

**NAFA**



National  
Aboriginal  
Forestry  
Association

Association  
Nationale de  
Foresterie  
Autochtone

January 25, 2006

TO: All interested parties

RE: Update on Implementation of the National Forest Strategy, Theme 3

This letter is the third in a series to update you on progress in implementing Theme 3 of the 2003-2008 National Forest Strategy (NFS), "**Rights and Participation of Aboriginal Peoples.**" The National Aboriginal Forestry Association (NAFA) is the designated Champion of Theme 3.

In June 2005, NAFA established a diverse team of parties interested in Aboriginal forestry ("Team 3") in order to promote the implementation of the thematic action items. Throughout the summer and fall of 2005, Team 3 was engaged in developing a joint workplan. The workplan now includes the following projects:

- Building capacity for tracking progress in Aboriginal forestry
- Enhancing funding programs for First Nations forestry
- Developing a federal Métis Forestry Program (led by Métis organizations)
- Establishing an expanded "Aboriginal forestry resource centre" on the NAFA website
- Developing resources to support the appropriate treatment of traditional knowledge in forest management
- Developing resources to support appropriate treatment of trapping interests in forest management

If one phrase can summarize the work of Team 3 as described in the above projects, it is "building capacity". We serve as a forum for learning and for developing tools. The role of individual communities, organizations, and governments is to decide how these lessons and tools can be useful in specific local and regional contexts.

The coming months will be a time for assessing progress and determining next steps. On February 21, the NFS Coalition (i.e. participants in all of the 8 themes of the Strategy) will hold its Annual Meeting in Victoria, BC. In April, NAFA will host a second general meeting of Team 3. The April meeting in particular will provide an opportunity for the team members to engage in a focused review of draft proposals and deliverables currently in development, as well as in-depth discussion of some complex issues in Aboriginal forestry. The result will be a

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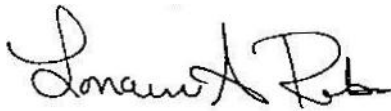
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solid foundation to forge ahead with cooperative action on a number of fronts throughout 2006 and into 2007.

Team 3 is open in its membership. We invite you to find out more and consider participating by contacting NAFA's Team 3 Coordinator, Mark Kepkay, at (613) 233-5563 or [mdkepkey@nafaforestry.org](mailto:mdkepkey@nafaforestry.org). In addition, much additional information is available at the websites [www.nafaforestry.org](http://www.nafaforestry.org) and [nfsc.forest.ca](http://nfsc.forest.ca), including previous updates.

I look forward to working with you in the coming months!

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lorraine Rekmans". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Lorraine Rekmans  
Executive Director