



National Aboriginal Forestry Association

SPRING 2024 NEWSLETTER

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Federal Indigenous Procurement Policy:

NAFA contributed to the launch of Canada's 5% Indigenous procurement policy. Our input focused on distinguishing legitimate Indigenous ownership from exploitative partnerships, and ensuring sustainable business models for long-term community benefit.

National Indigenous Economic Strategy:

NAFA refined forestry-specific 'Calls to Prosperity' that emphasized capital attraction, equity in tenure allocation, workforce development, and governance reforms. Forestry's role within the broader Indigenous economy was highlighted. Over 15,000 full time direct and 45,000 ancillary connected jobs are generated and maintained by the Indigenous Forest Sector.

Substance Use & Natural Resources Research:

NAFA advanced a doctoral-level project hosted by the University of North Dakota. The research explores Indigenous contexts for substance use in resource sectors, with innovative pilot projects such as drone-based medical supply delivery to remote communities.

Ongoing Research:

We continued our longitudinal research on Indigenous business intelligence and tenure. Data collection from provinces, territories, and regions continues. Our preliminary analysis of is beginning to highlight innovation, bioeconomy growth, and overall expansion of Indigenous-held tenure and associated economic development. Both reports should be published in calendar year 2025.

ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS

Trade:

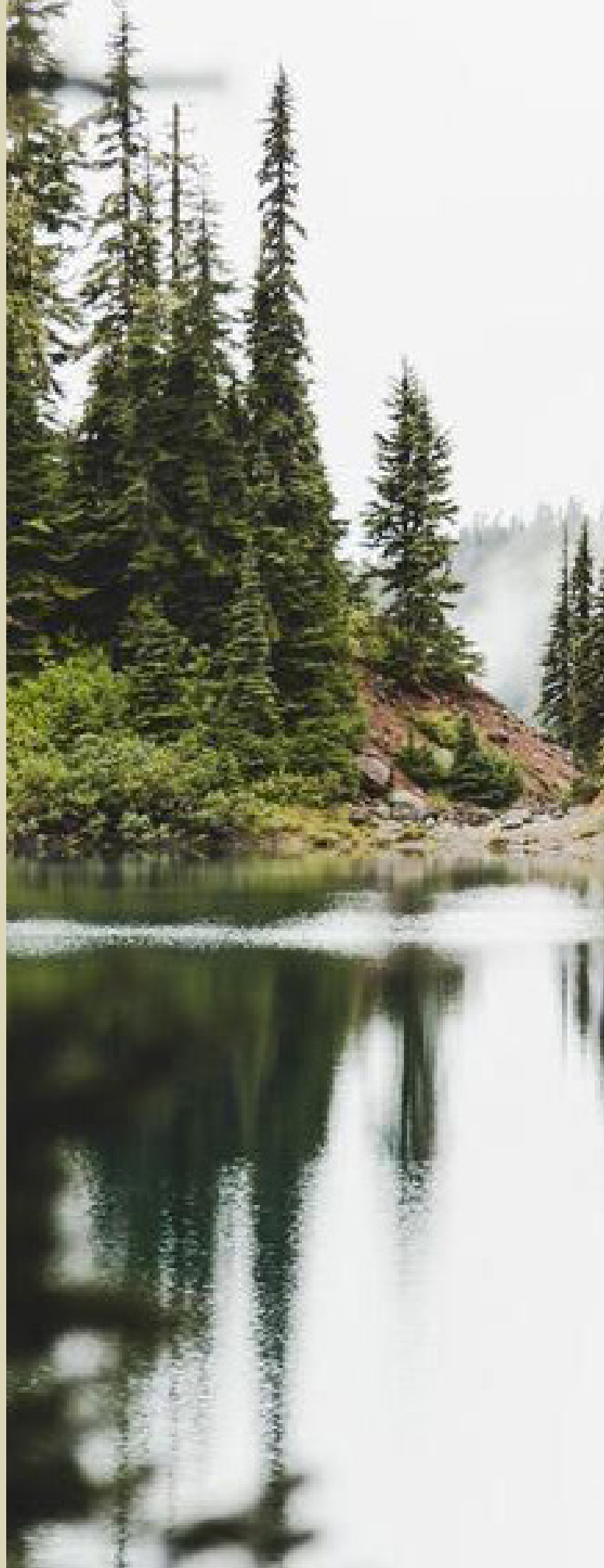
NAFA remained an active member of the Indigenous Peoples Working Group on Trade and other official committees, ensuring forest sector priorities were represented in ongoing trade discussions. While very few First Nations are actively trading forest products internationally, with growing tenure and development ambitions, NAFA will continue to advocate for Indigenous sectoral market space and inclusion in all trade policy and agreements.

Carbon trading policy:

NAFA participated in the Federal Offset Protocol for Improved Forest Management on Reserves, which was posted Sept. 2023. Upcoming consultations for Crown Land protocols are expected in late 2024. NAFA will continue to advocate for Indigenous policy modifications to respect our rights, diversity, and inclusion. Specifically, we continue to base all advice on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, with emphasis on Free, Prior, and Informed Consent for all officially recognized First Nations and other land based Indigenous groups. We advise First Nations and other Indigenous groups to pay attention to these important discussions.

Contact Environment Canada for specifics:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/climate-change/pricing-pollution-how-it-will-work/output-based-pricing-system/federal-greenhouse-gas-offset-system/compendium-protocols/federal-offset-protocol-improved-forest-management-private-land.html#toc11>



INDIGENOUS INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION ROUND TABLE ON THE NATIONAL BENEFITS SHARING FRAMEWORK

NAFA participated on the round table convened by the Associate Deputy Minister of Nòkwewashk to discuss national benefits sharing in the natural resource sectors. Representing the Indigenous Forest Sector, we gave recommendations for the forthcoming "Indigenous Loan Guarantee Program" and "Supporting Capacity and Partnerships." Importantly, NAFA suggested principles of fairness, equity, and right of access for all resource sectors (including the following specific loan guarantee specifics):

- Sectoral allocation fairness (forestry, agriculture, mining, energy, renewables, nuclear, etc.);
- National GDP scale impact: 1 billion per sector at a minimum (forestry – \$1 investment in = \$2.5 payback ratio; other sectors will have other payback ratios);
- Existing loan guarantees programs, as currently structured, are largely an "empty" chalice for the Indigenous forest sector unless there is a significant grant portion accompanying the loan guarantee portion - the total loan guarantee program budgeted amount should be capitalized with this in mind;
- Unlocking and magnifier focus: Grant portion (cash equity) of federal program coupled with a federal loan principle guarantee, should be designed to stack with sub-federal guarantee programs;
- \$10 billion minimum (to be shared fairly between 10 provinces, 3 territories, & existing natural resource sectors);
- Minimum of a 1/1 ratio to match provincial loan programs – existing and 'reserved' space for non-loan guarantee jurisdictions; a meaningful carrot for sub-federal jurisdictions to establish stackable programs where there are none;
- Stand alone direct contribution from Canada to recipient First Nation group (advised) versus flow through sub-federal/provincial administration (not advised);
- A decolonized crown entity in time (after 5 years), Indigenous operated and governed after start-up period (perhaps with voluntary Indigenous industry associations forming the core of the initial governing board); other nominees per sector and skillset matrix.



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