

Aboriginal Forestry Workshop Economic Development Opportunities in Alberta

February 16-17, 2011
Sawridge Hotel
Edmonton, Alberta

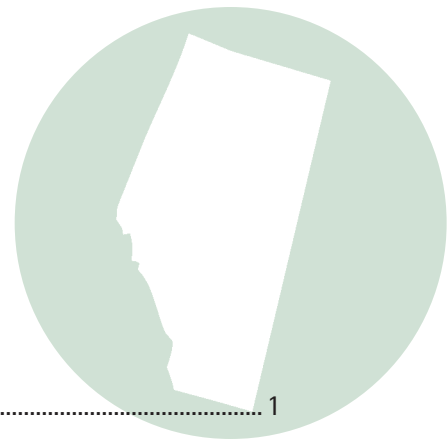
Meeting Summary Report



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MEETING SUMMARY REPORT

INTRODUCTION

A workshop was held on February 16th and 17th in Edmonton, Alberta to discuss Aboriginal Forestry opportunities in Alberta. The Edmonton workshop was one of 8 meetings which took place across the country intended to provide participants with an overview of the new Federal Framework for Aboriginal Economic Development which focuses on creating opportunities and generating results with the government taking a “whole of government” approach to Aboriginal economic development.

These sessions were held to identify potential economic development opportunities, requirements and possible partners for Aboriginal communities in forestry. Invitees included members from the private sector, the forestry industry, provincial and federal governments and First Nations who all contributed in identifying forest-based opportunities with the greatest potential to return benefits to Aboriginal communities. The workshop provided for great collaboration and idea sharing amongst participants, along with the opportunity to make new connections and partnerships that could help support future endeavours.

These meetings were also held to inform Aboriginal forest practitioners of the new strategy being undertaken by the Government of Canada and to encourage economic development via forest-based activities, the Aboriginal Forestry Initiative.

PART I - BACKGROUND

Mr. Ken Mallett, Co-Chair, Natural Resources Canada/CFS, welcomed everyone to the meeting and on behalf of INAC and CFS, thanked them for their participation. He described the objective of the meeting was to identify forestry initiatives for a forestry sector plan. This plan was developed as the Federal Framework for Aboriginal Economic Development. This workshop was one of eight similar sessions being held across the country to identify areas of opportunity for the Aboriginal forestry sector.

Mr. Jamie Brown, Co-Chair, Indian & Northern Affairs Canada, also thanked everyone for their attendance and participation. He added that his office visits a lot of communities to assist them with work concerning permits for on-reserve forestry. He encouraged attendees to ask questions and become engaged in the process in order to identify ways to move forward and to determine what the framework looks like in the future.

THE NEW FEDERAL APPROACH TO ABORIGINAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN FORESTRY

*Mr. Brian Wilson, NRCan/CFS
Mr. Gorazd Ruseski, Indian & Northern Affairs Canada*

Please check delivery against the presentation materials distributed at the workshop. This summary offers only abridged details of what was discussed.

Mr. Ruseski said he would provide an overview of the federal framework and Mr. Wilson would explore what the implications of the framework and its applications regarding Aboriginal forestry. He said that economic development was a top priority for the current government and the Prime Minister had said that economic development was his first priority and the first step to improving the lives of Aboriginal people; the new federal framework was an expression of that commitment.

The new Framework was announced in June 2009 and replaced the Canadian Aboriginal Economic Development Strategy (CAEDS), which was launched in 1989. CAEDS was not necessarily well coordinated between departments, however it did have some successes over the years and brought a lot of progress regarding Aboriginal employment outcomes and business creation. However it was acknowledged that CAEDS had gaps and perhaps had run its course.

He also described the environmental changes and significant shifts in demographics over the past twenty years including how Aboriginal people represent that fastest growing population in Canada and how 400,000 young Aboriginal people would be entering the workforce over the next ten years. There had also been an increasing interest by the private sector in engaging with Aboriginal businesses and partners. He mentioned how there had also been an increase in Aboriginal lands with eighteen million hectares coming under the control of First Nations nationally and this number would only grow.

Mr. Ruseski described the four key elements within the vision statement, which INAC felt were responsive to changes in the near and medium term rather than in twenty-year intervals, as was the case with CAEDS. The framework also had a focus on results, which CAEDS did not have.

He discussed how INAC arrived at the new framework including how in 2008 the government launched an engagement process to develop it. Six sessions were held involving approximately five hundred people and forty Aboriginal organizations; thirty formal submissions were received. He said INAC learned that the legislative and regulatory climate on reserve was a significant issue; it had become an impediment to economic development on reserves. He said INAC also heard about the challenges communities faced regarding commercial infrastructure, there seemed to be a clear deficit in that area. Another factor that had become apparent to INAC was that capacity for economic development planning for Aboriginal communities needed better investment.

Mr. Ruseski continued by describing the five priority areas within the framework, as outlined in the document provided to the participants. He informed the participants that the framework was not specific to INAC but was across the federal government. The "whole of government approach" would guide the framework across twenty departments, each of which had a mandate that touched on Aboriginal economic development. The goal was to focus the federal family on economic development outcomes and to have a flexible approach that could be adjusted over time as needed and not in twenty-year increments.

Mr. Wilson said eight workshops were being held across Canada to see what people felt were the best opportunities and how they wished to participate in the new approach. He added that INAC and CFS were hoping to get ideas from a lot of forestry practitioners, as well as government representatives and the industry on trends in forestry and on the potential for project partnerships. Following that, he said the information would be taken back and discussion would occur amongst federal departments and agen-



cies on a sector plan that would look at opportunities that had been identified across Canada in order to secure multi-year funding through strategic partnership initiatives.

He described the rationale for the shift and how previously support to the forestry industry in capacity building and business opportunities was fragmented across departments and the FNFP provided only low levels of funding to one community at a time. The move would be toward a more integrated approach with multi-year funding and with a larger aggregation of partners. The expectation was get receive a "bigger bang for the buck" for federal investments with better outcomes and it would mean better access to forestry-based opportunities for communities.

He went over some key questions for consideration including what partnerships could be developed between government, the business world, and the communities. The strategy's success was based on its ability to bring money from key funding departments such as HRSDC or regional development agencies. The money that CFS had would be used to tap into the SPI funding and regional-scale projects would continue.

Participant Comments/Questions

A participant asked about partnership development and if INAC/CFS had a process to identify how that would occur. The response was that the process had not been determined yet, that work would be happening during March 2011. It was established however that way things were done under the FNFP would not be continued in the future. It was suggested that this new approach might begin with a person presenting an idea, it would be discussed, and then potential funding sources would be determined. Following that, the department would work with the appropriate band to see what the funding pot looked like.

A question was then asked about existing companies out there in different areas and if they would be receptive to Aboriginal partnerships. The response was that it depended on the project itself and the suggested opportunities. In other regions, there have been suggestions on contracting forestry services. It would also vary from company to company.

An additional comment from the presenters described how funding might flow from other departments, and not just INAC. The framework enabled departments to flow funds in ways that would provide support that was not possible in the past. Anything was possible under the new framework; the important thing was for the project to be interesting in order to galvanize other departments to want to support the project.

There was a question about partnering with governments, since Western Diversification existed in Alberta.

There was some concern among participants about the government's difficulty with competition between companies that were using public funds and the apparent unwillingness of government to leverage the funds; they need to be more willing partners. It was noted that it was nice to talk about opportunities, but unless they were more will then there was no point – it was something that needed to be considered. There needed to be more discussions around leveraging because if there was an opportunity, it might be lost if the government moved to slow. More answers needed to be provided on how to move ahead. It was also mentioned that training was not a big issue for a lot of people but what was needed was action and some commitment, that was what some participants want.

The response from the presenters stressed that INAC/CFS could help interested parties with the feasibility study and other ways of scoping out the plan. It was explained that assistance could also be provided with sourcing federal funding partners that provide equity such as Aboriginal

Business Canada or CFDC's and otherwise help bring people to the table that could provide further assistance.

Mr. Ruseski acknowledged that access to capital was a big issue and the question was how to access without running into barriers. INAC/CFS was trying to overcome this with the new framework. He said the comments and concerns of participants would be taken and shared at the larger federal table; this new approach was being implemented as quickly as possible.

Another concern a participant expressed was what he felt was the mindset of the Alberta government which was "you have a reserve, stay on it and be happy". He felt this would be a stumbling block. The response from the presenters was that business capital was a sensitive subject which might require some legal advice and there was an acknowledgment that there were some issues which might be beyond the capacity of INAC/CFS to solve.

A participant wondered if there opportunities other than forestry under the framework, perhaps relating to mining or farming and if there would be access to capital in other areas as identified. The response was that there was already an existing suite of programs to access capital out there. The idea with this framework was to look at how the federal government could organize themselves to support things; it was about having a strategy and priorities and particular sectors would be approached in different ways.

Another participant stated that it was important to have a program that had some "bite" to it and not just a lot of talk on ideas and how to make it work. He added that the program needed to get away from the stacking limit and very few bands had a say as to what was in place. The issue with the FNPF was that everything was on a re-imbursement basis; up-front money needed

to be made available rather in re-imbursements – everyone needs to be mindful of that.

It was acknowledged that the new SPI seed money was not large compared to some sources, but the types of initiatives it would support were getting people together or doing feasibility studies. It was suggested that larger pots of money would come from other major sources. The presenters added that points being raised about where the money was and how it was administered were very critical and they have taken notice of what was being said.

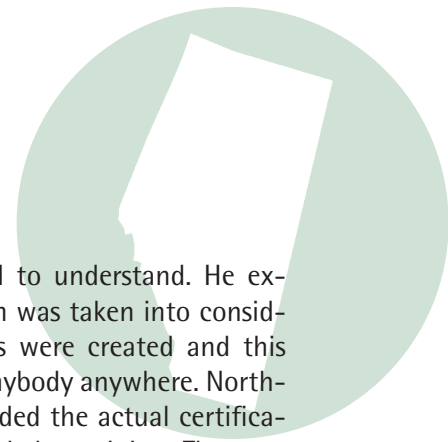
Another point that was raised was the need for an advisory group in between timber operators that First Nations could approach and tap into for advice. Timber operators could then use that group to guide First Nations projects. There were a lot of experts out there such as contractors, proposal writers and business planners, if they could get one group to help First Nations and timber operators then things would move forward.

PART II – ALBERTA FORESTRY OPPORTUNITIES, CHALLENGES AND INITIATIVES

ABORIGINAL PERSPECTIVE

Mr. Francis First Charger

Mr. First Charger offered his greetings to the other treaty areas, to provincial and federal representatives and to the Elder. He advised those in attendance not to look at the water or forests as a source of money or employment, but to look at it just to appreciate it, when that was



done he said then the forests and water would provide for people. He added that it was important to remember the perspectives of the Elder when working in forestry.

Other Federal Partners in Aboriginal Forestry
Ms. Melanie Swain, Western Diversification

Ms. Swain provided an overview on the Western Diversification program. She also mentioned that Western Diversification does not have Aboriginal-specific programming but rather they enhance it.

COLLABORATION STORIES

Dave Blackmore, Woodland Operations Learning Foundations (WOLF)

Wendy Blackman, Dehchen Corporation

Mr. Blackmore mentioned he was the Executive Director of WOLF and said his company was about training for the forestry industry. He went on to say that logging had changed a lot since the 1980's, when it involved a high number of workers but now there were more machines doing the work. The rate of change and information and knowledge required to operate a land base was amazing.

He said WOLF filled a niche in the forestry industry by helping those in forestry do business better regarding the environment and the footprint on the natural resources. Traditional forms of education might not work in the industry as someone might run a company with twenty-five million dollars in income but that person might not have been able to get through the normal routes of education. WOLF found ways to deal with and deliver other learning styles; WOLF training allowed for credits for professional foresters.

He added that WOLF mixed itself with those with the newest technology, as one needed to understand the basic science and regulation of forestry. There was a new land stewardship act that the manufacturers and those who create

the technology needed to understand. He explained the information was taken into consideration when resources were created and this could be delivered to anybody anywhere. Northern Lakes College provided the actual certification but WOLF provided the training. The next piece of that collaborative arrangement was the membership; there was close to sixty people who made a significant contribution to WOLF running the courses whether providing information or to instructing courses. A lot of training was done with Aboriginal people but most of it was done through pre-employment training; there had also been interest from other post-secondary institutions. He said subject matter experts were involved who really understood the industry and WOLF gave them a background in basic adult education and the courses were constantly maintained.

A participant asked about their partners, where the funding came from and if WOLF had any relationships with asset organizations in Alberta. The answer was that it might be happening through a third party, as Northern Lakes College was charged no licensing fees by WOLF, and they paid half the salaries. The rest of the money was based on contributions or grants and sales or training.

In response to a question on the numbers of students that WOLF dealt with each year, Mr. Blackmore said last there was six hundred days of student training and, over the last five years, there have been thirty-seven hundred days of certifiable training. Each class had roughly twenty students.

Questions were asked about what sorts of environmental protection practices WOLF took part in and the response that there was a whole list of what was done and it started with a philosophy course which included discussion on whether forestry companies have a right to operate on public lands. There were also courses on basic regulations required to protect the land and water base. Others courses were about op-

erational issues from maintaining roads to wild-life management.

The important thing for any project in which WOLF became involved was that it created jobs.

Ms. Blackman thanked the organizers for the invitation and informed the group that she was the Managing Director of the Cold Lake First Nation. She said the Dehchen Corporation had a mill, which allowed them to sell lumber, and they also participated in all kinds of forestry services. The goal was to return natural resources to the community in forms of providing homes. Other goals were to build capacity within the nation and to support entrepreneurs. Dehchen would also like to become a major player in the regional economy through sustainable harvesting. Dehchen also wanted to help build the economy and increase income, along with providing employment and training opportunities for the community. She added that unemployment was not a huge problem in their community and that they outsourced for labour quite a bit. However, they did wish to involve community members a lot more in the forestry industry and she said Dehchen wanted to have a method or means to involve them more.

The challenge was always skills development, training and getting youth interested in the industry as a career choice. She said they were

working on developing partnerships and working together on the same path in mutually beneficial relationships; she believed that was the key to success.

She was asked if there was continuity with leadership and if Dehchen was able to remain at arms length from the community leadership. Her response was that there were a lot of elections for Chief and Council but she said the new councils have always been very pro-business, which she appreciated. She added that she was able to remain at arms length as Dehchen had its own board of directors and the company was independent from community leadership.

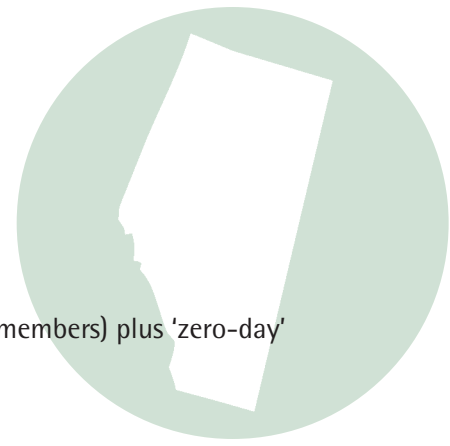
She said Dehchen received their logs from the lumber cut by the oil and gas industry when they clear forests for oil and gas work; formal agreements were in place for that. She added that it was unfortunate that forests were cleared but at least the community benefited from it. She further added that they planned to diversify from that dependency so as they wouldn't "have all their eggs in one basket".

Since her reserve was near the base, she was asked about any agreements with CFB Cold Lake. She said they had no formal agreements with the base but they did provide services to DND like any other client.

PART III - SMALL GROUP SESSIONS

BREAKOUT SESSION #1 – IDENTIFYING OPPORTUNITIES

The small groups were asked to identify opportunities in economic development in the forestry sector in Alberta. The following were the flipchart notes provided by the groups followed by their reports back to plenary.



GROUP 1

- Type 1 & 2, log builders, forest industry partners (White fish, Sunchild members) plus 'zero-day' contracts)
- Fire fighting contracts with SRD (62 vs 93 days) – 3 year bids
- Silviculture contracts
- Timber harvesting/sawmilling
- Products, Value added, cants
- Wood supply issues
- Timber salvage 'free' except transport
- Salvage work
- Reclamation/remediation (Oil & Gas)
- Well sites
- Exploration, construction
- Free farm, agro forestry
- Nature conservancy?
- Chinese/International partners in forest industry/value added products
- Issue with political influence (AB), limits
- MPB, major contractors, industry
- Leveraging with Government of Alberta
- Cogen opportunity
- Pressure treated wood
- Seeking international business opportunities by adding value to existing capacities (e.g. disaster relief)
- Access matting using mountain pine beetle wood (substitute US product)
- Training (RCCC & other FN) including traditional use

The presenter mentioned that the group felt that there were opportunities for Type 1 and Type 2 firefighting contracts and it was about building on human resources and turning them into value-added products. The issue with contracts was that prices varied with fuel or staff wages. This meant that, by the time a contract was completed, it might be three years later that a company might face financial issues.

It was also noted that, twenty years ago, timber harvesting was very labour intensive but now it was much more technical. There was now one person doing what would have required several people before. The wood supply was also an issue unless they had an agreement with the oil & gas industry to use what they cut. It was noted that this was usually free but costs were incurred with transportation of that wood – so much so that it did not make financial sense.

The group noted that small niche products might be very profitable, for example Japanese companies were interested in purchasing cedar wood for temple construction in Japan. Finally, it was suggested that the new Stewardship Act in Alberta was a political issue because it put First Nation in a competitive atmosphere.

GROUP 2

- Environmental/forest-related oil & gas – sector services – training needs
- capacity – training needs

Sawmilling (case-specific)

- depends on proximity to an FMA-holder or access to timber
- depends on type of forest endowment
- depends on awareness of forest-product market/demand

Long-haul trucking/transportation

- Aboriginal Canadians should get first consideration for available jobs
- education/training
- capital/equipment needs

Silviculture/re-forestation

- including greenhouses – challenge, acquiring contracts, permissions
- link to MPB, forest fire restoration, oil sands
- need for focus on local Aboriginal employment
- training needs

Data gathering

- needs, forest inventory – link to band management (on-reserve and traditional land)

Wood chipping/harvesting/slash piles

- pellets/heating
- bio energy/fuel

Scarification

- site preparation prior to planting

Timber harvesting

- capital costs
- min. feasibility, 80K

Forestry management services involved the entire gamut of services including surveying and harvesting. Participants noted that certain requirements to enter that marketplace must be considered, as certain functions require certification of employees.

There were also forestry services required from other sectors such as clearing for mining for example and providing wood products for their industries. This as seen as a very realistic option based on the booming and stable state of that industry.

GROUP 3

Biomass

- Forestry management services
- Forestry services – mining, energy
- Housing/Log Cabins
- NTFP's



Waterhen facility – pine beetle, education (training)

- AAFC-PFRA (wind shelter belts) Agri-forestry?

Settled land claim – study , saw mill operation

- Biomass – bulk biomass? Facility – Edzo/Rae – converted to pellets (community heating

NWT had supportive initiatives

- conversion policy - pellet manufacturing
- -Gasification
- land stewardship – training/certification (AAC) – Aboriginal research
- Surveying, black layout

Each Nation beginning this work was different in size and location and proximity to timber operations. Also, each Nation could be helped with training specific to managing natural resources. Specific training was also required in terms of the operation of heavy equipment, however the ability to complete technical service for timber operators required extensive training.

BREAKOUT SESSION #2 – REQUIREMENTS AND PARTNERS

Following the identification of opportunities, the participants, in their small groups, were asked to identify the requirements and partners needed to make those a reality. The following were the flipchart notes provided by the groups followed by their reports back to plenary.

GROUP 1 - ABORIGINAL VALUE ADDED FOREST PRODUCTS

Strategy for Aboriginal Value Added Forest Products

- Why?
- more revenue
- market advantage
- jobs
- "moving up the value chain"

Alberta and NWT

What was value-added?

- a. Metric standards timber
- b. post and beam
- c. tourism/cultural knick knacks (cuisinary, hockey sticks, lacrosse sticks, carving, walking sticks)

What was needed to seize the opportunity?

1. Knowledge about new products and market acceptance
2. Access to the wood and equipment and processes to transform into products
3. Investors
4. Marketing networks
5. Branding

Partners:

- Knowledge
- FP Innovations
- Province, CFS
- consultants/market experts
- other First Nations
- wood product associations
- marketing co-ops
- chain of custody?

Access to Resources to Make it Happen

- provincial allocation quota – partner in industry
- joint ventures with others with equipment and proven technologies
- skills for workforce (asset holders)
- legal patent/trade

Agro-forestry

- afforestation for fast growing aspen (local fibre basket)
- stable stream of income
- biodiversity advantages
- custom markets

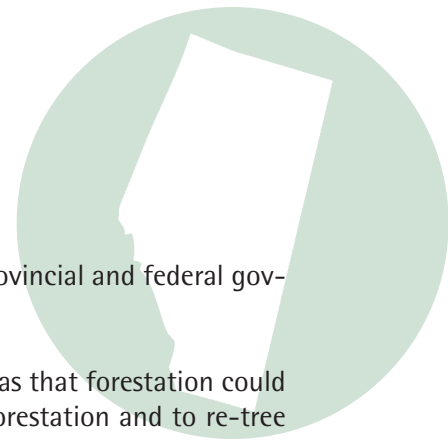
Remediation

- growing requirements/standards
- a forestry services opportunity

The presenter noted that the discussion focused on the strategy for Aboriginal value-added forest products for niche markets, such as Aboriginal-branded products in Korea for example. There were also more benefits as they move up the value-added products chain. Other value-added forest products could be metric-standard timber and post and beam, as this related to the niche market in Japan.

Participants also noted that tourism and cultural products that were wood-based such as the snowshoes produced by the Huron/Wendake of Quebec – this had become their brand – presented opportunities. It was noted that the First Nation manufacturers were even getting into making them of aluminum. This was an example of a product that they had branded.

Participants discussed access to equipment and a process that could transform wood into products however investors were required along with a network for marketing; contact needed to be made with those already in the market. This related to the need to determine appropriate potential partners who could then advise on new products. It was suggested that there were many consultants out there who could help.



A lot of planning and integration was required including solicitation of provincial and federal government agencies.

Another idea that the participants discussed was Agri-forestry; the idea was that forestation could be an economic opportunity as governments were often required for reforestation and to re-tree marginal farming land.

GROUP 2 - FOREST MANAGEMENT

Forest Management:

Activities:

- Timber/vegetation/biomass/traditional collect (inventory)
- Data (GIS), storage and planning/layout
- Meet nation requirements for oil & gas etc, land use plans (including traditional use info)
- Ongoing monitoring=

Requirements:

- Land base (FN) other: (reserve, traditional lands, licenses)
- Trained/skilled staff
- Resolve boundaries for traditional lands confirmed
- Infrastructure? Equipment
- Education or consultants
- Limited opportunities – declining due to changing license requirements
- Increasing complexities!!

Partners:

- Province of Alberta
- Forest, industry, including contractors/consultants
- Oil & gas industry
- Training institutes
- Cash/in-kind included
- Other federal departments/agencies
- Joint First Nation arrangements (and Métis)

Silviculture

Activities:

- Stand tending, seeds and tree-planting, site preparation, herbicides including vegetation management, regeneration surveys, pruning

Requirements:

- Trained crews, professional certification (RPF/RPFT)
- Equipment and training
- Contractor certification/qualification
- Licensing (herb. cert)
- Specialized training (eg, ACF)
- Business training including leadership prep/mentoring, monitoring, quality control

Partners:

- ATCO, ACE, GOA
- Contracts with industry – negotiated/in place/procured
- Clients? – FMA holders, neighbours
- On reserve activities

The presenter stated that in order to use data storing as a map, it had be information that was at one's fingertips, such as the GIS program for example. It was a useful tool in entrepreneurship to monitor resources on a land base.

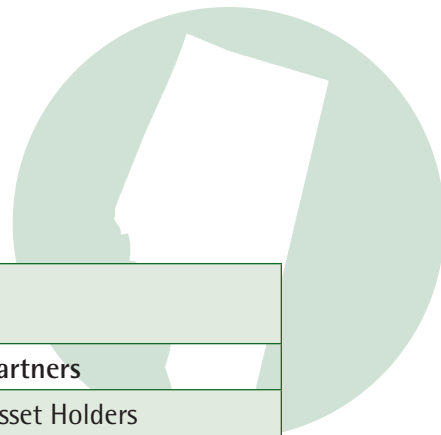
Forest management meant keeping track of all natural resources including fisheries, timber and vegetation. Traditional forest management would include tracking hunting, fishing and other activities such as the growth of berries. All of these things needed to document changes caused by development. It was also important to know the land base in detail including the soil and water. The GIS would be able to store information and therefore allow for plans to be made accordingly.

Managers also needed appropriate education and might require specific certifications. The issues around land management had become more complex so the trend had moved away from ground-level certification and the onus was on the person to certify himself/herself. In terms of silviculture, it was embedded in forestry management service and there was no need to be professionally certified.

It was noted that it could be difficult to break into the market since forest companies had established relationships with companies that provided the service. Also, a proper license needed to be obtained which included course specific training.

GROUP 3 - BIOMASS

Biomass (Electricity/heating)		
Activities	Requirements	Partners
Fuel Needs Infrastructure Community Participation Markets Labour/Jobs	Types of wood/resources Community requirements Feasibility Technologies Gasification Pellets Business Plan Cost Analysis Community First Sell to grid Bi-product (charcoal)	FMA Holders Oil & Gas Electrical INAC Provincial Government Federal Provincial NRCAN CHMC
Next Steps <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research feasibility options; Funding; West Fraser Sundrive (?) 2. Community engagement; Chief Council 3. Choose option <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buy equipment • Harvest and fuels 		



Housing Sarcee Piikani model		
Activities	Requirements	Partners
Supply materials Workers/Contractors Training & Skills Band Council	Log homes Wood Frame Wood products: floors cupboards; windows; doors Energy/Electricity: Solar, wind, geothermal, biomass Pre Fab Panels Research/analysis	Asset Holders HRSDC
Next Steps 1. Research/feasibility; does it make sense 2. Community support 3. Action Plan Examples: Sunchild; Blood		

NTPF		
Activities	Requirements	Examples
Material Product supply Market Workers Standards BR	Training	Eco Tourism: winter camps; outdoor experience Food products: berries, mushroom; wild meat Medicines & herbs Crafts Furs Birch bark baskets and canoes

In summary, the presenter stated that biomass was about heating and electrical generating opportunities. It had to be determined what fuel the community needed and if it wanted to go in that direction. It also had to be determined if the technology and infrastructure existed to support it.

A participant noted that salvaging wood was done by a lot of companies and there had to be front-end research along with a feasibility study. It also had to be a community decision; community members had to see the value of it.

With housing, one needed quality timber, along with workers and contract people who could work in construction such as plumbers and electricians. Participants suggested that there needed to be links to the ASETS holder regarding trades and apprenticeships.

PART IV – FINAL PLENARY/ CLOSING REMARKS

A participant asked about FNFP and when changes to the new structure would take effect and if there was an associated dollar amount. This was necessary so that communities could make plans around that amount. The response was that the process right now was to get the ideas from First Nations and then figure out how best to fund them rather than have a fixed amount but there would be additional money available and perhaps seed money to get things started. Mr. Ruseski said the all of this information would be reviewed by INAC, including information obtained at the other sessions across the country, and the opportunities and ideas would drive the investment rather than the other way around; it would also be open to bigger multi-year projects. He said an exact amount could not be provided at this time as the plan was to first determine the priorities based on feedback gathered at the regional sessions. He added that INAC would look at how to bring in other departments and areas within INAC and CFS that would have available funds and make the linkages around the table to find out how they could provide support.

Another participant said she thought it would be better to know what amount she would be working with in order for her to start planning

and if she should plan big or small. The response given was that was a "chicken or the egg situation"; INAC wanted to know what ideas people had in order to determine the proper level of funding.

The participants were informed that, once all the material was gathered, a report would be produced and sent out to the participants. The final report would be completed in March 2011

A participant reminded the INAC representative that the framework had to include everyone. Some small First Nation community somewhere must not be ignored because it might not fit the categories if it wanted to be a player in the process. The concern was noted by INAC and it was restated that all situations would be considered.

In response to a question about how the report and all the information would be disseminated, it was stated that the information would be distributed to all tribal council across the country, those already involved with the FNFP, and also to many First Nations and individuals. INAC had a large and diverse contact list that would be used. It was mentioned that a lot of Alberta First Nations were invited to this meeting but only about half of those attended. The plan was to first get the report out to everyone followed by a plan to bring together the national council of the FNPF for discussion.

