

# Northern Silviculture Committee First Nations Role In Future Tenures and Opportunities

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# Presentation Outline

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- New Opportunities
- First Nations Capacity
- Experience with Takla Forestry
- Future Opportunities

# Introduction

- Bachelor of Science in Forestry UNBC
- Forest Technician Diploma CNC
- Forestry Coordinator for TLFN since 2007
- Worked for BC First Nations Mountain Pine Beetle Working Group (predecessor to BC First Nations Forestry Council)
- BC Representative for the National Aboriginal Forestry Association (NAFA)
- First Nations advisor to the Forest Science Board of BC – Forest Investment Account funded research stream
- President of LTN – partnership logging company between Lheidli Tenneh and Roga Contracting
- Vice President of Sustut Holdings – partnership forestry company between Takla, Nakazdli, and Tlazten First Nations

# First Nations Experience With Forestry

- Since time immemorial First Nations connected with their environment
- Humans become a product of their environment
- First Nations have used and most importantly managed their surroundings
- Historically passed down to future generations orally and by experience
- More recently, First Nations relationship has changed – more dependent on modern economics of resources
- However, many still believe we have to manage for both “worlds”

# Case Law

- Gitanyow vs. Ministry of Forest and Range (2008)
- Roger Williams vs. Ministry of Forest and Range (2007)
- Haida and Taku decision (2004)
- Delgamuuk decision (1997)
- Sparrow and Calder decisions

# New Relationship

- Commitment from the Provincial Liberal Government to change relations with First Nations
- Basic concept: “We are all here to stay...”
- Provincial Government – difficult to “win” case law on lands in question
- Commitment to negotiate with First Nations in regards to resources

# New Opportunities

- Forest Range Agreements (2003)
- Forest Range Opportunity Agreements (2005)
- 160 FRA's and FRO's signed since 2003
- 125 First Nations have access to 256 Forest Licenses
- Over 35 million cubic metres in timber

# First Nations Capacity

- Approximately 20 Registered Professional Foresters are of First Nations ancestry in BC (NAFA)
- Canada has approximately 70 as of 2007 (NAFA)
- Carrier Sekani Tribal Council which represents 8 FN bands – 2 FIT candidates
- Need more capacity!

# Experience with Takla Forestry

- Need capacity to assist future and past forest licenses
- Managing more than Forestry i.e. Mining, wind power etc.
- Need to develop a Land Use Plan
- Often hire local forest companies:
  - Pacific Rim Forest Management
  - Pathfinder Endeavours
  - Kim Forest Management
  - Archer Archaeologists
  - Northern Pacific Forestry consultants
  - Industrial Forest Services
  - Forintek
  - TDB

# Future Opportunities

- First Nations fastest growing ethnic population in Canada under the age of 25
- New Relationship offers more tenure to First Nations
- New FRA's and FRO's agreement on the horizon
- Opportunity to consult with First Nations in managing licenses
- More tenure, more problems (good ones at least)!