



# Reconciliation Partnerships in Community Forests

Presentation to BC Community Forest Association

Presented by:

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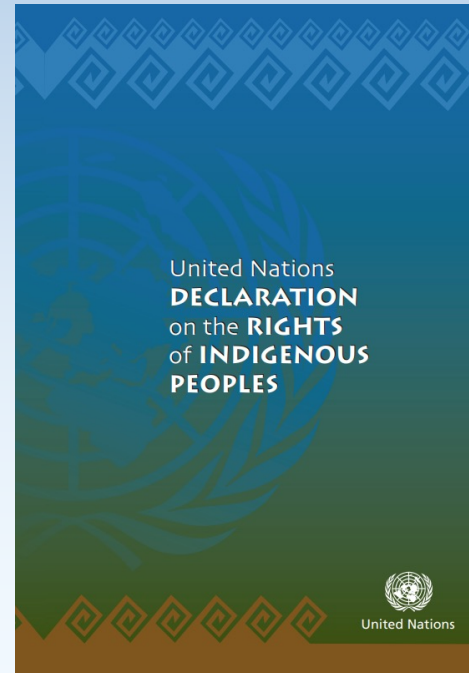
*Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation*

# Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR)

- Responsible for advancing reconciliation with Indigenous peoples in BC
- *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (2019)* - Framework for reconciliation.
- Negotiation and implementation of treaties and other agreements with First Nations - Including ownership of lands.
- Engaged in corporate coordination and alignment between agencies; provides support when issues get out of scope.

# UNDRIP

- United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).
  - Affirms international standards for human rights.
  - Recognizes Indigenous peoples' right to self-determination and to “freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development”.



# The Declaration Act



*Declaration on the Rights of  
Indigenous Peoples Act*

2019/2020 Annual Report

- B.C.'s Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples' Act (the Declaration Act):
  - Align laws with UNDRIP
  - Develop & implement action plan
  - Report & monitor on progress
  - Decision-making agreements

# Pathways to Reconciliation

- Reconciliation is an ongoing dynamic journey requiring a new relationship with Indigenous peoples and participation from all levels of government.
- Partnership with FNs can take many forms but can often manifest in formal agreements.
- There is no endpoint to reconciliation – it doesn't end with agreements; it is about facilitating enduring relationships.

## Agreement Topics

- Rights and Title
- Land Use
- Economic Development
- Revenue Sharing
- Environmental Stewardship
- Wildlife Regulations
- Forest Tenures
- Section 7

# Agreement Principles

- Flexible, responsive, context specific; no one size fits all
- Partnership approach to managing land and resources
- Negotiate long term agreements that support:
  - Indigenous self-determination.
  - Economic independence.

## Agreement Types

- Treaties
- Comprehensive reconciliation
- Revenue-sharing
- Shared Decision Making
- Socio-economic Initiatives
- Land Use Plans
- MOUs
- Collaborative Stewardship



# Importance of Partnership

- Indigenous stewardship plays a unique and vital role in forest management.
  - generational knowledge about the land and how forests can be managed in a way that is both environmentally and economically sustainable.
- Reconciliation requires Indigenous Peoples to “have a seat at the table”. Increased Indigenous representation within the forestry sector:
  - provides greater substantive economic opportunities for communities.
  - facilitates the integration of Indigenous perspectives in industry and government decision making.

# Supporting Reconciliation

- BC is actively transforming and co-developing policies, programs, and legislation in partnership with FNs in order to reduce barriers to reconciliation:
  - Forestry Revenue Sharing
  - BC First Nations Forest Strategy
  - Collaborative Stewardship Forums
  - Forest Statutes Amendment Act
  - Alignment of laws – Implementation of DRIPA



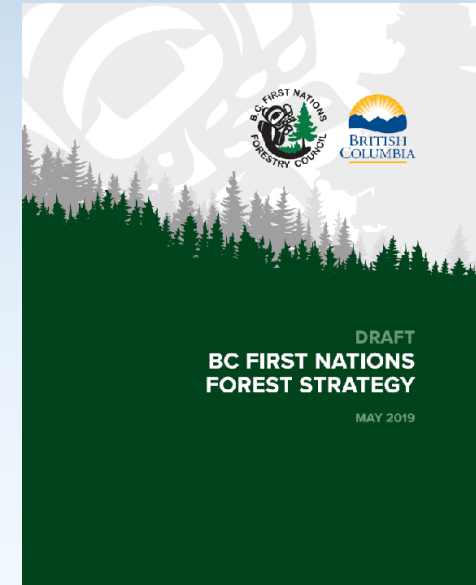


# Forestry Revenue Sharing

- B.C. will co-develop a new forestry revenue sharing model with First Nations as part of its commitment to a new fiscal relationship that recognizes Indigenous governance and jurisdiction.
- BC has introduced an Interim Enhancement to Forest Consultation and Revenue Sharing Agreements.
  - Ensures FNs see immediate benefit as the new fiscal relationship is being co-developed.
  - More than doubles the current level of forestry revenue sharing.

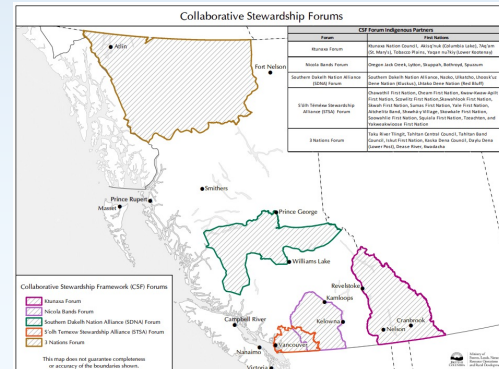
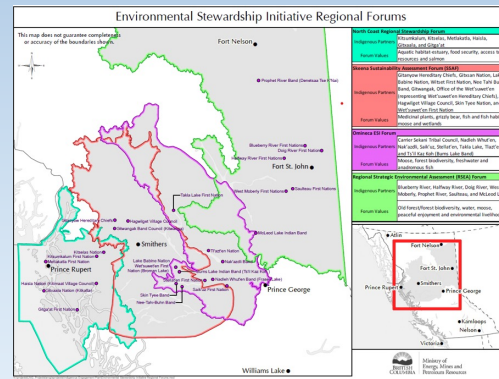
# BC First Nations Forest Strategy

- Collaboratively developed approach to increase the participation of First Nations in the forestry sector, advance reconciliation, and contribute to the revitalization of the forest sector with First Nations as full partners.
- The Strategy has been developed to support modernization of the government-to-government relationship between the Province and FNs and describes a principle-driven collaborative approach to forest governance and stewardship.



# Collaborative Forums

- A true collaboration between BC and FNs across BC. the forum approach incorporates western science and Indigenous Knowledge to work towards shared principles in land management.
- Developed in response to increasing pressure from industrial activities across BC such as forestry.
- Two such initiatives include the Environment Stewardship Initiative (ESI) and the Collaborative Stewardship Framework.



# Bill 23 Forest Statutes Amendment Act



- Introduces amendments to FRPA
- Introduces Forest Landscape Plans (FLP), which will replace Forest Stewardship Plans
- Enables the implementation of S.7 joint or consent-based decision-making agreements with Indigenous Governing Bodies in respect of Forest Landscape Plans

## Alignment of laws – Implementation of DRIPA

- DRIPA Requires BC to align its laws with UNDRIP
- The work to align laws with UNDRIP is resulting in an increasing number of legislative reforms, including Bills 23 and 28 acknowledged Indigenous Peoples as partners in sustainable forest management.
- The Province is currently establishing a secretariat to support the alignment of provincial laws with the UN Declaration



# BCCFA & Reconciliation



- Community forests occupy a unique collaborative space and present opportunities for a new frontier of reconciliation by protecting and enhancing key environmental values.
- Community forest stewardship activities represent the integration of Indigenous Knowledge and western science through grassroots forest management partnerships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous collaborators.

# Enhancing BCCFA & BC Partnership

- Reconciliation is a process that requires new relationships between FNs and all levels of government and industry, and meaningful FN participation in the development BC's policy and legislative initiatives.
- Indigenous forestry interests are not monolithic, and BCCFA is in a unique position to help elevate underrepresented voices and diverse perspective.
- Building a collaborative dialogue between BC & BCCFA (and member FNs) brings us one step closer to meaningful and BC is eager to establish a more formal relationship.

## Questions & Discussion



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