



BCTS - First Nations Relationships Strategy

Effective Relationships: A Way Forward

Contents

Introduction	2
Vision.....	2
Goals	2
Objectives: Building Relationships	3
Objectives: Consultation.....	3
Key Actions: Building Relationships.....	4
Key Actions: Consultation	5

Introduction

Effectiveness in building and maintaining meaningful relationships with First Nations is critical to our ability to deliver superior and enduring performance. BCTS encourages collaboration and partnership opportunities with First Nations for mutual benefit.

The purpose of this strategy is to position BCTS for long term success in the dynamic tenure and timber supply environment and support effective consultation. This strategy is not meant to displace private sector partners, but strengthen existing relationships and build new relationships throughout the province. The strategy also supports government's objective to increase First Nations capacity and participation in the forest sector.

Consultation:

BCTS has an obligation to ensure statutory decisions are supported by meaningful consultation processes. The June 2014 Supreme Court of Canada *Tsilhqot'in* decision described aboriginal title in a manner that may significantly increase the geographic scope of potential aboriginal title lands. This highlights the need for meaningful consultation processes and access to accommodation tools. As well, many First Nations have expressed a renewed interest on the scale and location of BCTS operations. Addressing the Province's consultation and accommodation obligations requires that staff be supported with adequate resources, training, expert advice, methods, and tools. Effective consultation will also require increased effort, better relationships and collaboration with other Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNR) and other agency staff.

Vision

BCTS has effective relationships with First Nations.

Goals

Our relationships with First Nations:

1. support BCTS in effectively selling its apportioned timber volume;
2. enable BCTS to effectively deliver on its legal consultation and accommodation requirements; and,
3. result in business agreements that support the achievement of mutual goals and increased First Nations capacity and participation in the forest sector.

Objectives: Building Relationships

- Effective relationships with First Nations are developed, fostered, and maintained.
- BCTS understands the goals and objectives of First Nations.
- First Nations understand BCTS' goal and objectives.
- Increased First Nations' capacity and involvement in the forest sector through business agreements with BCTS.
- Increased timber volume sold through BCTS Disposition Agreements with First Nations.

Objectives: Consultation

- Highly effective, efficient and timely administrative processes for sharing information and consulting with First Nations are developed and implemented while maintaining the honour of the Crown. To that end,
 - Consultation processes and any accommodation measures or activities will be consistent with government policy and will be coordinated, to the extent appropriate, with the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation (MARR), Ministry of Justice and Attorney General (JAG), other Ministry staff working with First Nations.
 - Decisions and related rationales are summarized and documented.
- First Nations referrals and consultation activities are:
 - Considered meaningful by First Nations.
 - Coordinated, facilitated, and managed to address legal obligations in common law and in consultation protocols.
 - Fulfilled in a manner consistent with the honour of the Crown.
 - Supported by effective internal and external relationships to ensure BCTS can meet its goal and objectives.

Key Actions: Building Relationships

- Assess the requirements and provide sufficient internal resources where appropriate to effectively achieve the goals and objectives of the First Nations Relationships Strategy.
- Future economic activities of mutual benefit with First Nations are identified and strategically pursued.
- With every willing First Nation in the province share information and learn about each other's goals and objectives to establish and/or maintain relationships.
 - Identify and encourage economic/business activities of mutual benefit.
 - Identify positive relationship building opportunities.
- Seek appropriate legislative regulatory and policy authority tools are put in place to enable BCTS to more effectively engage in business to business activities with First Nations.
- Assign responsibility to coordinate the implementation and management of the First Nations Relationship strategy.
- Continue to support and participate in the First Nations Student Training program.
- Participate in broader ministry and government First Nations related initiatives that have implications for BCTS to influence the outcome towards mutual benefit where appropriate.
- Develop and implement a suite of resources and tools that can be used to establish, grow and maintain First Nations relationships. This would include contracting options, shared work, and business agreements.
- Develop business relationship work plans for each Business Area and integrate them with their First Nations consultation work activities.
- Work with provincial organizations (e.g. First Nation Forestry Council) and local First Nations to identify, develop, pilot and implement business partnership opportunities between BCTS and First Nations.
- Communicate and share the BCTS - First Nations Relationships Strategy with other interested parties such as the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation and FLNR staff working with First Nations.
- Establish key performance measures/indicators and targets to monitor achievement of objectives.

Key Actions: Consultation

- Assess the requirements of and provide sufficient resources to the Business Areas and headquarters to carry out effective consultations with First Nations.
- Develop and implement appropriate training to ensure that BCTS staff possesses the skills, expertise and cultural awareness to effectively consult with First Nations.
- Update BCTS accommodation tools and contribute examples to the provincial list of accommodations.
- Develop, communicate and implement consistent processes, training materials, policy development and administration in collaboration with, to the extent appropriate, the MARR, JAG, and other FLNR staff working with First Nations.
- Establish a First Nations Consultation and Accommodation Working Group to support the development of best practices, processes, and the coordination of activities and work across government and with TSLT, headquarters, and Business Area staff.
- Develop effective consultation and information sharing approaches, including protocols with First Nations.
- Implement BCTS Expansion Pilot for Consultation and Report and Tracking System (CRTS) as an interim tool to the (TFNCI) work flow tracking system.
- Develop effective working relationships and communication protocols with MARR and other FLNR staff working with First Nations.
- Integrate consultation Business Area work plans with relationship building work plans.