

# National Aboriginal Forestry Association

## Newsletter

### “Advancing the Indigenous Forest Sector.”

#### What is the bioeconomy; how does it relate to forestry?

The bioeconomy is an economy where the basic building blocks for materials, chemicals, and energy are derived from renewable biological resources. The forest bioeconomy uses sustainably managed forest material (forest biomass) to make bioproducts like consumer goods and industrial products. Forest biomass can be any forest material from shrubs to branches, to berries. The bioeconomy contributes to reduced petrochemical-based products in the environment.

Save the date:  
February 27 to  
March 2, 2023

We are hopeful for an in-person gathering in the new year. The central theme of the gathering will be the Indigenous bioeconomy. Invitees will join an informative cohort of industry leaders and stakeholder panelists. We will also tour Meadow Lake Tribal Council's new Bioenergy Centre.

Stay tuned for more information!

#### Unlocking the Indigenous Forest Sector



### NAFA Appearance at the

### Natural Resource Standing Committee

NAFA appeared at a parliamentary hearing on November 22, 2022, to advocate for Indigenous interests in the forest sector. You can view the appearance here:

<https://www.ourcommons.ca/DocumentViewer/en/44-1/RNNR/meeting-42/minutes>

NAFA's submission begins at 16:24 HRS on the control bar and there is a good question answer period at 16:49 HRS as well.

### NAFA participates in the

### Indigenous Peoples Economic and Trade Cooperation Arrangement (IPETCA).

Our aim in participating is to increase Indigenous opportunities in international trade and promote economic development.

The Government of Canada recently conducted a symposium on IPETCA to focus on key strategies to extract value from this new trade arrangement to ensure that Indigenous business access the benefits and opportunities that flow from international trade and investment. You can view the symposium here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5dk85wVlusk>

## National Indigenous Economic Strategy

The National Indigenous Economic Board has been coordinating a voluntary consortium of Indigenous sectoral voices over the last few years to develop a National Indigenous Economic Strategy (NIES). The living document can be found here: <https://niestrategy.ca>. The National Aboriginal Forestry Association has participated in the development of the NIES. With operations returning to normal for most, Indigenous Forestry "Calls to Prosperity" are now being formulated. We are drafting these Calls from the various articles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples dealing with lands, rights, and culture. Importantly, insights from our forest homelands, where 80% of all First Nations and Indigenous communities are found, will be foundational. If you or your group(s) have thoughts, we welcome any input you may have. We are just beginning to put pen to paper:

**Draft Indigenous Forest Sector Call #1:** All provincial/territorial forestry tenures should be aligned for maximum Indigenous equity, accommodation, and co-development.

**Draft Indigenous Forest Sector Call #2:** A gross domestic product scale Indigenous forest opportunities equity support mechanism should be established for First Nations groups developing forest management businesses, manufacturing, and bioeconomic opportunities.

**Draft Indigenous Forest Sector Call #3:** To be drafted...

# CARBON SEQUESTRATION

On June 8, 2022, the federal government launched Canada's Greenhouse Gas Offset Credit System. The Credit System created market-based incentives for municipalities, Indigenous communities, industry players, and individuals to implement innovative solutions to reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and remove GHG from the atmosphere.

The Credit System is governed by the Canadian Greenhouse Gas Offset Credit System Regulations, SOR/2022-111 (Regulations), created under the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act, SC 2018, c 12 (GGPPA). The minimum price of offset credits in Canada is dictated by the Pan-Canadian Approach to Pricing Carbon Pollution (Federal Benchmark), that was updated in August 2021. The Federal Benchmark sets the offset credit price at CA\$65 per tonne CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2023, and will rise by CA\$15 per year to CA\$170 per tonne CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2030, when it will be updated.

Source: Government of Canada

# HAPPY HOLIDAYS



## 2 Billion Trees, Nature-based Climate Solutions

NAFA has been involved in the establishment of this initiative since early 2020, just before the pandemic. We have successfully lobbied for an Indigenous set aside for the announced funding of \$3.2 Billion over ten years. We have also advised on project eligibility criteria such as: capacity building, elder/youth initiatives, and cultural themed categories (e.g. restoring community identified forest areas according to local knowledge holder engagement). \$500 million of the \$3.2 billion has been earmarked for Indigenous Peoples. As 80% of First Nations reside in the forest, but the forest is also home to officially recognized Métis communities, and a few forest based Inuit communities, a principled approach to the Indigenous set aside must be brokered. We call on the Indigenous Forest Sector to constructively advise us on positions, thoughts, and ideas regarding this funding. Following the 10 year funding horizon announced by Canada, and the confirmed Indigenous set aside of \$500 million, we suggest a constitutionally informed, regionally balanced, and ethically co-governed process is needed. \$50 million of funding per year for the next 10 years can be put to a lot of good for Indigenous territorial restoration, enhancement of tree planting, and climate change resilience. We welcome any suggestions that you may have regarding this important initiative. For more information:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/campaign/2-billion-trees.html>

## 2 Billion Trees

The 2 Billion Trees (2BT) program aims to motivate and support new tree planting projects. Over a period of 10 years, by 2031, up to \$3.2 billion will be invested in tree planting efforts to support provinces, territories, third-party organizations (for-profit and not-for profit) and Indigenous organizations to plant two billion trees across Canada. The 2 Billion Trees (2BT) program has launched an ongoing call for proposals – applications can be submitted anytime. The 2BT program will process and assess proposals based on the submission date and provide decisions at specific intervals.

For more information please email:

[2btrees-2garbres@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca](mailto:2btrees-2garbres@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca)

Source: Government of Canada

# **National Roundtable on Substance Abuse and the Natural Resource Sector**

A joint ministerial roundtable, convened by the Minister of Labour and Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, has been convened to discuss the ongoing crisis of substance abuse in the Natural Resource Sector. NAFA has participated in these roundtables, supporting: cultural change in the natural resource industries (addressing toxic cultural work morays and behaviors), harm reduction strategies, and Indigenous-specific requirements for treatment and recovery. Specifically, we have suggested enhancing Indigenous service provider criteria away from exclusive Social Work style interventions to Indigenous Counselling and community-rooted therapy/maintenance. Tone at the top matters, and we are proud to report that a few First Nations Chiefs and Councils are now randomized drug and alcohol testing during sittings/terms as a way to lead their people and wholly-owned subsidiaries by example. Coupled with Indigenous interventions and ways of promoting health, we will continue to advocate for a healthier Indigenous natural resource sector and broader, more private access for individuals and their healing pathways. We welcome any suggestions that you may have regarding this dialogue.

## **National Benefits Sharing Framework**

The federal government (Natural Resources Canada) is developing a policy for benefits sharing in the natural resource sectors. Non-Indigenous and Indigenous Sectoral interests are being considered with several roundtable discussions underway. NAFA is advocating for the Indigenous Forest Sector. Importantly we have advised that the Forest is home to some of the most progressive examples of benefits sharing of all natural resource sectors. However, due to Canada's large land base and diversity of provincial/territorial regimes, the Forest Sector is also home to some of the most long-rooted and problematic case studies in colonial forestry. For example, some provinces have reached little accommodation with Indigenous peoples, characterized by zero percent equity in forest tenures, no involvement in forest management, and few governmental responsibilities, except in theory. Other provincial forest systems include millions of hectares of commercially held First Nations tenure along with requisite board seats, corporate ownership equity, resource revenue sharing, and sectoral gravitas. What is working out there? What can be improved? What doesn't work? With this spread, the Indigenous Forest Sector, while hosting many individual major project-type developments, can also point the way on governmental level accommodations – resource revenue sharing and joint land base management. The world does not end when Indigenous Nations are driving the agenda in the forest along with all the other strivers and thrivers in the bush. Thus, these roundtables could not have come at a better time. **We welcome any suggestions that you may have regarding this important initiative.**

The goal of NAFA is to promote Aboriginal involvement in forest management and related commercial opportunities. NAFA is committed to holistic or multiple-use forestry, which implies the rebuilding and the sustainable development of the forest resource to serve a multitude of community needs. NAFA is a grassroots initiative backed by First Nations and other Aboriginal groups and organizations that function at either the regional or community level in the area of forestry.

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

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

Brad Sappier

**Manitoba**

Don Lathlin

**Nova Scotia & Newfoundland**

Ashley Childs

Swampy Cree Tribal Council

Confederacy of Mainland

Mi'kmaq

**Saskatchewan**

Chief Blaine Fiddler

**Quebec**

Brenda St-Denis

Wolf Lake First Nation

Waterhen First Nation

**Alberta**

Darrell Anderson

**Ontario**

Raymond Ferris

Matawa First Nations

Management

**British Columbia**

Lennard Joe

BC First Nations Forestry Council

**Northwest Territories & Yukon**

vacant

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



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