife Hunting Management

FOR Wildlife Allocation and Reconciliation

## Intended outcome

- Update of 2022 NE wildlife decisions and implications
  - s. 12
- Discussion on the North Area Wildlife Strategy
- Discussion on proposed principles to address current wildlife pressures and policy issues

## Background on 2022 NE wildlife decisions

- In 2022, within the negotiations with Blueberry River First Nation (BRFN) and Treaty 8 (T8) Nations post Yahey decision, an agreement to reduce the number of hunters and moose harvested by 50% was supported
- This outcome was based on hunter effort, not data or inventory
- To effect this result, the open seasons for Moose and Caribou were closed over the majority of the BRFN and T8 territories
- Stakeholders and staff have been challenged by these decisions due to the lack of population or harvest evidence for reaching them

• s. 16





## Next steps/Solutions

s. 12

- 
- FOR and WLRS have convened and resourced a wildlife strategy (North Area Wildlife Strategy or “NAWS”)
- This strategy proposes an approach and principles informed by BRFN/T8 negotiation outcomes
- This approach involves supporting an engagement with Nations to co-design the system of how we inform hunting regulatory decisions, but to do so on a principled and evidence basis

## North Area Wildlife Strategy

- **Purpose:**

- to develop an integrated *Together for Wildlife* implementation plan.

- **Goal:**

- to guide evolution of the hunting management regime to address the pressures arising from Indigenous case law/expectations and the BRFN/T8 outcomes.

- **What:**

- Guidance to support staff in their work with Nations and stakeholders
- Establishment of defensible principles for the system and decisions



## Early examples

1. Fontas (Peace): Proposed cultural closure
2. Tahltan and Kaska Moose (Skeena): LEH for high use areas
3. Takla Moose (Omineca): Divided LEH zones across the rut
4. Atlin Moose: LEH for high use areas | <sup>s. 16</sup>

## MEETING BULLETS

**DATE:** October 5, 2023  
**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable Bruce Ralston, Minister of Forests  
**REGARDING:** Meeting with AFRY Management Consulting

**INTRODUCTIONS:** Julie MacDougall, Executive Director, Strategic Initiatives  
Gustavo Oliveira, Dir., Innovation, Bioeconomy and Indigenous Opportunities

### STRATEGIC CONSIDERATION AND KEY MESSAGES:

- The ministry has a long-term commitment to BC forest bioeconomy with a focus on developing and manufacturing high value bioproducts derived from BC forest biomass.
- The ministry supports various research organizations such as UBC's Bioproducts Institute and FPInnovations to develop innovative bioproducts in six strategic focus areas including lignin, biocomposites, textiles, biochemicals and biomedical materials, and packaging.
- The ministry collaborates closely with industry partners including BC BioAlliance, First Nations, federal government agencies and international organizations to advance and commercialize these innovative, high value bioproducts.

### BACKGROUND:

- AFRY Management Consulting (AFRY), headquartered in Stockholm, Sweden, is a renowned global management consulting firm operating in over 50 countries. It was formed in 2019 through the merger of Ångpanneföreningen (ÅF) and Pöyry, combining their engineering and consulting expertise.
- AFRY has over 600 consultants and 19,000 experts across 20+ offices globally, within the fields of pulp & paper, chemicals, bio-based solutions & biorefining, mining, infrastructure and energy operating across the world.
- AFRY offers a wide range of services, including strategy and management consulting, sustainability and ESG consulting, digitalization and technology consulting, financial and transaction advisory, as well as energy and infrastructure consulting.
- AFRY's Canadian operations, located in Montreal and Quebec, have a rich history since their incorporation in February 1994, with over 800 executed engineering mandates, spanning strategic planning to project management.
- AFRY acquired KSH, a Canadian consulting, engineering, and project delivery services company in May 2023, expanding its global presence in decarbonization, energy, and biobased materials.

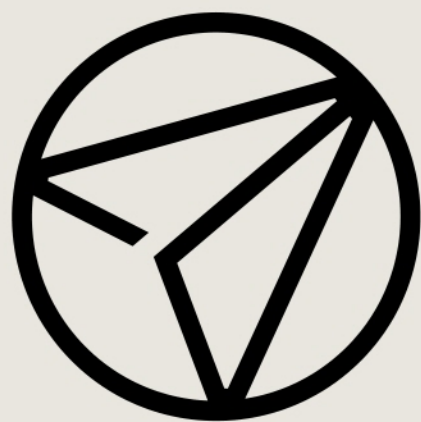
- AFRY has developed a comprehensive market entry strategy for the BC BioAlliance focusing on bio-based foam products. This strategy underscores the ripe market for investment and emphasizes the critical prerequisites for market entry, including a cohesive platform that the BC BioAlliance should act as, well-defined objectives, and a long-term funding commitment. This strategy is attached.

**PREPARED BY:**

William Bi  
Senior Bio-Economist  
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**REVIEWED BY:**

	Initials	Date
DM		
Associate DM		
A/ADM	AN	Oct 4, 2023
Program Dir/Mgr.	GO	Oct 3, 2023



AFRY

ÅF PÖYRY





# Bio-Based Foam Products - Market Entry Strategy

Final Report

DECEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2021

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## BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

**DATE:** September 28, 2023  
**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable Bruce Ralston, Minister of Forests  
**ISSUE:** Carbon impacts from salvage logging.

### BACKGROUND:

- Wildfires are part of the natural dynamics of many forest ecosystems in British Columbia (BC). However, the frequency, severity, and scale of wildfires has increased in recent years due in part to past management, mountain pine beetle impacts, and climate change.
- Forms of salvage logging, or the harvesting of residual dead trees post-disturbance, are common management tactics applied to burned forests. Motivation for salvage logging can be to recover economic value from dead timber, to rehabilitate severely disturbed forests, or a combination of management objectives.
- Some salvage of wildfire impacted stands is carried out by BC Timber Sales in partnership with the Forest Investment Program. BCTS develops and markets damaged trees as Innovative Timber Sale Licenses so that the overstory of damaged stands can be removed and forests can be promptly re-established.

### DISCUSSION:

Salvage logging in wildfire-burned stands can have complex and variable implications for forest carbon dynamics. The effects depend on several factors, including the severity of the wildfire, effectiveness of reforestation, and type of wood products being produced. Salvage logging provides a relative carbon benefit when it replaces green tree harvesting.

#### Fire severity:

High severity fires can cause significant mortality in mature trees, as well as reduce natural seed sources and impact the ability of a stand to regenerate itself. In these circumstances, salvage logging followed by tree planting may help to reestablish a productive stand in a shorter period after the fire than if left to regenerate naturally, increasing carbon sequestration and long-term storage.

After a low severity fire, there may be sufficient natural seed source and advanced regeneration to regrow the stand successfully without the need for tree planting or rehabilitation. In these stands, there is less long-term carbon benefit in planting a new cohort of trees, and salvage operations may damage natural regeneration. While a naturally regenerated stand may store carbon, it may not be as well suited for other forest values such as timber production.

#### Carbon emissions from green-tree harvesting:

Logging causes a decrease in total ecosystem carbon immediately following harvesting. While some carbon is stored in harvested wood products, that “embodied carbon” eventually decays over time as wood products move from use to landfill (see below). Meanwhile, at the harvest site, decomposition will occur in the forest floor and soils, resulting in increased emissions. Harvesting overall causes forests to be net sources of emissions, even in years following harvest.

#### Harvesting of green or dead trees (i.e. salvage logging):

Compared to green-tree harvesting, salvage logging has a positive climate benefit. The climate benefit depends on the extent to which green trees are included in harvest from salvage logging.

In some cases, salvage logging may remove both living and dead trees. As discussed above, removal of live trees not only causes a reduction in stored ecosystem carbon, but also a decrease in the carbon sequestration rate of the stand post-harvest. This reduced rate combined with an increase in emissions from decomposition of harvest residuals can cause a stand to be a net source of emissions for years after salvage. Focusing salvage to only removing dead trees can allow remnant live trees to continue sequestering carbon and reduce the time for the stand to return to a net sink. Select harvesting also provides other potential values like wildlife habitat.

Salvage logging produces less emission per unit of wood product when it replaces harvesting of green trees as dead trees are no longer sequestering additional carbon while green trees are. Salvage logging can therefore provide a source of fibre for timber production while leaving live trees to continue to store more carbon on the land base.

#### Storage in harvested wood products:

Harvesting involves the transfer of carbon from ecosystem carbon pools (i.e. live and dead trees) to harvested wood products, where a portion of the original stored carbon will remain sequestered for the lifetime of that product. Longer lived wood products will result in greater amounts of long-term carbon storage than shorter lived products such as pulp or bioenergy. Therefore, if salvaged materials can be made into longer lived products, the long-term carbon emissions from harvesting can be reduced. About a third of BC's harvest is made into long-lived products.

#### Forest regeneration:

The rate and success of forest regeneration following salvage logging can influence carbon dynamics. Stand growth starts off slow following harvest because it takes time for seedlings to build the crowns and root networks needed to gather light, water, and nutrients. As planted seedlings and natural ingress establish, trees will accumulate carbon in stemwood and coarse roots for decades to centuries. If new trees are planted or natural regeneration occurs quickly after salvage, carbon uptake can begin to offset emissions from logging and post-harvest decomposition and return the stand to a net sink of carbon in a shorter period. Planting diverse genotypes and species can lead to more robust growth and greater resilience to pests, disease, drought, and climate change.

#### Underplanting alternative

If worker safety and stand growing conditions allow, seedlings can be planted underneath a post-wildfire dead overstory (i.e. no salvage), thus avoiding the emissions associated with harvesting while establishing a new productive cohort of trees. This practice is often called underplanting and has been successfully implemented by the Forest Carbon Initiative (now Forest Investment Program) for the past five years. The standing dead canopy can enhance regeneration capacity both by being a source of nutrients into the soil as it decomposes, and by providing planted seedling with microsite protection from heat and drought. Leaving the dead canopies also serves to direct rainfall and snowmelt into the soil and provides structural diversity across the landscape. This makes underplanting particularly effective in areas that are at risk of hydrophobic soils, landslides, or spring floods, and where species-at-risk habitat is a management focus.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Not applicable.

**SUMMARY:**

The carbon dynamics of salvage logging in wildfire-burned stands are site-specific and can vary widely. Because of the trade-offs between harvest emissions, decomposition, and increased productivity from post-harvest planting, it is imperative that forest managers consider these trade-offs when selecting appropriate salvage treatments and consider alternative treatments such as underplanting. When salvage logging replaces the harvesting of live trees, it results in less carbon emission per unit of timber produced.

**Attachment(s):****PREPARED BY:**

Garrett McLaughlin  
Forest Carbon Technical Advisor  
Forest Carbon and Climate Services  
Branch  
778-974-5619

**REVIEWED BY:**

	Initials	Date
A/DM	MS	Oct 17, 2023
Associate DM		
EFO	SM	Oct 17, 2023
ADM	SB	Oct 12, 2023
Program Dir/Mgr.	JB	Sept 24, 2023



## BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

**DATE:** October 16, 2023

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable Bruce Ralston, Minister of Forests

**ISSUE:** Public Announcement of Provincial Support through Treaty for Tenure Transactions between Western Forest Products and K'omoks, Tlowitsis, We Wai Kai and Wei Wai Kum Nations.

### BACKGROUND:

- Four Nanwakolas Nations including the K'omoks, Tlowitsis, We Wai Kai and Wei Wai Kum are all in stage 5 tripartite treaty negotiations with the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR), on behalf of the province and Canada.
- Collectively the Nation territories fully overlap Tree Farm Licence 39 Block 2, held by Western Forest Products (WFP). TFL 39 Block 2 has an allowable annual cut of 905,000 cubic metres (m<sup>3</sup>).
- In March 2023 through separate Interim Treaty Agreements (ITAs) with each Nation, the province committed approximately \$30 million to support a purchase of a combined stake of 34% of TFL 39 Block 2. This volume would be incremental to existing tenures held by the Nations, and will result in each Nation holding a total of 20% of the harvest level in their territories.
- On October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023 the province, represented by the Premier and the Honourable Murray Rankin will be announcing the ITA agreements jointly with the Nations and WFP, including details on the intended acquisitions that will be financially supported by the province, and the intention to transfer this forest tenure to a new Limited Partnership (LP), held by WFP and the 4 Nations.

s. 13, s. 16

### DISCUSSION:

The Nanwakolas Nations involved in this transaction and WFP have long history of working closely together in the management of TFL 39 Block 2. The tenure area overlaps these Nations exclusively and is a natural fit for their interest in securing 20% of the AAC in their territories.

WFP has demonstrated a willingness to partner with Nations through an ownership structure of their TFLs through a LP model. The proposed arrangement is similar to the LP between WFP and Huu-ay-aht Nation for ownership of TFL 44.

The completion of the transactions will take time as there are two separate statutory decisions including a subdivision of TFL 39 Block 2 from the rest of TFL 39 and then a tenure disposition of the tenure to the new LP. These decisions are held by the Assistant Deputy Minister for Integrated Resource Operations and the Minister respectively.



There may be concern raised that a public announcement involving the Premiers office may influence the statutory process of these decisions. It should be recognized that entering into government-to-government agreements that require future statutory decisions is not uncommon. Such is the case for all direct award tenures to First Nations. FOR professional staff, understand the legislated requirements and will ensure due process to allow decision makers to remain unfettered. Staff from Regional Operations and Forest Tenures Branch have been working directly with the parties to ensure the steps and processes related to these decisions are fully understood.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

- The funding commitments to support the tenures acquisition was secured under MIRR treaty mandate in 2023.
- It's anticipated that the new LP with Nations will provide a new level of certainty of operations and economic development of TFL 39 Block 2.

## NEXT STEPS:

- Following the public announcement on October 24, 2023, WFP and the Nations will submit a formal application to subdivide TFL 39 Block 2 from the rest of TFL 39 and transfer the new TFL to a newly formed LP between the Nations and WFP.
- FOR will initiate First Nations consultation on the necessary statutory decision under the *Forest Act* with all Nations whose traditional territory overlaps TFL 39.
- FOR will further initiate public engagement on the transaction and complete an assessment of marketing of fibre test.
- Following the completion of this work, detailed briefing materials for each of the statutory decisions will be provided to the ADM of Integrated Resource Operations and the Minister respectively. This process is expected to take between 4-6 months. All parties are aware of the *Forest Act* requirements to be able to provide the subdivision and the transfer.

## PREPARED BY:

Randy Husband  
Director of Pricing and Tenures  
West Coast Region  
(250) 739-8352

## REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM		
Associate DM		
EFO		
ADM (IROD)		
ADM (Coast)	sf	Oct 16, 2023
RED (WCR)	SH	Oct 16, 2023
Program Dir/Mgr.	RGH	Oct 16, 2023

## BRIEFING NOTE FOR DECISION

**DATE:** September 27, 2023

**PREPARED FOR:** Minister of Forests, Bruce Ralston

**ISSUE:** Approve the delivery of a Climate and Carbon Provincial Workshop hosted by the Office of the Chief Forester, Forest Carbon and Climate Services Branch.

### RECOMMENDED OPTION: Host a Climate and Carbon Provincial Workshop

#### BACKGROUND:

- The proposed Climate and Carbon Provincial Workshop builds on the premiere's priority of "building a clean economy that addresses our obligations to combat climate change by driving down emissions ..."
- The Ministry of Forests (FOR) Priorities directs us to support CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 goals and advance BC's Forests in climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- The Forest Carbon and Climate Services Branch (FCCSB), in the Office of the Chief Forester Division (OCF), is leading the adaptation and mitigation work for the ministry including:
  - Launching the Future Forest Ecosystem Centre for decision support
  - Implementing Forest Carbon Offset Protocol 2.0
  - Assisting Climate Action and Implementation Planning
  - Guiding Carbon and Climate integration in the Forest Landscape Planning process
  - Researching climate change impacts
  - Carbon emission reporting

#### DISCUSSION:

Climate change literacy is a key factor to successful implementation of this urgent and complex work. While the FCCSB is leading these programs there are variable depths of knowledge across the ministry. It is imperative that we partner collaboratively across the province to understand the implications of climate change and carbon emissions and integrate research and analysis into forest management practices including legislation, policy, regulation, and decision support.

The proposed Climate and Carbon Provincial Workshop will include internal partners from the regions and districts, Natural Resource Ministry staff from Water, Land, and Resource Stewardship (WLRS), Ministry of Environment Climate Action Secretariat (ENV CAS), and Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (IRR). External invitees could include University of BC (UBC), Forest Enhancement Society of BC, Natural Resources Canada, Pacific Institute of Climate Solutions, and FPInnovations.

Objectives of the workshop are to

1. Create space for dialogue between practitioners, researchers, policy and decision makers.
2. Enhance literacy of Climate and Carbon including forest carbon sinks and the impact of climate change on BC's forest ecosystems
3. Entrench climate action planning into FOR business (including BCWS and BCTS) and with key partners across the NRM - WLRS, IRR, ENV CAS
4. Explore and enhance linkages with key land use decision making processes such as Forest Landscape Planning and Modernized Land Use Planning,
  - a. Discuss key barriers of incorporating forest carbon and climate change into FOR's work and generate solutions.

The OCF will play a leading role in creating the event which is planned for early March 2024. A steering committee of members from across the NRS will provide direction and endorsement on content, attendees and agenda (Shane Berg, ADM, Chief Forester and Eamon O'Donoghue, Associate Deputy Minister, as co-sponsors) and a Planning Committee will be formed to design the workshop and coordinate logistics (outlined in Appendix A).

Speakers from UBC, NRCan and approximately 150 -175 attendees are anticipated. The estimated cost is \$54,000 for venue, food, and other related logistical costs. The OCF will manage the budget using Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy CPAS funding. Each division will be responsible for travel costs. Appendix A outlines estimated costs and attendees.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

- There is sufficient funding available in the current budget under CPAS.
- This is an operating expense for the current fiscal year.
- s. 13, s. 17
- There will be an impact to regional and headquarters budgets, including other ministry invitees such as ENV, MIRR, and WLRS as they will be expected to pay for travel costs incurred.
- The process is that documents containing financial information and data must be approved by the chief financial officer (CFO) or executive financial officer (EFO) after the program ADM has approved. We have provided estimates in this decision note (DN) for the event but cannot provide final quotes until we have approval to move forward. The intent is to prepare a Business Expense Approval upon approval of this DN.

#### **OPTIONS:**

##### **OPTION 1: Host a Climate and Carbon Provincial Workshop**

###### *Implications:*

- Requires additional resources to organize and host the workshop including travel costs plus the venue and food.
- Provides an opportunity to respond to the climate and carbon issue and enhance partnerships with key stakeholder groups across FOR including regional and district partners, the Natural Resource ministries, UBC and the Canadian Forest Service
- Creates the catalyst for dialogue and understanding that will allow for effective integration of climate and carbon foundations into forest management planning and activities.
- Demonstrates provincial commitment to our premier's priority of "building a clean economy that addresses our obligations to combat climate change by driving down emissions ..."

s. 13

#### **RECOMMENDATION - Host a Climate and Carbon Provincial Workshop**



☒ Approved / ☐ Not Approved

Signature  
Bruce Ralston

October 20, 2023  
Date

**PREPARED BY:**

Joanne Baron  
A/Director Forest Carbon and Climate  
Services Branch, Office of the Chief  
Forester  
(250) 318-3415

**REVIEWED BY:**

	Initials	Date
a/DM	MS	Oct 16, 2023
Assoc DM	EOD	Oct 16, 2023
EFO	SM	Oct 16, 2023
A/ADM	AN	Oct 5, 2023
Program Dir/Mgr.		









## BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

**DATE:** October 24, 2023

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable Bruce Ralston, Minister of Forests

**ISSUE:** Meeting with Pulp and Paper Coalition, Joe Nemeth, Chair of the Coalition; Stew Gibson, VP Paper Excellence and Gary Ley, Consultant

### BACKGROUND:

- BC pulp mills have struggled since late 2022 due to weak demand in China, its key market. Beginning in September 2022, the China market prices declined from over US\$900 per tonne, to a low of US\$625 per tonne in July 2023.
- There are recent signs of improvement in the China market, as prices in early October 2023 increased to US\$706 per tonne.
- Mill residual supply is declining and is negatively impacting pulp mills' ability to obtain furnish as sawmills are closing and taking production off due to weak lumber markets and sawmill closures.
- The capacity of sawmills in BC has declined by 20% since 2020. This trend is expected to continue as the Allowable Annual Cut continues to decline.
- The current estimated shortfall for the pulp sector is three million cubic metres within the \$50/m<sup>3</sup> economic zone for pulp operations.
- The pulp sector processes over 40% of the BC timber harvest. The sector consumes 20 million cubic metres of woodchips per year, 75% of which come from sawmills.
- Two largest concerns for the pulp sector:
  - Access to economic fibre for continued operation of BC pulp mills.
  - Carbon taxes represent a significant cost differential to European firms where there are offsets for carbon reduction.
- BC Pulp and paper mills provide 4,400 direct jobs.
- The following mills closed were curtailed indefinitely due to the lack of fibre: the pulp line at Prince George Pulp & Paper in April 2023, Powell River in November 2021, Taylor in February 2022 and the Crofton paper machine #3 and #2 in December 2022.
- A number of mills were curtailed in the spring of 2023 due weak paper and pulp markets or lack of fibre: Paper Excellence Port Alberni's 2 paper machines curtailed 2 weeks in June 2023 and Crofton's mill operations curtailed for the month of July; Cariboo Pulp & Paper, Harmac, and Mercer, mills are combining their curtailments with maintenance shutdowns.

### DISCUSSION:

The Northern Bleached Softwood Kraft (NBSK) pulp price in China has declined from US\$900 to US\$625 per tonne since Fall 2022, following the opening of new milling capacity in Chile and Uruguay which added 3.7 million-tonnes of hardwood pulp supply to China.

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s. 13

Government has taken several proactive steps to work with the pulp sector to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, introduce innovation and increase utilization of residual fibre:

- Forest Enhancement of BC (FESBC) funding was renewed in 2023 with \$50 million to utilize uneconomical low-value or residual fibre by secondary users. This was a key recommendation from the Pulp Fibre Supply Task Force. This will increase fibre going to pulp mills by 2.2 Mm3 over two fiscal years.
- The BC government has supplied \$180 million in funding for the BC Manufacturing Jobs Fund for forestry companies that require equipment to support new product lines. The government awarded \$4.5 million from this fund to help restart Crofton's second paper machine in January 2023.
- Since 2019, with the exception of Canfor Pulp, five companies have received \$21.3M from the government's CleanBC Industry program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Wildfire Salvage Opportunity Agreements (WSOA) have been implemented and will help to enable the timely direct award of forestry licenses to First Nations for salvaging timber damaged by wildfire. This program was recommended by the Pulp & Paper Coalition. We are working actively with First Nations in the south area of the province at issuing WSOAs. The government added 40 positions to accelerate the issuance of permits to address staffing capacity issues at the local level. There have been 2 WSOA's issued over the past 6 months.
- The ministry has also developed policies to reduce waste, for example, a new waste measurement system, and alternate methods of scale for secondary users which reduces costs of accessing needed pulp logs, from post-harvest waste and salvage.
- The Pulp & Paper Coalition members have provided written commitments to the ministry to buy all pulp logs at an economic price on the Coast in the Fibre Recovery Zone.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

- Not Applicable

**MINISTRY RESPONSE:**

- I am pleased to hear how the Pulp Fibre Task Force has been able to collaboratively develop effective and long-term solutions to improve access to chips and increase utilization of residual fibre.
- Increasing utilization of burnt timber is critical. We agree that by harvesting early, we will be able to improve access to pulp fibre, support rehabilitation of burnt stands and reduce carbon emissions.
- Reducing GHG emissions from slash-pile burning is something we take seriously and have instituted a range of actions - provided funding for FESBC, introduced pile nicely requirements in BCTS sales.

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- Reducing wildfire risk is important to this government and we instituted the Fire-smart program and the Crownland Risk Reduction Program that is establishing fuel management planning and treatments and developing the Cultural and prescribed fire program.

**PREPARED BY:**

Peter Jacobsen  
Executive Director  
Compensation and Business Analysis  
(250) 415-6638

**REVIEWED BY:**

	Initials	Date
A/DM	MS	Oct 16, 2023
EFO		
ADM	MS	Oct 16, 2023
Exec Director	PJ	Oct 16, 2023



SPEAKING POINTS FOR  
HONOURABLE BRUCE RALSTON  
**MINISTER OF FORESTS**  
**Minister Responsible for Consular Corps**

**Pulp and Paper Coalition**

**Caucus Lunch**

**Room 138**

**[October 24, 2023, 5:00 pm]**

Please check against delivery

**Event Profile:**

Pulp and Paper Coalition is providing a presentation on the state of the BC pulp and paper sector, to the NDP Caucus at the October 25, 2023.

Joe Nemeth - Chair of the Pulp and Paper Coalition

Stew Gibson - VP Paper Excellence

Gary Ley – Communications Consultant for the Pulp and Paper Coalition

**What do they want to hear?:**

- Continued government support for the Pulp and Paper sector.
- Provision of Carbon Tax offsets to reduce costs and improve competitiveness.
- Reduced fibre costs.

**Speaking Time:**

After the Pulp and Paper Coalitions presentation

**Location:** Room 138

**Date and Time:** October 24, 2023, from 5:00 pm to 5:45 pm

**GCPE or Program contact:**

**On-site Contacts (if applicable):**

**Itinerary:**

- [Bullet]
  - [sub-bullet]

## **TOPICS AND SPEAKING POINTS**

### **Introduction:**

- Thank you.
- I want to recognize the Indigenous Nations on whose traditional territory we are gathered. I am joining you from the territory the Lekwungen-speaking peoples, including the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations
- Introduce staff:
  - Melissa Sanderson, Assistant Deputy Minister

### **Pulp and Paper Coalition Presentation**

- I want to thank you for your presentation, it was informative.
- A healthy pulp sector is important to a strong BC forest sector and provides family supporting jobs critical to the stability of many communities around the province.
- We are in agreement on a number of key matters:
  - Wild fire risk reduction can play a role as a source of fibre.
  - Maintaining the Coast Fibre Recovery Zone and improving utilization is critical to future fibre access.
  - Use of burnt timber needs to expand.

### **Utilization of Burnt Timber**

- Increasing utilization of burnt timber is critical. We also agree that by harvesting early, we will be able to improve access to pulp fibre, support rehabilitation of burnt stands and reduce carbon emissions.

- I have asked staff to work to expand the number of Wildfire Salvage Opportunity Agreements awarded to enable the timely direct award of forestry licences to First Nations for salvaging timber damaged by wildfire.

### **Fibre Shortfall**

- I am pleased how the Pulp Fibre Task Force has been able to collaboratively develop effective solutions to improve access to chips and increase utilization of residual fibre.
- Reducing wildfire risk is important to this government and we instituted the Fire-smart program and the Crownland Risk Reduction Program that are establishing fuel management planning and treatments that can provide cost effective fibre access.
- Access to residual fiber will need to expand and become a growing and staple source of fibre for your mills and that is why this government has taken a number of critical steps:
  - Provided \$50 million of additional funding for FESBC.
  - Introduced pile nicely requirements in BCTS sales.
  - Concurrent Residual Harvest System for low quality timber.
- Maintaining the Coast Fibre Recovery Zone will continue to provide access to fibre for coastal pulp mills. It was very positive, and I want to commend the coastal mills for providing their commitment to continue to accept volume from the zone.

### **Conclusion:**

- The key take-away for me is that by continuing to work collaboratively we will find effective solutions to overcome the fibre supply challenges.
- Thank you.

**END**



## BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

**DATE:** October 24, 2023

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable Bruce Ralston, Minister of Forests

**ISSUE:** Meeting with Harmac Pacific, Nanaimo Forest Products Ltd, Paul Sadler, CEO, Kevin Kurylowich, CFO and Cam Milne, Fibre Supply Manager

### BACKGROUND:

- BC pulp mills have struggled since late 2022 due to weak demand in China, its key market. Beginning in September 2022, the China market prices declined from over US\$900 per tonne, to a low of US\$625 per tonne in July 2023.
- There are recent signs of improvement in the China market, as prices in the third week of October 2023 increased to US\$740 per tonne.
- Established in 1950, Harmac Pacific is an employee-owned mill purchased by Nanaimo Forest Products Ltd. (NFPL) in 2008 for C\$13.2 million. Employees own 25% of the company and the rest by three private parties, ie; Pioneer Log Homes, Totzauer Holdings and the Sampson Group.
- Harmac is the only producer in the world of K10S pulp, a particular blend made from western red cedar, used in the manufacture of surgical masks and gowns. [s. 21](#)
- Harmac is a member of the Pulp and Paper Coalition.
- The firm provided a commitment letter supporting the Fibre Recovery Zone (FRZ) and have agreed to purchase pulp logs from the FRZ.
- [s. 21](#)
- Harmac would prefer to source a higher percentage of hemlock, which has similar strength properties to fir and is brighter. This would support the firm's goal to reduce the percentage of bleached pulp and will reduce costs of production.
- Harmac has committed to purchase up to 250,000 m<sup>3</sup> of burnt fibre. The mill is a relatively large mill and consumes 2.1 million m<sup>3</sup> of fibre annually.
- The firm does not hold any replaceable forest tenure in BC (Source: FLNRORD Provincial Linkage Allowable Annual Cut Report).
- [s. 21](#)

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**DISCUSSION:**

Government has taken a number of proactive steps to work with the Pulp sector to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, introduce innovation and increase utilization of residual fibre:

- The Forest Enhancement of BC (FESBC) funding was renewed in 2023 with \$50 million to utilize uneconomical low-value or residual fibre by secondary users.
- The BC Government has supplied \$180 million in funding for the BC Manufacturing Jobs Fund for forestry companies that require equipment to support new product lines.

**Pulp Fibre Task Force:**

To proactively identify solutions to the chip supply shortage, Ministry staff working jointly with pulp companies created the Pulp Fibre Supply Task Force (Task Force). The Task Force consists of senior representatives from the six pulp companies and ministry staff. Its purpose is to collaboratively develop policy and processes designed to increase utilization of logging waste and fire-damaged wood.

Over the last 12 months, the Task Force developed a range of policy tools that are supporting pulp mills' access to residual fibre. As of May 10, 2023, over three million cubic metres of opportunities have been identified and one million cubic metres are being acted on. The opportunities include:

- BCTS selling pulpwood dominant Timber sales and has introduced pile nicely clauses in a number of new issued Timber Sales Licenses to help facilitate salvage.
- Reinstatement of the Coast Fibre Recovery Zone, which will support removal and sale of residual fibre to coast pulp mills.
- Development of burnt pulp log quality standards.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

- Not applicable.

**SPEAKING POINTS:**

I am pleased to hear of your commitment to utilize 250,000 m<sup>3</sup> of burnt timber. Increasing utilization of burnt timber is critical from an environmental perspective, and its use will help deal with the fibre shortage.

I was very interested to hear of your conversion process to reduce the amount of bleached pulp you are producing.

Staff have spoken to me about your goal to reduce your use of natural gas. How is the process of shifting going?

I want to compliment your firm in its commitment to the Fibre Recovery Zone on the Coast. This is an important initiative not only because it provides access to fibre but it helps reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.



**Attachment:** Harmac Pacific Stakeholder Profile**PREPARED BY:**

Peter Jacobsen  
Executive Director  
Compensation and Business Analysis  
Tenures, Range, and Economics  
(250) 415-6638

**REVIEWED BY:**

	Initials	Date
DM		
Associate DM		
EFO		
ADM	MS	Oct 23, 2023
Exec Dir	PJ	Oct 20, 2023

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## Backgrounder

### Harmac Pacific Executive

- **Levi Sampson** is the President, Director, and co-owner of Harmac Pacific (Harmac). He was the principal broker for purchasing Harmac in 2008 and is also a part-owner and Chairman of the Board of CHEK Television.
- **Paul Sadler** has been the CEO of Harmac since November 2008.
- List of Directors: Bryan Reid and Frank Crucil, Pioneer Log Homes of BC; Levi and Ed Sampson, Sampson Group, Dave Blaikie and Bob Smiley, Harmac Employee Owner Group.
- Cam Milne, Fibre Supply Manager and Scott Muir, Fibre Supply Coordinator

### Harmac Pacific Background:

- Established in 1950, Harmac Pacific is an employee-owned mill purchased by Nanaimo Forest Products Ltd. (NFPL) in 2008 for C\$13.2 million. Employees own 25% of the company and the rest by three private parties, i.e., Pioneer Log Homes, Totzauer Holdings, and the Sampson Group.
- They are part of the Pulp & Paper Coalition.
- It has two production lines, with a capacity of producing 380,000 tonnes/year of Northern Bleached Softwood Kraft (NBSK) and cedar pulp employing three hundred employees.
- According to RISI Fast markets, the Harmac mill operates with a cash cost of \$449 USD/ADMT, about the average of NBSK mills in North America.
- Europe was Harmac's largest pulp market region, but Asian pulp markets have been growing rapidly and now account for more than 80% of Harmac's sales.
- Harmac is the only producer in the world of K10S pulp, a particular blend made from western red cedar, used in the manufacture of surgical masks and gowns. To put it in context, other pulp mills around the world have blends that can be used for the same purpose. The order of K10S doubled because of COVID-19. The cedar chip supply comes exclusively from shake and shingle mills. <sup>s. 21</sup>
- The company has spent over \$177 million on environmental control equipment in the past 20 years. These expenditures have resulted in significantly reduced emissions to air, water, and land.

### Issues:

- <sup>s. 21</sup>



## Backgrounder

- Harmac Pacific pulps are made from mixtures of Douglas fir, hemlock/balsam, and western red cedar chips.
- Harmac does not hold any replaceable forest tenure in B.C. (Source: FLNRORD Provincial Linkage Allowable Annual Cut Report)
- They have a long-term contract with Weyerhaeuser, Princeton. They do not have fibre supply agreements on the coast with companies like Western Forest Products and Mosaic.
- Covid-19 epidemic, the wildfires, the heat dome, and recent floods compounded the fibre supply issue that Harmac is facing.

## First Nations Relations

- In September 2017, Harmac/NFPL together with Timber West, Coastland, Western Forest Products, and the Snuneymuxw First Nation built the Mid-Island Regional Forestry Initiative:
- This forestry partnership aims to improve the certainty of harvest operations in the Nanaimo area and log storage in the Nanaimo estuary.
- [s. 16](#)

## Investments

- In 2013, the installation was completed on a 25 MW Green Energy turbogenerator which they use to sell power to BC Hydro. A 15-year Electricity Purchase Agreement to deliver 209 GWh/year was signed in 2013 and expires at the end of 2029.
- Started in 2019 the development of an Industrial Park that leases properties to complementary businesses
- Over \$177 million has been spent on environmental control equipment in the past 20 years. These expenditures have resulted in significantly reduced emissions to air, water and land.
- Harmac Pacific in Nanaimo received more than \$800,000 in provincial funding for a new sludge treatment system that the company says will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by reducing the amount of natural gas it needs to burn for its boilers.
- They received FESBC \$540,000 funding indirectly in the Terrace area.
- They received \$12.6M from Clean BC 2021 intake.

## Recent Government Engagement:



## Backgrounder

- In July 2019, Paul Sadler (CEO) requested an urgent meeting with the Minister to discuss the fibre supply crisis and Western Forest Products labour strike and to have the union and management of Western Forest Products resume contract negotiations immediately.
- Harmac was a signatory in a letter addressed to the Premier expressing concerns with Mosaic's call to log export policy changes in May 2020.
- 2020 Pulp Fibre Task Group led by Melissa Sanderson, ADM.
- 2017-22 Pulp & Paper Coalition
- Met MKC as the co-chair of the Pulp & Paper Coalition on January 18, 2022. The Coalition presented seven fibre mitigation priorities: Renewal of FESBC funding, Logging Waste Recovery, Commercial Thinning, Salvage Fire Damaged Wood, Ten-Axle Chip Trucks, Fibre Recovery Zone, and New Value-Added Products.

## Environmental Improvements over the Past 20 Years

- Sulphur gas emissions were reduced by 90%
- Particulate emissions were reduced by 60%
- Greenhouse gas emissions were reduced by 58%
- Water consumption was reduced by 50%



## MEETING BULLETS

**DATE:** November 1, 2023; 2:15 – 2:45 PM

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable Bruce Ralston, Minister of Forests  
Honourable Nathan Cullen, Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

**REGARDING:** Meeting with Ken Wu, Executive Director of Endangered Ecosystems Alliance; Jordan Watters, Chair of Board of Directors, Sierra Club of BC; and T.J. Watt, Co-Founder, Ancient Forest Alliance regarding the Old Growth Strategic Review.

### STRATEGIC CONSIDERATION AND KEY MESSAGES:

- The Old Growth Action Plan is on schedule for review by Government in early December and public release in early 2024. A draft of the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework is anticipated to be released for public input in late fall 2023.
- Government has made significant progress towards co-developing the Action Plan with First Nations. Other stakeholders have been engaged, including local government, the forestry industry, and environmental non-governmental organizations.
  - Senior government executive of both the Ministry of Forests (FOR) and the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS) meet monthly with environmental non-governmental groups including the Sierra Club and Ancient Forest Alliance to update progress on responding to the old growth report.
  - The next meeting is November 6 where draft Action Plan content will be shared under non-disclosure agreement.
- The draft Action Plan was shared with the Minister's Forest and Range Practices Advisory Council (PAC) on Oct. 30th. Lisa Matthaus is a standing member of this council and has been providing input throughout the Action Plan's development.
- Significant progress has been made to address the recommendations of the Old Growth Strategic Review, including the recent October 26 announcement by the Premier:
  - 2.4 million hectares of old growth now protected or temporarily deferred from harvesting in coordination with First Nations and forest companies.
  - A new \$300-million Conservation Financing Mechanism- \$150 million from the Province, matched by a commitment to raise an additional \$150 million from the BC Parks Foundation that will allow funding from the province and independent donors to finance ecosystem protections, including conserving B.C.'s oldest and rarest trees.
  - The funds will be managed independently by a strategic oversight committee made up of conservation and stewardship experts, at least half of whom will be First Nations.
  - In addition to the 4 pilots already underway, the locations of five new FLP tables are confirmed in partnership with First Nations in key areas of BC including Vancouver Island (2), the Bulkley Valley, 100 Mile House and Quesnel.
- There are many more initiatives underway to implement the recommendations and support the value-added forestry sector, including the BC Manufacturing Jobs Fund, Value-Added Manufacturing Program, and three new accelerator tables in partnership

with the Council of Forest Industries that bring together licensees, value-added wood manufacturers and First Nations to develop joint solutions for growing the sector.

**BACKGROUND:**

There have been numerous meetings to date with the Ancient Forest Alliance, Endangered Ecosystems Alliance (EEA): the latest correspondence from EEA is consistent with previous messaging (Attachment A), recent written updates (Attachment B), and recent meetings (Attachment C).

The Government of B.C. has adopted all 14 recommendations of the Old Growth Strategic Review and has taken steps to implement them. FOR is developing an Action Plan to report on progress made and establish a strategic vision. Progress has been made on all 14 recommendations of the old growth report from 2020.

Government has moved towards co-development of this with First Nations. Following a series of provincial forums, regional workshops and online webinars, all First Nations have been asked to provide final written feedback on the Action Plan.

Senior FOR and WLRS executives meet monthly with representatives of environmental non-governmental organizations to discuss the Action Plan, including Sierra Club, Ancient Forest Alliance, Wilderness Committee, and Stand.earth.

In collaboration with First Nations and multi-sectoral participants, WLRS has been developing a draft Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework in response to Recommendation 2 of the Old Growth Strategic Review. The draft is expected to be released in late fall for consultation with First Nations Rights and Title holders and released for public and targeted multi-sector input.

The Framework content will address many of the points raised by ENGO groups, including:

- A commitment to establish Office for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health that will be responsible for leading the development of ecosystem health and biodiversity objectives and standards for key ecosystems (e.g., forests, wetlands, grasslands) supported by guidance for all sectors, based in science and local and Indigenous knowledge, to account for multiple values, that can then be recognized in legislation.
- A commitment to co-develop with First Nations new legislation and amendments to existing land and water related provincial legislation to give effect to the Framework.

The new Conservation Financing Mechanism will ensure that First Nations and the Province can conserve critical habitat, better manage for climate change, and further government's action on protecting more of B.C.'s lands and waters and implementing the Old Growth Strategic Review. Together, this \$300 million will be used to fund new conservation measures that are led or supported by First Nations, lasting environmental protection measures, capacity building for First Nations, stewardship and guardian programs, and support for low-carbon economic opportunities.

Some ENGO groups have advocated for a new protected areas strategy that would include targeted protected areas identified by a provincial Chief Ecologist. The Protected Areas strategy from the 90's was not informed by a provincial ecologist and did not acknowledge First Nations rights and title. In committing to achieving 30% conservation by 2030, BC has been clear that any area conservation will be done in collaboration with First Nations. Biodiversity objectives and standards developed through the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework can be used to support both management decisions and land use planning in partnership with First Nations.

**Attachments:**

- Attachment A: Ken Wu incoming Oct.23
- Attachment B: 274328- Weiting-Joint Ministers Response
- Attachment C: 273921- April 5, 2023 ENGO Meeting Bullets

**PREPARED BY:**

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Strategy, OCF, FOR  
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Sagarika Saha  
Director, Ecosystems Branch  
LUPPE, WLRS  
(250) 952-1193

**REVIEWED BY:**

	Initials	Date
A/DM	EOD	Oct 31, 23
DM	LH	Oct 30, 23
ADM	DM	Oct 30, 23
ADM	SB-OCF	Oct 30, 23
Program Dir/Mgr.	CD WLRS	Oct 20, 23
Program Dir/Mgr.	NW- OCF	Oct 27, 23



Just a heads up with all the old-growth news these days, that our organizations (the Endangered Ecosystems Alliance and Ancient Forest Alliance) are generally very positive on the direction where Premier Eby seems to be taking us on protecting old-growth forests, of course with some concerns that may yet be addressed.

Please note that the Endangered Ecosystems Alliance (EEA), with over 160,000 people (80% Canadians) on our social media channels, and the Ancient Forest Alliance (AFA), with over 105,000 on their social media channels, have given major thanks to the BC government and Premier Eby to hundreds of thousands of British Columbians over the past year in particular. And please note we have our own responses to policy developments that are separate from those of other enviro-groups that you may see floating around.

Further below I outline the major policy progress that we give thanks to the BC government and Premier Eby for, and a few key loopholes that must get filled.

I was wondering if it was possible to arrange a meeting with Premier Eby?

I sense Premier Eby wants to move to the right place on the old-growth issue, with of course diverse forces at work in the party and in the bureaucracy at Min. of Forests and WLRs (some old paradigmers at high levels there). Recently I heard great things about David from my old bosses (Adriane Carr and Paul George previously of the Wilderness Committee a couple decades ago) who knew David as a young activist and think he is at heart an activist with the boldness to ultimately do what's needed (they were working on a housing issue that he dealt with recently and were impressed, though I admit I haven't had a chance to follow the issue there).

We recognize that the BC NDP under Premier Horgan opened the door to a paradigm shift - after decades of policy stagnation - by:

1. Launching the Old-Growth Strategic Review panel and committing to its recommendations.
2. Putting together the science team, or Technical Advisory Panel (TAP), to identify the most at-risk old-growth ecosystems as priority deferral areas.
3. Implementing deferrals on almost half of the most at-risk areas identified by TAPs.

The BC NDP under Eby then made 3 major commitments, which I am particularly grateful to you for after I had a chance to chat with you on what we believed was needed a year ago (THANK YOU!!).

Premier Eby committed to:

1. Adopt the federal/ international protected area target of 30% by 2030 for BC (basically doubling protected areas from 15% to 30% of the province). This is a massive positive game-changer, as it took 100 years to get the first 15% protected, and to do the same in 7 years would be unprecedented - and much needed.
2. Undertaking a conservation financing mechanism to support First Nations for new Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCA's), which they will announce soon I understand, with major federal and private sector support too. This is the key driver to actually save ecosystems.
3. Protect the most biodiverse areas (which we interpret as juxtaposed to the typical emphasis on protecting alpine and subalpine landscapes with relatively little timber value), including by moving potentially to develop ecosystem-based targets for protected areas and forest management via a new Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework.

These are major and vital policy commitments that we believe will result in a massive expansion of protected areas and increased old-growth protection in the near future, with some gaps/loopholes that must be closed still.

The keys at this point are to ensure that the 1. forthcoming conservation financing funds go largely to support First Nations sustainable businesses (in tourism, clean energy, sustainable seafood, non-timber forest products, value-added second-growth forestry) as alternatives to their old-growth logging dependency (otherwise the primary barrier against old-growth protection will remain), and 2. that the funding is tied to deferrals and protection of the most at-risk old-growth types identified by TAPs and



also to future ecosystem-based protected areas targets that must be identified by a new provincial Chief Ecologist and science/ Traditional Ecological Knowledge committees. In addition, we have concerns that weak conservation regulations (like Old-Growth Management Areas and Wildlife Habitat Areas, which can often be moved around and/or logged) and new, flexitarian "protected areas" that are not truly protected, will be counted in the progress towards BC's targets, instead of primarily new Provincial Conservancies, Parks, Ecological Reserves and other designations with the standards and permanency of genuine protected areas.

An analogy I am developing on how progress for old-growth protection happens - that I need to get out there soon - is that on the ground, First Nations are in the driver's seat for protected areas in their unceded territories. But they need the vehicle to ensure they can get to where we need to go - an ecological protected areas system and management regime for the most at-risk old-growth and ecosystems. The vehicle - the policy framework (eg. a provincial Protected Areas Strategy with a Chief Ecologist and ecosystem-based protection targets) and the funding - must be provided by the BC government, augmented by the feds and private sector, and in a timely manner. That is, the BC government can't unilaterally just save the old-growth - but has the responsibility to create the enabling conditions re. policy framework, legislated protection and funding, for First Nations to be able to protect old-growth forests in their territories.

I also understand the BC government needs to ensure the support of working class forestry-dependent communities in BC in order to continue to governing - something that can be done with a greater emphasis on supporting a modernized, smart, value-added, engineered second-growth wood products industry with incentives and regulations. This can include developing sectors like BC-manufactured pre-fabricated wood frame modular homes (that vastly reduces the cost of building new housing, can use second-growth, fire-damaged and low grade wood, and create major jobs and industries) and developing thermally-treated second-growth pine wood (which we have a plentiful supply of, and as done in New Zealand and Finland with their younger pines) to replicate the qualities of redcedar (I can fill you in on both of those at some point!).

Joining me if we can meet Premier Eby would be a supportive new leader of the Sierra Club of BC who is quite aligned with our positions, and also TJ Watt of the Ancient Forest Alliance, if possible.

Thank you most gratefully for your hard work on governing a large and complex province and for listening!!

Best wishes,

Ken Wu 250-514-9910

Executive Director, Endangered Ecosystems Alliance and Board Member and former Executive Director of the Ancient Forest Alliance



Reference: 274328

July 12, 2023

**VIA EMAIL:** [jens@sierraclub.bc.ca](mailto:jens@sierraclub.bc.ca)

TJ Watt, Campaigner and Photographer  
Ancient Forest Alliance

Liz McDowell, Senior Campaigns Director  
Stand.earth

Torrance Coste, National Campaign Director  
Wilderness Committee

Tegan Hansen, Senior Forest Campaigner  
Stand.earth

Jens Wieting, Senior Forest and Climate Campaigner  
Sierra Club BC

Dear TJ Watt, Liz McDowell, Torrance Coste, Tegan Hansen, Jens Wieting:

Thank you for your letter of April 19, 2023, regarding ongoing work to implement the recommendations of the Old Growth Strategic Review.

We understand that you met May 12, 2023, with Rick Manwaring, Deputy Minister of Forests, along with Lori Halls, Deputy Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, and received updates on old growth deferrals, the development of an old growth action plan, the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework, and conservation financing.

Both our ministries have committed to more frequent check-ins with Sierra Club, Ancient Forest Alliance, Wilderness Committee, and Stand.earth to share progress on these key initiatives. We understand that monthly check-in meetings have been scheduled, with Deputy Ministers leading calls every second month, while key ministry representatives – Norah White, Celine Davis, and Jillian Rousselle – lead calls on the months in between.

As discussed, the government has already taken several steps towards implementation of the Old Growth Strategic Review. These measures include:

- Holding 24 regional engagement sessions to gather input into the action plan and the biodiversity and ecosystem health framework that stemmed from the earlier Forums held in January and February;
- Holding six virtual day-long focused sessions on the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework;
- Continuing to move towards implementation of the eight recently announced Forest Landscape Planning (FLP) tables;

Page 1 of 2

- Investing \$8.9 million to co-develop and implement a Guardians Training Initiative, to support First Nations build the capability and capacity of their Guardians, who undertake a wide variety of stewardship activities on the land base; and
- Investing \$38 million for provincial LiDAR coverage.

The collaborative engagement on the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework is progressing, with active consideration of all the feedback shared at the forums, regional engagement sessions, the framework focused sessions, and written submissions such as your letter, in preparation for further dialogue with First Nations rights and title holders. It is expected that the framework will provide strategic direction for short term, medium term and longer term measures to prioritize for ecosystem health and conserve biodiversity.

The action plan is underway and on-track for completion by December 2023. We remain committed to respecting those who are directly affected, such as First Nations and local communities. For more information and regular updates, please visit the [Old Growth Forests](#) website for details about the work underway and latest news on how the Province of British Columbia is taking action.

Again, thank you for writing and we look forward to continuing our discussions.

Sincerely,



Bruce Ralston  
Minister  
Ministry of Forests

Nathan Cullen  
Minister  
Ministry of Water, Land  
and Resource Stewardship

pc: Rick Manwaring, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Forests  
Lori Halls, Deputy Minister, Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship  
David Muter, Assistant Deputy Minister, Land Use Policy, Planning and Ecosystems  
Division, Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship  
Shane Berg, Assistant Deputy Minister and Chief Forester, Ministry of Forests  
Jillian Rousselle, Executive Lead, Forest Renewal Initiative, Ministry of Forests  
Julie MacDougall, Executive Director, Strategic Initiatives, Provincial Old Growth  
Strategy  
Brian Bawtinheimer, Executive Director, Provincial Stewardship Strategies and  
Planning, Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship  
Norah White, Executive Director, Provincial Old Growth Strategy  
Celine Davis, A/Executive Director, Ecosystems Branch, Ministry of Water, Land  
and Resource Stewardship  
TJ Watt, Campaigner and Photographer, Ancient Forest Alliance  
Jens Wieting, Senior Forest and Climate Campaigner, Sierra Club BC  
Torrance Coste, National Campaign Director, Wilderness Committee  
Liz McDowell, Senior Campaigns Director, Stand.earth  
Tegan Hansen, Senior Forest Campaigner, Stand.earth



## MEETING BULLETS

**DATE:** April 5, 2023

**PREPARED FOR:** Minister Ralston, Ministry of Forests  
Minister Cullen, Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

**REGARDING:** April 5, 2023, meeting with the Sierra Club, Ancient Forest Alliance, Wilderness Committee and Stand.earth regarding implementation of Old Growth Strategic Review recommendations

**INTRODUCTIONS:** Ian Thomas, TJ Watt, Ancient Forest Alliance  
Shelley Luce, Jens Wieting, Sierra Club BC  
Liz McDowell, Stand Earth  
Torrance Coste, Wilderness Committee

### STRATEGIC CONSIDERATION AND MESSAGES:

- The province is committed to implementing the Old Growth Strategic Review (OGSR) recommendations.
- As part of that, the province remains committed to 1) deferring 2.6 million hectares of priority old growth by Fall 2023; 2) releasing a Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework by June 2023; and 3) co-developing, with First Nations, the Old Growth Strategic Action Plan by December 2023.
- A month ago, the premier announced new measures to accelerate work to protect old growth.
  - \$25 million for new Forest Landscape Planning (FLP) tables
  - Increasing Indigenous participation in co-developing changes to forest policy through \$2.4 million provided to the First Nations Forestry Council
  - Developing and implementing alternatives to clear-cutting practices that better support forest resiliency, ecosystem health and climate adaptation, through a new \$10-million silviculture innovation program
  - Repealing outdated wording in the *Forest and Range Practices Act* regulations that prioritizes timber supply over all other forest objectives, like water quality, wildlife habitat and biodiversity
  - Protecting more old-growth forests and biodiverse areas by developing a new conservation financing mechanism to be set up within six months; and

- Completing the Old Growth Strategic Action Plan by the end of 2023, to be developed in collaboration with First Nations and in consultation with stakeholders.
- We are making steady progress on the implementation of the OGSR. It was never intended to be fully implemented within 3 years. This was the timeline suggested by the authors to begin the work, not complete it. Work is well underway on several fronts.
- As discussed at the March 22 meeting with Deputy Minister Rick Manwaring and Deputy Minister Lori Halls, their Ministries will provide more frequent check-ins with this group of ENGO organizations.

#### BACKGROUND:

- The OGSR Action Plan will chart the path forward by including fundamentals such as a shared vision and priorities, key actions, and timelines for implementation.
- Collaboration and engagement on the action plan is underway.
  - Jan-Feb 2023: two provincial multi-sectoral forums held, first with First Nations only, and then with First Nations, Indigenous groups, and key stakeholders, including these ENGOs.
  - Mar-May 2023: 26 regional workshops with First Nations and key stakeholders, including ENGOs, are being held both virtually and in person in communities across BC.
- A B.C. Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework that will apply to all ecosystems and all sectors is being co-developed with First Nations and is expected to be completed in June 2023.
- Harvest deferrals have been implemented on approximately 2.1M ha of at-risk old growth in response to OGSR Recommendation 6.
- s. 16
- Deferrals have been extended in the Spuzzum and Utzilius watersheds to provide protected habitat for the endangered Northern spotted owl.
- On March 22, this group of ENGOs met with Deputy Ministers Rick Manwaring and Lori Halls to discuss implementation of Old Growth Strategic Review recommendations:
  - The group expressed that they were encouraged by the province's commitment of 30% protection of BC's land base by 2030, as the new measures on old growth announced on February 15.
  - Ongoing concerns and requests raised were:
    - Immediate funding for First Nations is needed to allow them to implement the deferrals.

- a provincial contribution to the new Conservation Financing Mechanism is required.
- The 2.6 million hectares needs to be full implementation of the TAP and contain high-quality old growth forests.

**Attachments:**

s. 13, s. 16

**PREPARED BY:**

Andrea Coulter  
A/Manager  
Provincial Old Growth Strategy  
778-405-2091

**REVIEWED BY:**

	Initials	Date
DM	RM	April 3, 2023
Associate DM		
ADM	SB	March 31, 2023
Program Dir/Mgr.	TR	March 16, 2023

s. 13, s. 16













## BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

October 17, 2023

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable Bruce Ralston, Minister of Forests

**ISSUE:** Preliminary summary of the old growth impacted by 2023 wildfires

### BACKGROUND:

- As of October 10, 2023, **more than 2.8 million hectares** of land have been affected by wildfires.
- Preliminary estimates indicate **94 million cubic metres** of timber volume has been burned.
- Using current average harvest rates, this is equivalent to **almost two years** of allowable annual cut.

#### Old Growth Impacted

- The preliminary estimated area of old growth burned is **245,922 hectares**, which equates to **2.2 percent of the total old-growth** area in the province.
- The preliminary estimated volume of old growth burned is **26.8 million cubic metres**, which equates to **0.8 percent of the total old-growth volume** in the province.

#### Old-growth Deferrals Impacted

- The preliminary estimated area of deferred old growth burned is **77,518 hectares**, which equates to **3.3 percent of the total deferred old-growth area** in the province.
- The preliminary estimated volume of deferred old growth burned is **8.3 million cubic metres**, which is **1.5 percent of the total old growth deferral volume**.

### DISCUSSION:

- The preliminary estimated area of old growth burned in 2023 is **six times the area of old growth harvested annually** in each of 2020 and in 2021.
- Completion of burn assessments is anticipated in November, at which time impact figures will be refined.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

- The summary of wildfire impacts on the provincial timber supply will be assessed once burn assessments are complete.

### SUMMARY:

- **The estimated area of old growth burned in 2023 is 245,922 hectares, which equates to 2.2 percent of the total old-growth area in the province. This is approximately six times the area of old growth harvested annually in each of 2020 and in 2021.**

**PREPARED BY:**

Jim Brown  
Director  
Forest Analysis and Inventory Branch  
236-478-261

**REVIEWED BY:**

	Initials	Date
DM		
a/DM	EOD	Oct 24, 2023
ADM	SB	Oct 19, 2023
E.D.	AN	Oct 17, 2023











## BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

**DATE:** October 19, 2023

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable David Eby, Premier of British Columbia  
Honourable Nathan Cullen, Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship,  
Honourable Bruce Ralston, Minister of Forests  
Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change  
Strategy  
Aman Singh, Parliamentary Secretary for Environment

**ISSUE:** Briefing on Conservation Financing Mechanism, Forest Landscape Planning and Old Growth Announcement

### KEY POINTS:

- Through a unique public-private partnership with the BC Parks Foundation, \$300-million has been committed to improve biodiversity, promote climate resiliency, and galvanize interest in conservation financing in BC.
- The Province is contributing \$150 million to the BC Parks Foundation, which has committed to matching with an additional \$150 million. An announcement for these financial commitments is planned for October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023 with an announcement/update on the Old Growth Strategy.
- The Province is also advancing 5 new Forest Landscape Planning initiatives that will transform how BC's forests are managed to better involve First Nations and communities in how forests are managed.

### BACKGROUND:

- As part of the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS) mandate letter, there is a commitment to develop a new Conservation Financing Mechanism (CFM) to support the protection of biodiverse areas across the province, with support from the Ministries of Forests and Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation, and the Parliamentary Secretary for Environment.
- Conservation financing involves raising and managing funds from public, private, and non-profit donors for the purposes of supporting conservation initiatives over land or marine areas. Conservation financing relies on partnerships between these organizations, government, and First Nations to identify and designate areas for protection and conservation.
- The funding that has been secured will support First Nations-led conservation initiatives across the province and will be a critical component of advancing Land Use Planning, Forest Landscape Planning and Water Sustainability Planning, with First Nations.
- The funding will help advance the implementation of a provincial CFM, a model that will encourage cooperation and collaboration between environmental non-governmental organizations (ENGOs) and philanthropic organizations operating to advance First Nations-led conservation. The model is designed to leverage the Province's investment by encouraging philanthropic contributions from third parties to support a variety of conservation and stewardship initiatives.
  - Funding will also support a range of activities related to conservation, including planning, habitat protection, restoration, tenure retirement, stewardship and guardianship, and support for low-carbon economic activity.
- A total of <sup>s. 17</sup> in funding was secured from Treasury Board for both <sup>s. 12, s. 17</sup>, \$60-million in funding for Coastal First Nations

and the Great Bear Sea, \$15-million for the Nature Conservancy of Canada to conserve Bunchgrass Hills Conservancy Area and the broader province-wide CFM (\$150-million).

- s. 12, s. 13, s. 16

Announcement for Bunchgrass Hills Conservation Area took place earlier this spring and it expected the Coast First Nations funding will be announced in early December.

- 
- In February 2023, the Ministry of Forests announced \$25-million in funding to support eight new regional forest landscape plans (FLPs). The locations of five of these FLPs have now been confirmed, in partnership with local First Nations, with work underway on establishing more:
  - Bulkley Valley
  - 100 Mile House
  - Williams Lake
  - Campbell River East
  - Campbell River West

#### **DISCUSSION:**

- An announcement on the provincial-scale CFM is planned for October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 12:30pm. Event and communication materials are included in the briefing materials.

#### **INDIGENOUS PEOPLES:**

- Announcing the provincial CFM will allow engagement and consultation to take place with First Nations respecting the governance and structure of the fund, as well as guidance on an approach for allocating the funding to First Nations. A separate Strategic Oversight Committee for the Fund will be established and will be composed of a majority representation from First Nations
- Individual First Nations were not consulted as part of the request for funding from Treasury Board. FNLC technical staff were briefed throughout the design process and the FNLC political executive received further details respecting the CFM were provided on August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023. FNLC technical staff have reviewed some briefing materials on the work of CFM thus far, including next steps for First Nations' involvement, the role of the oversight committee and how it will be formed.
- Minister Nathan Cullen has discussed the CFM with FNLC's political leadership in August and has also provided some details at the fall assemblies (Assembly of First Nations, Union of BC Indian Chiefs and First Nations Summit). Minister Cullen followed up with providing high-level information at the recent assemblies of the BC AFN, UBCIC and FNS, and sent a letter to the FNLC with further detail (see attached CFM overview) and an invitation to the announcement on October 26, 2023.
- The Ministry of Forests is working to partner with local First Nations on each FLP and ensure that communities are also involved in how their forests are managed. As a result of significant collaboration between First Nations, the forest industry and the Province, deferrals have now been implemented on approximately 2.4 million hectares of old growth in BC, including 1.23 million hectares of the most at-risk old growth identified by the Old Growth Technical Advisory Panel.

#### **NEXT STEPS:**

- Following the announcement, BC Parks Foundation will begin engaging and consulting with First Nations on the implementation of the Fund, including through the establishment of a Strategic Oversight Committee, which will be at least half First Nation, including the Chair or Co-Chair.
- Engagement with First Nation title and rights holders will be planned in the coming months to gain input on the application process for accessing and leveraging this funding.

**Attachments:**

- CFM Overview

**PREPARED BY:**

Rebecca Freedman,  
Director of Legislation  
RNRS Strategic Policy and Legislation  
(778) 698-4862

**REVIEWED BY:**

	Initials	Date
DM	LH	October 24, 2023
FOR a/DM	EOD	October 23, 2023
ADM	CW	October 23, 2023
Program Dir/Mgr.	MG	October 20, 2023

















# Conservation Financing

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Oct 17, 2023

CONFIDENTIAL

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# Purpose

The Province has granted \$150M to the BC Parks Foundation to hold as the custodial organization, which will establish a Conservation Financing Fund that will:

- Support the protection of biodiverse areas, including implementation of area-based conservation initiatives in B.C., such as Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs), from the pre-planning stage through to ongoing stewardship/guardianship and management of new conservation areas
- Support sustainable management of old growth forests, which can include areas that are managed to retain old growth and wildlife habitat attributes and to manage for ecosystem resiliency

The Fund includes stipulations to ensure the approach to this work is consistent with the UN Declaration and which promotes First Nations' governance or co-governance, including First Nation-led conservation



# Grant Agreement Stipulations



- The Grant will be used to establish a dedicated Fund
- The custodial organization (BC Parks Foundation) must establish a Strategic Oversight Committee to provide recommendations on the Fund's implementation
  - A minimum of half of the committee members, including the Chair or Co-Chair, will be First Nations individuals
  - Includes an ex-officio provincial government representative
- A staff secretariate will be formed dedicated to operation of the Fund
- BCPF will collaborate where possible with other donors/service delivery supports to maximize the leverage potential of the fund
- s. 16



# Criteria for Eligible Initiatives

Area-based conservation initiatives supported by the Fund will:

- Align with a G2G agreement related to land use or forest landscape planning
- Be led by or have the free, prior and informed consent of First Nations' title and rights holders or delegated First Nation Organizations
- Advance the goals of 30 by 30
- Protect ecosystem health in working forests
- Lead to durable conservation designations and meaningful conservation and support the ongoing stewardship of conserved or protected areas
- Demonstrate availability of matching funds



# Eligible Fund Use

- **Capacity development and process costs** related to negotiating conservation agreements
- **Restoration and climate change mitigation work** to support biodiversity and ecosystem health
- **Data collection and analysis**
- **Educational and communications activities** that advance support for biodiversity protection in B.C.
- The ongoing **stewardship** of conserved or protected areas, including activities through First Nations Guardians programs
- **First Nation-led economic opportunities**





# Key Outcomes



- Protection of biological and ecological diversity in B.C. and advancement of B.C.'s 30 by 30 goal in a manner consistent with the UN Declaration
- Promotes First Nations governance or co-governance including First Nation-led conservation
- Increases collaboration among third-parties to catalyze conservation financing
- Development of conservation-based low-carbon economic opportunities
- Alignment with existing G2G conservation and/or stewardship initiatives

# Announcement and Next Steps



- Announcement of this new funding for a provincial-scale Conservation Financing Mechanism planned for Oct 19<sup>th</sup> with old growth strategy update
- Once publicly announced, engagement and consultation can take place with First Nations respecting governance and structure of the Fund



## NATURAL RESOURCE SECTOR – JOINT MINISTRY INFORMATION NOTE

Date: October 10, 2023

Date of previous note: April 20, 2022

CLIFF: 59676

**PREPARED FOR:**

- Honourable Murray Rankin, Minister of Indigenous Relations & Reconciliation
- Honourable Bruce Ralston, Minister of Forests
- Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
- Honourable Nathan Cullen, Minister of Water, Lands, and Resource Stewardship

**REGARDING:** S'ólh Téméxw Stewardship Alliance (STSA) – British Columbia (BC) Government-to-Government (G2G) Executive Meeting 2023

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### BACKGROUND:

Pronunciation: S'ólh Téméxw (sul-TA-muck)

The S'ólh Téméxw Stewardship Alliance (STSA) is a partnership of 17 Stó:lō First Nations (up from 15 communities in FY21-22) located in the mid to upper Fraser Valley (Attachment 2, STSA-BC Participant List). STSA has two agreements with the Province, a Strategic Engagement Agreement (SEA) and a Collaborative Stewardship Forum (CSF) enabling agreement. Both agreements involve five BC ministries (IRR, FOR, EMLCI, WLRS, ENV). Minister Rankin serves as co-chair of the Government-to-Government (G2G) Executive Committee alongside Chief Angie Bailey of Aitchelitz First Nation.

The seventh annual G2G Executive Committee meeting will be held in-person on October 10, 2023 at the The'í:tseliya - S.A.Y. (Skowkale, Aitchelitz, Yakweakwioose) Health and Community Building in Chilliwack (Attachment 3, Agenda). Attendees will include leadership and staff from STSA and participating ministries. Ministers Rankin, Ralston, Heyman, and Cullen have confirmed attendance.

This year's meeting will include staff presentations highlighting accomplishments and future goals under the STSA-BC SEA, CSF, and Guardians programs. The presentation will be followed by a leadership discussion on several key topics and priorities identified by STSA (details below).

### PART 1 - STAFF PRESENTATION SESSION (AGENDA ITEM 2)

#### Strategic Engagement Agreement: performance, accomplishments, upcoming initiatives

The STSA-BC SEA (launched in 2012) was co-developed with STSA Nations and participating ministries to streamline the consultation referral process and improve collaboration on land and resource management. The People of the River Referrals Office (PRRO) is the STSA technical group established to support implementation of the SEA.

Following past custom, PRRO will review performance highlights from the past year. Overall performance remains positive with a few areas for improvement, such as:

- Reporting of statutory decisions to the PRRO (“Closing the Loop”): The PRRO has raised post-decision reporting as an ongoing concern. In July 2023, staff from the Ministry of Forests (FOR) met with the PRRO to discuss an approach for resolving 336 outstanding statutory decisions from the 2014-2020 period as a step in addressing this matter.
- Misalignment of pre-requisites between the STSA and the Heritage Conservation Act: The PRRO and the Province’s Archaeology Branch (FOR) continue to address permitting gaps and are working to identify workable solutions.

Among accomplishments, BC staff and PRRO are finalizing a SEA amendment that would include:

- Official addition of New First Nations: STSA will officially announce the addition of Seabird Island and Shxw’ōwhámel who joined STSA in Fall 2022 and are already using the SEA referral process through PRRO.
- Expanded Provincial Participation: BC Environmental Assessment Office will be joining as a Provincial agency and BC Hydro will be joining the SEA via an agreement addendum.
- Good News - Funding Uplift: STSA’s current funding [s. 16, s. 17](#). In addition, in July 2023 STSA was approved for a [s. 16, s. 17](#) uplift to deal with increased membership, referrals, and inflation. These amounts combined bring the total annual SEA funding to \$2.1 million per year for FY24-FY26.

Looking ahead, STSA would like to investigate expanding the SEA to include:

- Ministry of Transportation Infrastructure (MOTI): Acting on past requests, MIRR investigated adding MOTI under the current SEA amendment, but STSA asked that these discussions be moved to FY25 due to capacity draws from Trans-Mountain Pipeline (TMX) construction.
- Ministry of Agriculture and Food (MAF): MAF is open to joining the SEA.
- Local governments: The STSA would like to investigate ways to facilitate referrals from local governments to be more consistent with that of provincial and federal agencies.

### **Collaborative Stewardship Forum and Guardians: accomplishments, current initiatives**

Initiated in 2018-19, the STSA-BC CSF is one of five Collaborative Stewardship Forums in the Province, with the intent of enabling provincial ministries and Indigenous groups to collaboratively explore responsibility for environmental stewardship and resource management decisions. It has the most projects, agencies, and participating Indigenous communities among the stewardship forums established to date.

The STSA-BC CSF now in its 6<sup>th</sup> year, with approximately 40 projects organized under the following themes: 1) Government-to-Government (G2G) Organizational Structure & Relations, 2) S’ólh Téméxw Integrity Analysis, 3) Land Use Planning, 4) Cultural Site Protection, 5) Monitoring & Enforcement, 6) Resource Revenue Sharing, 7) Stó:lō Youth and Cultural Education Directive, and 8) Climate Change.

In 2022-23, significant staff turnover and recruitment challenges by both the STSA and BC, combined with STSA workload related to the TMX pipeline construction, resulted in reduced capacity to deliver CSF projects. Continued success of the CSF will require balanced staff resourcing between both partners. The CSF workplan will benefit from a focused effort on a few projects of high shared priority, while ensuring project pacing is consistent with the needs of member communities.



Highlights of the STSA-BC CSF include:

- Approval of long-term CISC Mandate: The Collaborative Indigenous Stewardship Framework (CISC) and associated Forums received a long-term mandate from Cabinet (Environment and Land Use Committee) in October 2022. STSA CSF members contributed to the submission to Cabinet, which included continued expansion of the Forum model, expansion of the Cumulative Effects Framework, and continued support for Guardians.
- Funding Uplift: In line with the long-term CISC mandate, the STSA-BC CSF Forum received \$1,500,000 in funding from BC for FY2023-24, an uplift from \$1,000,000 for FY2022-23.
- Participation in CISC Governance Working Group Executive (GWGE): STSA staff and leadership participate in the CISC Governance Working Group Executive (GWGE) and have been instrumental in helping to shape the future direction of collaborative stewardship.
- Guardians Funding and Training: WLRS announced funding for training and education related to Guardians in April 2023. STSA and other CISC Nations are currently working in the Guardians Working Group to collaboratively identify training and education pathways, with the goal of delivering funding in 2024-25.

Future goals for the STSA-BC CSF include:

- Skagit Headwaters Protection Planning: In 2023-24, the STSA-BC CSF is looking to further the shared conservation vision for Skagit Headwaters / Silver Daisy (the unprotected “donut hole” area surrounded by EC Manning and Skagit Valley Provincial Parks), a premier-level commitment. Moving towards protection of this area will include collaboration with First Nations outside of the CSF.
- Old Growth and Ecosystem Protections: The STSA-BC CSF will be developing its local approach to implementation of the Old Growth Strategic Review Action Plan and the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Action Plan. This will include linkages to collaborative planning projects that are occurring directly with First Nations, as well as collaboration on the Timber Supply Review recently initiated by the Chilliwack Natural Resource District.
- Tripartite Discussions surrounding Wildlife and Fish Health: An emerging area of opportunity for CSF collaboration is the integration of BC, Canada, and STSA priorities for the conservation of fish and species at risk. Areas of focus include adaptive management to support recovery of the Spotted Owl, optimizing protection of species at risk and indigenous values through the Conservation of Species, Ecosystems, and Indigenous Values in S'ólh Téméxw (COVIST) project, and fish habitat restoration and recreation management through the Gill Bar Restoration and Management Project.

## **PART 2 - LEADERSHIP DISCUSSION SESSIONS (AGENDA ITEMS 3-4)**

This year's G2G Executive meeting includes two discussions sessions intended to “lay out steps and a pathway of Recognizing Rights and Reconciling Relations.”

STSA has identified an extensive list of topics and interests that they anticipate raising in the sessions. These include some of the priorities described earlier, as well as some new topics. To inform provincial input, staff have prepared a detailed “Discussion Document” summarizing each anticipated topic and possible opportunities or key messages (Attachment 7), along with a condensed list of key messages per ministry (Attachment 8).

## MINISTRY KEY MESSAGES:

Below are some base key messages pertaining to the SEA, CSF, and a future pathway. Additional topic-specific key messages are provided in the Attachment 7 – Discussion Document.

- STSA SEA funding uplift: We recognize the extensive community and cross-Nation coordination required to meaningfully respond to referrals, and we are pleased that the Province could meet the STSA's request for a SEA funding uplift (now \$2.1 million annually).
- STSA SEA amendment: We encourage prioritizing the completion of the SEA amendment so we can formally add Shxw'ōwhámél and Seabird Island First Nations and launch SEA processes with EAO and BC Hydro.
- Expanding SEA membership: MOTI has reaffirmed their readiness to discuss potential participation in the SEA; and MIRR is willing to support dialogue with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and local governments within capacity.
- Long-term CISF mandate: We recognize STSA's contribution in helping to secure the long-term mandate for the Collaborative Indigenous Stewardship Framework and we are pleased that the STSA-BC CSF received a substantial funding uplift this year (now \$1,500,000).
- STSA Guardians: We view Guardians as integral to implementing collaborative stewardship in a way that furthers reconciliation. We are keen to support STSA Guardians to expand on training and enhance co-delivery of monitoring and enforcement activities with BC agencies.
- Leveraging STSA/BC/Canada relationship: We are keen to further enhance our tripartite relationships within initiatives such as the Gill Bar Restoration and Management Project, and as part of adaptive management efforts to support recovery of the Spotted Owl.

### Briefing Package Content:

1. Briefing Note
2. STSA First Nations / Meeting Participant list
3. Agenda
4. Annotated Agenda
5. Minister Rankin Opening Remarks
6. Minister Cullen Opening Remarks
7. Discussion Document
8. Key Messages

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### Prepared by:

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### REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM, MIRR		
ADM, MIRR, NROD		
Program Dir/Mgr. (RD)		

## Attachment 2

### Participants List - G2G EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING – 2023-24 FISCAL

#### S'ÓLH TÉMÉXW STEWARDSHIP ALLIANCE – BC SEA & CSF

Date: October 10, 2023; Time: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

PROVINCIAL MINISTERS AND STAFF	Affiliation	In-person	Virtual
1. Minister Murray Rankin, G2G Co-chair	Provincial Gov. – MIRR	X	
2. Minister George Heyman	Provincial Gov. – ENV	X	
3. Minister Bruce Ralston	Provincial Gov. – FOR	X	
4. Minister Nathan Cullen	Provincial Gov. – WLRS	X	
5. Political Staff to Minister Rankin	Provincial Gov. – MIRR	X	
6. Political Staff to Minister Heyman	Provincial Gov. – ENV	X	
7. Political Staff to Minister Ralston	Provincial Gov. – FOR	X	
8. Political Staff to Minister Cullen	Provincial Gov. – WLRS	X	
STSA LEADERSHIP	Affiliation / STSA First Nation	In-person	Virtual
1. Chief Angie Bailey, G2G Co-chair, Political spokesperson for the STSA	Āthelets (Aitchelitz)/Ts'elxwéyeqw Tribe	X	
2. Councillor Rhoda Peters	Chowéthel (Chawathil) First Nation/STSA	X	
3. Darwin Douglas (for Chief Andrew Victor)	Xwchiyó:m (Cheam) First Nation/STSA	X	
4. Chief Randy Leon	Kwaw'Kwaw'Apilt First Nation/STSA		
5. Councillor Rod Peters	Seabird Island First Nation/STSA	TBC	
6. Councillor Paul Andrew	Seabird Island First Nation/STSA		
7. Chief Joey Chapman	Sq'éwlets (Scowlitz) First Nation/STSA	TBC	
8. Chief Maureen Chapman	Sq'éwá:lxw (Skawahlook) FN/STSA		
9. Councillor Debra Schneider	Sq'éwá:lxw (Skawahlook) FN/STSA	X	
10. Chief Lara Mussell	Sqwá (Skwah) First Nation/STSA	TBC	
11. Councillor Eddie Gardner	Sqwá (Skwah) First Nation/STSA	X	
12. Chief Mark Point	Sq'éwqéyl (Skowkale) First Nation/STSA	X	
13. Chief Robert Gladstone	Shxwá:y (Skway) Village/STSA	X	
14. Si:yá:m Irene Smith	Shxw'ówhámél/STSA	X	
15. Chief Brenda Wallace	Th'éwá:li (Soowahlie) First Nation/STSA	TBC	
16. Chief Dalton Silver	Semá:th (Sumas) First Nation/STSA	X	
17. Councillor Chris Silver	Semá:th (Sumas) First Nation/STSA	X	
18. Chief David Jimmie	Sxwoyehá:lá (Squiala) First Nation/STSA	X	
19. Chief Derek Epp	Ch'iyáqtel (Tzeachten) First Nation/STSA	TBC	
20. Councillor Loren Muth	Ch'iyáqtel (Tzeachten) First Nation/STSA	X	
21. Chief Terry Horne	Yeqwyeqwi:ws (Yakweakwoose) FN/STSA		
22. Chief Troy Peters	Yale First Nation	TBC	
SRRMC/PRRO STAFF	Affiliation	In-person	Virtual
1. David Schaepe; SRRMC Director/ STSA General Mgr.	STSA & SRRMC	X	
2. Matt McGinity; PRRO Manager	STSA-PRRO - SRRMC	X	
3. Jillian Spies; Project Coordinator	SRRMC - Stó:lō Research and Res. Man. Centre	X	
4. Jamie Benton; Manager, SRRMC	SRRMC - Stó:lō Research and Res. Man. Centre	X	
5. Karen Brady; Land Stewardship Unit Manager, SRRMC	SRRMC - Stó:lō Research and Res. Man. Centre	X	
6. Tara Green	SRRMC - Stó:lō Research and Res. Man. Centre	X	
7. Keri Ardell, Executive Director, TTML	Ts'elxwéyeqw Tribe Management Ltd.	X	
8. James Leon, Lands / Governance	Sq'éwlets First Nation	X	
9. Phillipa Dutt. Lands / Governance	Semá:th First Nation	X	



10. Janice Parsey, Inter-gov. Relations	Seabird Island First Nation	X	
11. Pete Andrews, Lands Mgr.	Shxw'ōwhámél First Nation	X	
12. Additional staff – Guardians / Env-CSF approx. 5-6	SRRMC / other FN organizations	X	
13. Additional staff – Guardians / Env-CSF	SRRMC / other FN organizations	X	
14. Additional staff – Guardians / Env-CSF	SRRMC / other FN organizations	X	
15. Additional staff – Guardians / Env-CSF	SRRMC / other FN organizations	X	
16. Additional staff – Guardians / Env-CSF	SRRMC / other FN organizations	X	
<b>PROVINCIAL AGENCY STAFF</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>In-person</b>	<b>Virtual</b>
1. Yvette Lizée, Regional Director	MIRR – South Coast	X	
2. Samantha Jung, Resource Coordination Officer	MIRR – South Coast	X	
3. Dave Richmond, Regional Director, South Coast	ENV – BC Parks	X	
4. Dawn Smith, Planning Section Head	ENV – BC Parks	X	
5. Rob Wilson, Protected Area Section Head	ENV – BC Parks	X	
6. Jessica Ruskin, Director Arch Branch	Forests – Arch Branch		X
7. Allan Johnsrude, Regional Ex. Director	Forests – Surrey Regional office	X	
8. Kevin Chisholm, Manager, FN Strategic Initiatives	Forests – Surrey Regional office	X	
9. Carissa Logue, Resource Manager	Forests – Chilliwack District office	X	
10. Cat Charman, Land and Resource Specialist	Forests – Chilliwack District office	X	
11. Ted White; Ex. Director, Integrated Resource. Op.	Forests – Integrated Resources Operations		X
12. Todd Monge, Operations Manager	Forests – BCTS		X
13. Joshua Malt; Director, Strategic Initiatives	WLRS - Land Use Policy, Planning and Ecosystems	X	
14. Matthew LeRoy, Ex. Director, Coast	WLRS - Land Use Policy, Planning and Ecosystems	X	
15. Shawn Reed; Director Collaborative Indigenous Stewardship Framework	WLRS - Land Use Policy, Planning and Ecosystems	X	
<b>OBSERVERS</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>In-person</b>	<b>Virtual</b>
1. Megan Fisher, Project Analyst	Environmental Assessment Office (EAO)		X
2. Charlene Mortensen, Project Assessment Officer	Environmental Assessment Office (EAO)		X
3. Theresa Marion	CIRNAC – Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada	X	
4. Ashley Blom	CIRNAC – Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada	X	
5. Andrea MacLeod	Vancouver Fraser Port Authority (VFPA)	X	
6. Philip Van Huizen	Vancouver Fraser Port Authority (VFPA)	X	
7. Martin McKay	Transport Canada (TC)	X	
8. Toke Adams	Transport Canada (TC)	X	
9. Cindy Hubbard	Transport Canada (TC)	X	
10. Iwona Mazurek	Transport Canada (TC)	X	
11. Shannon Potter	Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC)	X	
12. Regina Wright	Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC)	X	
13. Rachel Elliott	Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)		X
14. Deepshika Kelkar	Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)		X
15. Danielle Prevost	Min. of Env and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)	TBC	
16. Jenna Bedore	Min. of Env and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)	TBC	
<b>TOTAL ATTENDEES</b>		<b>In-person</b>	<b>Virtual</b>
Total FN/PRRP/STSA Leadership and Staff:		<b>28</b>	<b>0</b>
Total Provincial Ministers and Staff:		<b>20</b>	<b>3</b>
Total Observers:		<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>58</b>	<b>7</b>



# AGENDA

## S'ÓLH TÉMÉXW STEWARDSHIP ALLIANCE – BC G2G EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING 2023/24 FISCAL

**Date:** October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
**Time** 10:00 am - 3:00 pm (with 1-hour break: 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm)  
**Location:** The'í:tseliya - S.A.Y. Health and Community Building, 7256 Chilliwack River Road, Chilliwack, BC  
**Teams Link:** [Click here to join the meeting](#)  
**Co-Chairs:** STSA: Chief Angie Bailey, Aitchelitz First Nation / Ts'elxwéyeqw Tribe / SRRMC  
Province: Minister Murray Rankin, Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR)  
**Ministers:** Minister Rankin (MIRR), Minister Cullen (WLRS), Minister Ralston (FOR), & Minister Heyman (ENV)

Time	Agenda Item	Lead
10:00 am	<b>1. Welcome and Introductions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome and Opening Prayer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introductions</li> <li>Logistics</li> </ul> </li> <li>Review Meeting Agenda</li> <li>Opening Remarks – Chief Bailey, Minister Rankin, Minister Cullen</li> </ul>	<b>Co-Chairs:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chief Angie Bailey,</li> <li>Minister Murray Rankin</li> </ul> <b>Facilitators throughout meeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dave Schaepe, STSA/SRRMC</li> <li>Yvette Lizée, MIRR</li> <li>Josh Malt, WLRS</li> </ul>
10:30 am	<b>2. Presentations - Where Are We Now?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>After 11 Years: Three Interconnected Arenas (STSA)</li> <li>Strategic Engagement Agreement (SEA)</li> <li>The Collaborative Stewardship Forum (CSF)</li> <li>S'ólh Téméxw Guardians Program</li> </ul>	<b>Overview remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dave Schaepe, STSA</li> </ul> <b>SEA</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Matt McGinity, STSA</li> <li>Samantha Jung, MIRR</li> </ul> <b>CSF</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jillian Spies, STSA</li> <li>Josh Malt, WLRS</li> </ul> <b>Guardians</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Karen Brady, STSA</li> <li>Josh Malt, WLRS</li> </ul>
11:15 am	<b>3. Overview of Areas of Interest for Leadership Discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of Actions from 2022 G2G Executive meeting</li> </ul> <b>Overview of New Discussion Items</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>G3 Relations with STSA-BC-Canada on fish and species at risk</li> <li>Adding authorities to STSA Guardians</li> <li>Declaration Act Sections 6 and 7: joint decision-making</li> <li>Climate Change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flood protection for Shxwhà:y Village,</li> <li>Fire protection strategy</li> <li>Water conservation and consumption</li> <li>Water runoff from roads, industry, agriculture into waterways</li> </ul> </li> <li>Provincial capacity issues and needs within the CSF</li> <li>Expanding SEA partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Re-engaging with MoTI</li> <li>BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food</li> <li>Relationships with Local Municipal Governments</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	BC and STSA Leadership, facilitated by: Dave Schaepe & Yvette Lizée
	<b>LUNCH (12:00pm - 1:00 pm)</b>	
1:00 pm	<b>4. Setting a Course of Action: Leadership Dialogue on Interests</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussion from the morning topics.</li> <li>Concluding discussion on any identified next steps.</li> </ul>	BC and STSA Leadership, facilitated by: Dave Schaepe & Yvette Lizée
2:45 pm	<b>5. Recap and Closing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of Action Items</li> <li>Concluding Remarks</li> <li>Closing Prayer/Song</li> </ul>	Minister Murray Rankin (Lead) Minister Nathan Cullen Chief Angie Bailey

## ATTACHMENT 4

# ANNOTATED AGENDA

### S'ÓLH TÉMÉXW STEWARDSHIP ALLIANCE – BC G2G EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING - 2023/24 FISCAL

**Date:** October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 10:00am-3:00pm (with 1-hour break: 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm)

**Teams link:** [Click here to join the meeting](#)

**Co-Chairs:** STSA: Chief Angie Bailey, Aitchelitz First Nation / Ts'elxwéyeqw Tribe / SRRMC  
Province: Minister Murray Rankin, Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR)

Time	Agenda Item	Annotated details	Lead
10:00 am	<b>1. Welcome and Introductions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome and Opening Prayer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introductions</li> <li>Logistics</li> </ul> </li> <li>Review Meeting Agenda</li> <li>Opening Remarks – Chief Bailey, Minister Rankin, Minister Cullen</li> </ul>	<p><b>Co-chairs will introduce themselves.</b></p> <p><b>Chief Angie Bailey (host) welcomes everyone</b> and calls meeting to order and invites.</p> <p><b>Chief Bailey will invite</b> the opening prayer.</p> <p><b>Introductions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Chief Bailey</b> will ask <b>STSA leadership (or designees)</b> to introduce themselves.</li> <li><b>Dave Schaepe</b> will introduce <b>key staff</b> attending for <b>STSA/PRRO</b>.</li> <li><b>Minister Rankin</b> introduces himself and asks <b>BC Ministers</b> to introduce themselves.</li> <li><b>Yvette Lizée</b> will introduce <b>Executive and Staff</b> attending for <b>BC ministries</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Chief Bailey</b> will invite <b>Dave Schaepe</b> to review Teams protocols and logistics.</p> <p><b>Chief Bailey</b> will review key topics in the agenda and outline the schedule for the day.</p> <p><b>Opening Remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chief Bailey to invite <b>Minister Rankin</b> to give opening remarks.</li> <li>Chief Bailey to invite <b>Minister Cullen</b> to give opening remarks.</li> <li><b>Chief Bailey</b> to give opening remarks.</li> </ul>	<p>Co-Chairs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chief Angie Bailey, STSA/ Aitchelitz First Nation/ Ts'elxwéyeqw Tribe</li> <li>Minister Murray Rankin, MIRR</li> </ul> <p>Facilitators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yvette Lizée, MIRR</li> <li>Josh Malt, WLRS</li> <li>Dave Schaepe, STSA/SRRMC</li> </ul>

## ATTACHMENT 4

# ANNOTATED AGENDA

Time	Agenda Item	Annotated details	Lead
10:30 am	<b>2. Presentations – Where Are We Now?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>After 11 Years: Three Interconnected Arenas (STSA)</li> <li>Strategic Engagement Agreement (SEA)</li> <li>The Collaborative Stewardship Forum (CSF)</li> <li>S'ólh Téméxw Guardians Program</li> </ul>	<p><b>Chief Angie Bailey</b> to invite Dave Schaepe to open the presentation session.</p> <p><b>Dave S</b>, to provide overview remarks to lead the session into presentations (5 min).</p> <p><b>Matt M</b> and <b>Samantha J</b> to share the SEA Presentation: background, activities, accomplishments (10 min).</p> <p><b>Jillian S</b> and <b>Josh M</b> to share the CSF presentation: background, activities, accomplishments. (10 min).</p> <p><b>Karen B</b> to share Guardians presentation: background, activities, accomplishments (10 min).</p>	<p><u>Overview remarks</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dave Schaepe, STSA</li> </ul> <p><u>SEA</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Matt McGinity, STSA</li> <li>- Samantha Jung, MIRR</li> </ul> <p><u>CSF</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Jillian Spie, STSA</li> <li>- Josh Malt, WLRS</li> </ul> <p><u>Guardians</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Karen Brady, STSA</li> <li>- Josh Malt, WLRS</li> </ul>
11:15 am	<b>3. Overview of Areas of Interest for Leadership Discussion</b> <p>Key Topics and Opportunities – Laying out Steps on a Pathway of Recognizing Rights and Reconciling Relations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of Actions from 2022 G2G Executive meeting</li> </ul> <p><u>Overview of New Discussion Items</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>G3 Relations with STSA-BC-Canada on fish and species at risk</li> <li>Adding authorities to STSA Guardians</li> <li>Declaration Act Sections 6 and 7: joint decision-making</li> <li>Climate Change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flood protection for Shxwhà:y Village,</li> <li>Fire protection strategy</li> <li>Water consumption and conservation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Yvette L</b> and <b>Dave S</b> to facilitate.</p>	<p>BC and STSA Leadership, facilitated by:</p> <p>Dave Schaepe &amp; Yvette Lizée</p>

# ATTACHMENT 4

## ANNOTATED AGENDA

Time	Agenda Item	Annotated details	Lead
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Water runoff from roads, industry, agriculture into waterways</li> <li>● Provincial capacity issues and needs within the CSF</li> <li>● Expanding SEA partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Re-engaging with MoTI</li> <li>○ BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food</li> <li>○ Relationships with Local Municipal Governments</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
<b>LUNCH (12:00pm-1:00 pm) – Chief Angie Bailey to call for a lunch break.</b>			
1:00 pm	<b>4. Setting a Course of Action: Leadership Dialogue on Interests</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Discussion from the morning topics.</li> <li>● Concluding discussion on any identified next steps.</li> </ul>	Leadership Discussion Session - Yvette L and Dave S to facilitate.	BC and STSA Leadership, facilitated by:  Dave Schaepe & Yvette Lizée
2:45 pm 3:00 pm	<b>5. Recap and Closing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Review of Action Items</li> <li>● Concluding Remarks</li> <li>● Closing Prayer/Song</li> </ul>	<b>Minister Rankin</b> invites the [notetaker(s)] to confirm action items from previous discussions. <u>Will confirm notetaker name at the session.</u>  <b>Minister Rankin</b> invites <b>Chief Bailey</b> to provide closing remarks.  <b>Minister Rankin</b> invites <b>Minister Cullen</b> to provide closing remarks.  <b>Minister Rankin</b> will provide closing remarks.  <b>Chief Bailey</b> invites a closing prayer.	Minister Murray Rankin (lead), Chief Angie Bailey, Minister Nathan Cullen



## MINISTER RANKIN (MIRR) OPENING REMARKS

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- Good morning and welcome everyone. I would like to acknowledge that I am joining you from the Territory of the Sto:lo Coast Salish First Nations, and the immediate territory of the Ts'elxwéyeqw [chil-Kway-ick] tribe.
- I am delighted to be here today with:
  - Chief Angie Bailey, co-chair on the S'ólh Téméxw [sul-Ta-mukh] Stewardship Alliance and the BC Government-to-Government Executive Committee.
  - Leaders from the signatory First Nations who are members of the S'ólh Téméxw [sul-Ta-mukh] Stewardship Alliance (STSA).
  - Staff from the People of the River Referrals Office and STSA communities.
  - Minister Ralston, Minister Heyman, Minister Cullen, and representatives from participating BC ministries.
- This is our seventh annual meeting of our STSA-BC Government-to-Government Executive Committee, and my second meeting with all of you.

ATTACHMENT 5  
S'ÓLH TÉMÉXW STEWARDSHIP ALLIANCE – BC G2G EXECUTIVE MEETING  
G2G EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OCTOBER 10, 2023

- It also marks our eleventh anniversary since the signing of the Strategic Engagement pilot, and Year Six of the Collaborative Stewardship Forum.
- Today, I am pleased to be joining in-person along with other attending ministers at the S.A.Y. Health and Community Building and I wish to thank Skowkale [sk-ow-kale], Aitchelitz [ah-the-lits], Yakweakwioose [yak-e-yak-wee-ohs]) for hosting us in your beautiful new facility.
- As Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, and co-chair of this committee, I welcome this opportunity to meet all of you virtually and in-person, to learn about the various activities underway through our partnership, and to celebrate our latest accomplishments.
- Before I proceed, and on behalf of the Province, I want to take a moment to acknowledge and give reflection to the recent findings at St. Mary's Residential School, the Coqualeetza School and Hospital, and the All Hallow School in Yale.
- We are very saddened by this news and recognize the deep impact it has had in your communities. We want to extend our heartfelt thoughts and words of support to you and to recognize the important work of the Stó:lō Nation's Research and Resource Management Centre in bringing

ATTACHMENT 5  
S'ÓLH TÉMÉXW STEWARDSHIP ALLIANCE – BC G2G EXECUTIVE MEETING  
G2G EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OCTOBER 10, 2023

this important truth to light so it can be made known and inform a pathway for healing.

- Our past, and this past year has been very challenging for many. I want to take a moment to reflect on all the individuals and loved ones in your communities and across the province who have been impacted due to the wildfires and other significant events.
- I also want to thank your communities and your respective leadership for the extra efforts you have all assumed to keep community members safe and supported through these times.
- Despite the challenges of the past few years, we have much to recognize today.
- Our collective group of partners has made impressive progress on a number of initiatives.
- Following on STSA's request at last year's meeting, we are pleased to have secured a funding uplift for the Strategic Engagement Agreement, bringing the total annual funding to \$2.1 million.
- In addition, we are rounding the corner on the STSA-BC SEA amendment. We look forward to finalizing this agreement soon, thereby formally adding Shxw'ow'hamel



ATTACHMENT 5  
S'ÓLH TÉMÉXW STEWARDSHIP ALLIANCE – BC G2G EXECUTIVE MEETING  
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First Nation and Seabird Island First Nation, EAO and BC Hydro to our growing table of partners.

- At last year's Executive meeting, our committee also discussed the impressive progress on the STSA-BC Collaborative Stewardship Forum and the diverse range of the projects under its governance. My colleague Minister Cullen will have more to say on this shortly.
- Today, as we reflect on our latest progress, we have the opportunity to contemplate and further define our future vision together.
- To this end, I look forward to hearing your thoughts on emerging priorities for this year's leadership dialogue, and to discussing how we can continue to grow and deepen our Government-to-Government relationship.
- I know I speak for all the BC government attendees here when I say that we are proud of the strong foundation we've built together.
- We appreciate the spirit of openness and collaboration that underlies our work together, and we look forward to the next steps in our shared path.
- Thank you.

ATTACHMENT 6  
S'ÓLH TÉMÉXW STEWARDSHIP ALLIANCE – BC G2G EXECUTIVE MEETING  
G2G EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OCTOBER 10, 2023

## MINISTER CULLEN OPENING REMARKS

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- Good morning and welcome everyone. I would like to acknowledge that I am joining you from the Territory of the Sto:lo Coast Salish First Nations, and the immediate territory of the Ts'elxwéyeqw [chil-Kway-ick] tribe.
- I am delighted to be here today with Chief Angie Bailey, co-chair on the S'ólh Téméxw [sul-Ta-mukh] Stewardship Alliance and BC Government-to-Government Executive Committee.
- Leaders from the signatory First Nations who are members of the S'ólh Téméxw [sul-Ta-mukh] Stewardship Alliance (STSA).
- At last year's Executive meeting, our committee discussed the impressive progress on the STSA-BC Collaborative Stewardship Forum and all the projects under its governance.
- Today, as we reflect on progress thus far in the 6th year of the forum, we will hear some of our key achievements under the CSF to date.
- I am pleased to say that Collaborative Indigenous Stewardship Framework received a long-term mandate from Cabinet in 2022, as a core responsibility of WLRS. I want to thank STSA CSF members for their valued contributions to this submission. We share this success together.
- In line with this long-term mandate, I am pleased to see that the Forum received \$1,500,000 funding from BC for this year, an increase from \$1,000,000 last year.
- The STSA-BC CSF is an excellent example of true government to government partnership to accomplish our shared goals to meaningful advantage reconciliation.
- I look forward to a rich and meaningful dialogue today.
- Thank you.

## ATTACHMENT 7 – 2023 STSA-BC G2G DISCUSSION DOCUMENT

STSA has identified a variety of topics for the leadership discussion session. These topics are summarized below under four themes: (1) Governance and Capacity, (2) Climate Change, (3) G3 – Tripartite Relationships, (4) Expanding the Strategic Engagement Agreement (SEA).

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## THEME 1 - GOVERNANCE AND CAPACITY

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### 1. Shared Decision-Making Agreement – Declaration Act Sections 6 and 7

One of the STSA's key priorities is governance and agreements under the sections 6 and 7 of the Declaration Act. STSA is specifically interested in opportunities for joint decision making under the SEA and the Heritage Conservation Act (HCA).

More broadly, the STSA would like to understand what potential processes or pathways exist for pursuing Section 7 agreements, and what materials and tools are available to further this discussion.

BC Staff Input regarding s.6 or s.7 Declaration Act Agreements and HCA s. 4:

- Section 7 of the Declaration Act sets out the opportunity for a member of the Executive Council to enter into joint or consent decision-making agreements with Indigenous governing bodies. It also identifies the province's mandating requirements before such negotiations can take place.
- The BC-STSA *Heritage Conservation Act* (HCA) Section 4 Agreement, the first of its kind, provides for the recognition and protection of 45 cultural sites under the HCA within Stó:lō Nation territory, and for shared decision making on HCA applications that intersect those sites, with the Minister (or his delegates) being the ultimate decision maker.
- Minister Ralston has approved extension of the s.4 agreement for an additional two-year term, until July 21, 2025.

#### Key Message (FOR):

- I am very pleased to share that we have extended this landmark HCA s.4 agreement to July 21, 2025.
- I acknowledge STSA's interest in building on this HCA s.4 agreement and pursuing a joint or consent-based decision-making s.7 Declaration Act agreement under the HCA.
- Given limited activity in the S.4 agreement area to date, it is recommended that BC and the STSA explore this topic once more substantive experience and data is gathered under the pilot.

#### Key Message (FOR / MIRR):

- Prior to seeking a mandate to negotiate a s. 7 agreement, BC and STSA should engage in exploratory discussions to consider: an evaluation of the implementation and success of the section 4 pilot project, if a s. 7 agreement addresses the interests raised, the specific statutory powers of decision that may respond to those interests, the capacity of the parties to engage in an alternative decision-making process, and other matters.
- BC approaches these exploratory discussions as a collaborative process to determine if the parties have a common basis to proceed with a request for direction or mandates from their respective leadership.

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### 2. Capacity Concerns and Needs within the Collaborative Stewardship Forum (CSF)

This theme is directly related to the capacity of BC Parks to meaningfully engage in key initiatives of shared priority, including conservation of Skagit Headwaters, and Sx̱ótsaqel / Chilliwack Lake Park planning.



Although there has been great success under CSF, it has involved a significant amount of staff commitment from participating government agencies to support the broad scope of initiatives being delivered. Long-term resourcing for government agencies supporting implementation and alignment will be a key factor in the continued success of this engagement with STSA.

BC Parks staff capacity is currently limited to our South Coast regional planning section only, as the Corporate Indigenous Reconciliation and Relations program is fully utilized on policy development and Treaty table support.

BC Parks staff capacity is currently limited with both planner positions in the South Coast vacant with a maternity leave and a very recent job promotion to another Government Ministry. BC Parks is undertaking the approximately 3-month process to fill these vacancies.

#### Key Messages (WLRS):

- NRS Ministers endorsed a long-term commitment to collaborative stewardship in October 2022. The commitment includes an expanded model for CISF at the regional level, continued and expanded support for Guardians and a commitment to deliver the cumulative effects framework in partnership with First Nations.
- As an extension of this mandate, BC is now working to ensure that the CSF Forums are fully resources at the regional level, to support operational implementation with First Nations.

#### Key Messages (ENV – BC Parks):

- The Conservation of Skagit Headwaters visioning project, and the Sx̱ótsaqel / Chilliwack Lake Park management planning are two very high priority projects for BC Parks to engage on this fiscal year with both receiving significant funding support through BC's Indigenous Funding Program.
- Recent attempts to use consultants to enhance BC Parks capacity on similar projects have met with limited success. It is recognized that to meaningfully undertake this work requires a specific skill set that is not readily available.
- BC Parks is working to fill vacancies on the South Coast regional planning team.
- Regardless of these temporary setbacks, BC Parks is committed to meaningfully engage in these two projects to ensure progress is achieved before March 2023.

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## **THEME 2 – CLIMATE CHANGE**

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### **3. Flood Protection**

STSA has expressed a need to prepare for, and mitigate against, future weather events such as the 2021 atmospheric river flooding and landslide events. Specifically, there is concern regarding impacts to cultural sites resulting from landslides, particularly where forestry activities may impact slope stability.

Also of concern is resources to help individual communities protect themselves from future flooding. For instance, Shxwhà:y Village (member of Ts'elxwéyeqw Tribe) is located on the Fraser River-side of the dike and is concerned about limited funding to enhance bank stability (rip-rap).

The Province's investment of \$5 million in shoreline stabilization to complement this new dike will reduce the flood impacts to the Nations (<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2023EMCR0008-000170>)

#### Key Messages (FOR):

##### **Flood Protection**

- The Pathways to Action Report was released in late spring, as an action-oriented outcome of the Lower Mainland Flood Management Strategy. FOR and EMCR are working alongside the Emergency Planning Secretariat, the Lower Fraser Floodplain Coalition, and local governments to explore approaches to integrate these Lower Fraser based flood risk-reduction initiatives in planning engagement on the next steps.
- We appreciate the on-going efforts between Sqwá, Shxwhà:y Village and the City of Chilliwack on the new dike project along the Fraser River and acknowledge that the work is funded from Infrastructure Canada's Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF), with contributions from Indigenous Services Canada, and the City of Chilliwack.
- Before the completion of these projects, as an interim measure, the South Coast Region Water Team will continue to support temporary flood mitigation approaches during high water events.
- EMCR has the best information on funding programs. We can connect you with EMCR to assist with further funding questions.

##### **Landslides (If raised)**

- In areas where forestry activities are planned on high-risk terrain or near critical infrastructure, terrain assessments are completed, and their recommendations incorporated into the layout and design of the road or harvest unit.
- Where possible, we encourage Nations to make cultural heritage sites known to the Archeology Branch so they can be mapped and protected.
- For areas that have been affected by other extreme climate events (e.g. atmospheric rivers) or have general slope stability concerns, the province typically works through EMCR with communities to support assessments and evaluate options.

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#### **4. Fire Protection**

In observing wildfire impacts across the province this summer, member communities are asking "when is this going to happen here?" This is exacerbated by the observation that First Nation reserves are typically among the most impacted communities from wildfires. STSA would like to discuss what measures can be put into place to protect communities and mitigate risk.

BC has committed to improving community resilience through integrating and expanding wildfire risk reduction, prescribed fire, and supporting cultural burning in Ministry operations.

BC commits to effective natural hazard management in its Modernizing Forest Policy in British Columbia (2021) Intentions Paper, in the Action Plan to implement the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (2022), and in the Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy (2022).

#### Key Messages (FOR):

- BC has committed to improving community resilience through integrating and expanding wildfire risk reduction, prescribed fire, and supporting cultural burning in Ministry operations.
- In Budget 2022, BC committed additional funding to supporting these programs.



- The Community Resiliency Investment Program has two funding streams to help reduce wildfire risk and mitigate impacts: 1) Fire Smart Community Funding and Supports, and 2) Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction.
- Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction enables the use of fire by Indigenous peoples, integrating and expanding the use of prescribed fire on the landscape, and implementing risk reduction activities on Crown land that is high wildfire risk, near communities or critical infrastructure.
- The Chilliwack District is interested in exploring opportunities to collaborate with the STSA on the application of cultural and prescribed fire on forest landscapes where appropriate.

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## 5. Water Conservation and Consumption

The STSA has concerns regarding decreasing water supply due to the combination of climate change and increased public demand.

There are concerns regarding the impacts of these factors on water use for domestic needs, and availability of sufficient water quality and flow at spiritual bathing sites.

The STSA has also expressed concern regarding groundwater conservation, including questions around: Who is accessing groundwater aquifers? At what rate are aquifers replenished? And if water being removed at a sustainable rate?

The Provincial Groundwater Observation Well Network is a network of observation wells where water level data is collected from key aquifers. Water level trends found in many Observation Wells in the South Coast Region are stable or increasing. However, there are some heavily utilized aquifers experiencing water level decline, suggesting that groundwater extraction may exceed a sustainable rate in some areas.

### Key Message (WLRS)

- The Watershed Security Strategy and Fund are a ministerial mandate commitment that will address watershed security through action in several key areas including: watershed governance, drinking water, ecosystems, education and knowledge. The Strategy is looking to coordinate efforts through new local watershed governance approaches that integrate local values in decision making.

### Key Messages (FOR):

- Sustainable water management is a shared priority, and I appreciate the questions and concerns being raised by the STSA in light of climate change and increasing public demand.
- The Water Sustainability Act (WSA) was brought into force in 2016 to ensure a sustainable supply of fresh and clean water. It includes provisions for both Surface and Groundwater Licensing.
- Ministry of Forests requires all non-domestic water users to have a water license. Since bringing into force the WSA, we have been actively working to register all non-domestic users. This helps to ensure there is a fair and transparent process for determining who uses water, supports both dependable and reliable access to water as well as to better protect aquifers and streams.
- The Ministry also maintains a Hydrometric Network to monitor surface water flows on numerous streams as well as a Provincial Groundwater Observation Well Network where water level data is collected for key aquifers. This information is used in supporting sustainable water management, including water use and licensing decisions.



- Drought levels and climate change affecting water levels is considered in decision making.
- During times of scarcity (generally late summer/early fall), ministry staff requests water rights holders to voluntarily reduce use, encourages local governments to implement bylaws to restrict water use, and also has tools under the WSA to curtail water use if needed.

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## 6. Water Runoff from Roads, Industry, Agriculture into Waterways

STSA has concerns regarding pollution entering rivers and oceans from both urban and agricultural areas. For agricultural runoff, there are concerns regarding both impacts of pesticides (bioaccumulation, etc.) and fertilizers (leading to freshwater eutrophication, as well as algal blooms in the ocean). This has implications for fish health, including salmon, as well as the ability to harvest bivalves.

### Key Messages (ENV):

- BC does not directly regulate water quality from roads and urban areas. Urban stormwater quality has been delegated to regional and local governments through Provincial Liquid Waste Management Plans (LWMP). Not all local governments have an LWMP.
- BC does regulate agricultural waste through the Agricultural Environmental Management Code of Practice: Compliance records can be found online on the compliance and enforcement database.
- A similar approach is used to inspect and regulate pesticide use under the Integrated Pesticide Management Act.
- For more details on pesticide concerns, I recommend connecting with either the BC ENV Environmental Standards Branch or Ministry of Agriculture Pesticide Specialist.
- The Province tracks and shares information about freshwater algal blooms on the new Algae Watch website. Marine algae blooms are currently a gap and the Province relies on federal agencies on issues related to marine algae blooms.

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## **THEME 3 – G3 TRIPARTITE RELATIONSHIPS with STSA/BC/CANADA**

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### 7. Fish, Species At-Risk, Wildlife

STSA is seeking to improve integration and consistency between BC and Canada regarding how they collaborate and fund projects of shared priorities between the two levels of governments, particularly with respect to fish and fish habitat, species at risk, and wildlife.

The STSA receives funding and collaborates on projects with both levels of government, but in some cases perceives that BC and Canada are not properly coordinated or consistent on the same topic. This puts undue pressure on Indigenous communities to understand the connections between agencies and make the correct linkages when it is more appropriate for governments to do this beforehand.

### Key Messages (WLRS):

- BC will work to improve cooperation and coordination with our federal counterparts (ECCC & DFO), to ensure we are bringing consistency and synergies to our collaborative work with the STSA
- There are currently positive examples where BC & Canada are well-integrated on specific projects that are being delivered in partnership with the STSA.

- The Conservation of Species, Ecosystems, and Indigenous Values in S'ólh Téméxw (COVIST) Project, which seeks to optimize protection of species and indigenous values, is coordinated by the joint BC-Canada Priority Places Steering Committee.
- The Gill Bar Restoration and Management Project involves restoring and managing recreation within this site in the Heart of the Fraser, and is co-funded by BC and Canada through the BC Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund (BCSHRIF).

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## 8. Guardians

STSA is interested in expanding Guardian authorities to include destinations under the Heritage Conservation Act and the BC Parks Act.

A key priority of the STSA Guardians program is the development and improvement of training materials. Development and testing of the STSA Guardians online curriculum is currently underway. In addition, the STSA are working with Seabird Island Band to leverage the Seabird College as a venue to deliver Guardian training.

In the past year, the majority of the STSA Guardians capacity has been consumed by monitoring of the Trans Mountain Pipeline construction. Their ability to engage in collaborative monitoring and enforcement projects will likely increase as this workload lessens.

### Key Messages (WLRS):

- WLRS supports delivery of First Nation-led field-based data collection, value assessment and monitoring and enforcement by Guardians, in recognition of their long-term stewardship role of the lands within their traditional territories.
- The CSF Forum provides support for STSA Guardians and will continue to do so via the long-term mandate endorsed by Cabinet in October 2022.
- The two-way learning underway between BC and STSA has provided an opportunity for BC staff to learn from STSA partners, and together, land stewardship and management is stronger from this partnership approach.
- WLRS also recognizes and supports the knowledge transfer and education that occurs within First Nation guardian programs, and the associated community growth and healing that occurs on the land.
- in April 2023 WLRS announced funding for training and education related to Guardians. STSA and other CSF Nations have been participating in the Guardians Working Group, to collaboratively identify training and education pathways.

### Key Messages (FOR):

- Compliance and Enforcement Branch (CEB) has been collaborating with STSA Guardians since 2021, including training on observation, recording, and reporting skills; maintaining an officer notebook; and tactical communications. Most recently training was provided October 3 to 6, 2023.
- CEB is open to discussions to explore future opportunities to have authorities delegated to STSA guardians.

### Key Messages (ENV):

- BC Parks is undertaking a pilot with Kitasoo Xai'xais [Kit-a-soo-yeah-yeah] and Nuxalk [New-hawk] First Nations that has designated Indigenous guardians with the same legal authorities as park rangers.
- This pilot project is running from July 2023 to March 2025 and upon completion, partners will compile lessons learned to develop recommendations and new policies and procedures for potential expansion of the program to other First Nations Guardian initiatives in B.C.
- This pilot provides Kitasoo Xai'xais and Nuxalk First Nations with delegations to support an already existing and funded guardian program. BC Parks is not resourced to fund guardian program delivery.
- If the pilot is successful and funding resources are available from Government, opportunities may exist to prepare the STSA Guardians to maximize implementation of a future program by having some members attend the South Coast region's Ranger Training and/or BC Park's Bootcamp.

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## THEME 4 – EXPANDING THE SEA

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The STSA is interested in expanding the SEA to include the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI), the Ministry of Agriculture and Food (AFF), and local governments.

### a) BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

The STSA has sought to have MOTI join the SEA for several years. Following last year's Executive meeting, MOTI confirmed their readiness to discuss potential participation in the SEA. STSA staff later asked that discussions with MOTI be postponed until FY25 due to high workloads monitoring archeological sites encountered during Transmountain Pipeline construction.

In the 2020 leadership meeting, STSA also raised concerns about road safety. MIRR and PRRO arranged a meeting between MOTI and interested STSA Nations including Skawahlook, Chawathil, Cheam and Yale. Based on their early input, MOTI expanded the scope of a Highway 7 corridor study eastward to include these communities and implemented safety improvements along Highway 9. MOTI continues to engage with interested STSA communities on transportation matters.

#### Key Message (IRR):

- MOTI has reaffirmed their readiness to discuss potential participation in the SEA once STSA and MIRR are ready to engage.

### b) BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food:

STSA would like Ministry of Agriculture and Food to join the SEA and CSF. The Ministry of Agriculture regional office has confirmed that they are open to joining the STSA SEA and would be interested in learning more about STSA's interests.

#### Key Message (IRR):

- Ministry of Agriculture and Food has advised us that they are open to joining the SEA. MIRR staff would be happy to set a meeting to initiate this dialogue.



### **c) Local Governments:**

Currently local governments are only required to consult on municipal plan related decisions. The lack of the duty to consult for local governments on other referrals is a persistent point of contention for the STSA. They would like to discuss innovative solutions so referrals from local governments are more consistent with that of provincial and federal agencies.

MIRR staff are available to support STSA in reaching out to local governments regarding participation in the SEA. Given capacity limits, staff recommend prioritizing which local government to reach out to first, and to sequence their onboarding.

Staff assume the Province would not supplement the SEA funding to support local government participation as it could prompt requests from other municipalities. If STSA and a local government agree to work together, they could consider applying for a Community-to-Community grant under UBCM to support their relationship building.

#### Key Message (IRR):

- MIRR staff would be happy to support STSA in reaching out to local governments regarding participation in the SEA. We recommend prioritizing what local government to approach first to keep within capacity.

ATTACHMENT 8  
**STSA-BC G2G Meeting**

**Summary of Suggested Key Messages by Ministry**

IRR	<p><b>Theme 1 – Shared Decision-Making</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prior to seeking a mandate to negotiate a s. 7 agreement, BC and STSA should engage in exploratory discussions to consider: the area of interest, if a s. 7 agreement addresses the interests raised, the specific statutory powers of decision that may respond to those interests, the capacity of the parties to engage in an alternative decision-making process, and other matters.</li> <li>• BC approaches these exploratory discussions as a collaborative process to determine if the parties have a common basis to proceed with a request for direction or mandates from their respective leadership.</li> </ul> <p><b>Theme 4 – Expanding the SEA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We encourage prioritizing the completion of the SEA amendment so we can formally add Shxw'ōwhámel and Seabird Island First Nations and launch SEA processes with EAO and BC Hydro.</li> <li>• Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has reaffirmed their readiness to discuss potential participation in the SEA once STSA and MIRR are ready to engage.</li> <li>• Ministry of Agriculture and Food has advised they are open to joining the SEA. MIRR staff would be happy to arrange a meeting to initiate this dialogue.</li> <li>• MIRR staff would be happy to support STSA in reaching out to local governments regarding participation in the SEA. We recommend prioritizing what local government to approach first to keep within capacity.</li> </ul>
FOR	<p><b>Theme 1 – Shared Decision-Making</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I am very pleased to share that we have extended this landmark HCA s.4 agreement to July 21, 2025.</li> <li>• I acknowledge STSA's interest in building on this HCA s.4 agreement and pursuing a joint or consent-based decision-making s.7 Declaration Act agreement under the HCA.</li> <li>• Given limited activity in the S.4 agreement area to date, it is recommended that BC and the STSA explore this topic once more substantive experience and data is gathered under the pilot.</li> <li>• Prior to seeking a mandate to negotiate a s. 7 agreement, BC and STSA should engage in exploratory discussions to consider: an evaluation of the implementation and success of the section 4 pilot project, if a s. 7 agreement addresses the interests raised, the specific statutory powers of decision that may respond to those interests, the capacity of the parties to engage in an alternative decision-making process, and other matters.</li> <li>• BC approaches these exploratory discussions as a collaborative process to determine if the parties have a common basis to proceed with a request for direction or mandates from their respective leadership.</li> </ul>

**FOR****Theme 2 – Flood Protection**

- The Pathways to Action Report was released in late spring, as an action-oriented outcome of the Lower Mainland Flood Management Strategy. FOR and EMCR are working alongside the Emergency Planning Secretariat, the Lower Fraser Floodplain Coalition, and local governments to explore approaches to integrate these Lower Fraser based flood risk-reduction initiatives in planning engagement on the next steps.
- We appreciate the on-going efforts between Sqwá, Shxwhà:y Village and the City of Chilliwack on the new dike project along the Fraser River and acknowledge that the work is funded from Infrastructure Canada's Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF), with contributions from Indigenous Services Canada, and the City of Chilliwack.
- Before the completion of these projects, as an interim measure, the South Coast Region Water Team will continue to support temporary flood mitigation approaches during high water events.
- EMCR has the best information on funding programs. We can connect you with EMCR to assist with further funding questions.

**Theme 2 – Landslides (If raised)**

- In areas where forestry activities are planned on high-risk terrain or near critical infrastructure, terrain assessments are completed, and their recommendations incorporated into the layout and design of the road or harvest unit.
- Where possible, we encourage Nations to make cultural heritage sites known to the Archaeology Branch so they can be mapped and protected.
- For areas that have been affected by other extreme climate events (e.g. atmospheric rivers) or have general slope stability concerns, the province typically works through EMCR with communities to support assessments and evaluate options.

**Theme 2 – Fire Protection**

- BC has committed to improving community resilience through integrating and expanding wildfire risk reduction, prescribed fire, and supporting cultural burning in Ministry operations.
- In Budget 2022, BC committed additional funding to supporting these programs.
- The Community Resiliency Investment Program has two funding streams to help reduce wildfire risk and mitigate impacts: 1) Fire Smart Community Funding and Supports, and 2) Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction.
- Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction enables the use of fire by Indigenous peoples, integrating and expanding the use of prescribed fire on the landscape, and implementing risk reduction activities on Crown land that is high wildfire risk, near communities or critical infrastructure.
- The Chilliwack District is interested in exploring opportunities to collaborate with the STSA on the application of cultural and prescribed fire on forest landscapes where appropriate.

<b>FOR</b>	<p><b>Theme 2 – Water Conservation and Consumption</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable water management is a shared priority, and I appreciate the questions and concerns being raised by the STSA in light of climate change and increasing public demand.</li> <li>• The Water Sustainability Act (WSA) was brought into force in 2016 to ensure a sustainable supply of fresh and clean water. It includes provisions for both Surface and Groundwater Licensing.</li> <li>• Ministry of Forests requires all non-domestic water users to have a water license. Since bringing into force the WSA, we have been actively working to register all non-domestic users. This helps to ensure there is a fair and transparent process for determining who uses water, supports both dependable and reliable access to water as well as to better protect aquifers and streams.</li> <li>• The Ministry also maintains a Hydrometric Network to monitor surface water flows on numerous streams as well as a Provincial Groundwater Observation Well Network where water level data is collected for key aquifers. This information is used in supporting sustainable water management, including water use and licensing decisions.</li> <li>• Drought levels and climate change affecting water levels is considered in decision making.</li> <li>• During times of scarcity (generally late summer/early fall), ministry staff requests water rights holders to voluntarily reduce use, encourages local governments to implement bylaws to restrict water use, and also has tools under the WSA to curtail water use if needed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Theme 3 – Guardians</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compliance and Enforcement Branch (CEB) has been collaborating with STSA Guardians since 2021, including training on observation, recording, and reporting skills; maintaining an officer notebook; and tactical communications. Most recently, training was provided October 3 to 6, 2023.</li> <li>• CEB is open to discussions to explore future opportunities to have authorities delegated to STSA guardians.</li> </ul>
<b>WLRS</b>	<p><b>Theme 1 – Capacity Concerns and Needs Within the CSF</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NRS Ministers endorsed a long-term commitment to collaborative stewardship in October 2022. The commitment includes an expanded model for CISF at the regional level, continued and expanded support for Guardians and a commitment to deliver the cumulative effects framework in partnership with First Nations.</li> <li>• As an extension of this mandate, BC is now working to ensure that the CSF Forums are fully resources at the regional level, to support operational implementation with First Nations.</li> </ul> <p><b>Theme 2 – Water Conservation and Consumption</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Watershed Security Strategy and Fund are a ministerial mandate commitment that will address watershed security through action in several key areas including: watershed governance, drinking water, ecosystems, education and knowledge. The Strategy is looking to coordinate efforts through new local watershed governance approaches that integrate local values in decision making.</li> </ul>



<b>WLRS</b>	<p><b>Theme 3 – Fish, Species At-Risk, Wildlife</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BC will work to improve cooperation and coordination with our federal counterparts (ECCC &amp; DFO), to ensure we are bringing consistency and synergies to our collaborative work with the STSA</li> <li>• There are currently positive examples where BC &amp; Canada are well-integrated on specific projects that are being delivered in partnership with the STSA.</li> <li>• The Conservation of Species, Ecosystems, and Indigenous Values in S'ólh Téméxw (COVIST) Project, which seeks to optimize protection of species and indigenous values, is coordinated by the joint BC-Canada Priority Places Steering Committee.</li> <li>• The Gill Bar Restoration and Management Project involves restoring and managing recreation within this site in the Heart of the Fraser, and is co-funded by BC and Canada through the BC Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund (BCSHRIF).</li> </ul> <p><b>Theme 3 – Guardians</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WLRS supports delivery of First Nation-led field-based data collection, value assessment and monitoring and enforcement by Guardians, in recognition of their long-term stewardship role of the lands within their traditional territories.</li> <li>• The CSF Forum provides support for STSA Guardians and will continue to do so via the long-term mandate endorsed by Cabinet in October 2022.</li> <li>• The two-way learning underway between BC and STSA has provided an opportunity for BC staff to learn from STSA partners, and together, land stewardship and management is stronger from this partnership approach.</li> <li>• WLRS also recognizes and supports the knowledge transfer and education that occurs within First Nation guardian programs, and the associated community growth and healing that occurs on the land.</li> <li>• in April 2023 WLRS announced funding for training and education related to Guardians. STSA and other CSF Nations have been participating in the Guardians Working Group, to collaboratively identify training and education pathways.</li> </ul>
<b>ENV</b>	<p><b>Theme 1 – Capacity Concerns and Needs Within the CSF</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Conservation of Skagit Headwaters visioning project, and the Sx̱ótsaqel / Chilliwack Lake Park management planning are two very high priority projects for BC Parks to engage on this fiscal year with both receiving significant funding support through BC's Indigenous Funding Program.</li> <li>• Recent attempts to use consultants to enhance BC Parks capacity on similar projects have met with limited success. It is recognized that to meaningfully undertake this work requires a specific skill set that is not readily available.</li> <li>• BC Parks is working to fill vacancies on the South Coast regional planning team.</li> <li>• Regardless of these temporary setbacks, BC Parks is committed to meaningfully engage in these two projects to ensure progress is achieved before March 2023.</li> </ul>

**ENV****Theme 2 – Water Runoff and Pollution**

- BC does not directly regulate water quality from roads and urban areas. Urban stormwater quality has been delegated to regional and local governments through Provincial Liquid Waste Management Plans (LWMP). Not all local governments have an LWMP.
- BC does regulate agricultural waste through the Agricultural Environmental Management Code of Practice: Compliance records can be found online on the compliance and enforcement database.
- A similar approach is used to inspect and regulate pesticide use under the Integrated Pesticide Management Act.
- For more details on pesticide concerns, I recommend connecting with either the BC ENV Environmental Standards Branch or Ministry of Agriculture Pesticide Specialist.
- The Province tracks and shares information about freshwater algal blooms on the new Algae Watch website. Marine algae blooms are currently a gap and the Province relies on federal agencies on issues related to marine algae blooms.

**Theme 3 – Guardians**

- BC Parks is undertaking a pilot with Kitasoo Xai'xais [Kit-a-soo-yeah-yeah] and Nuxalk [New-hawk] First Nations that has designated Indigenous guardians with the same legal authorities as park rangers.
- This pilot project is running from July 2023 to March 2025 and upon completion, partners will compile lessons learned to develop recommendations and new policies and procedures for potential expansion of the program to other First Nations Guardian initiatives in B.C.
- This pilot provides Kitasoo Xai'xais and Nuxalk First Nations with delegations to support an already existing and funded guardian program. BC Parks is not resourced to fund guardian program delivery.
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