



SUSTAINABLE
FORESTRY
INITIATIVE

SFI-00001

ADDRESSING INDIGENOUS INTERESTS AND BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

Indigenous peoples in North America and around the world have long relied on forests for cultural, spiritual and material needs. At the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) we believe the future of our forests and our shared quality of life depends on strengthening the vital links between healthy forests, responsible purchasing and thriving communities. These shared values allow for a strong and multi-faceted link between SFI and indigenous communities across North America.

SFI supports indigenous peoples' interests in multiple ways. The SFI Forest Management Standard is aligned with traditional values recognizing indigenous peoples' rights, traditional knowledge and environmental values. SFI also partners with leading organizations like the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business and Habitat for Humanity Canada's Indigenous Housing Program. The SFI Conservation and Community Partnerships Grant program supports indigenous values and to date SFI has awarded 6 grants focused on these values from the pine forests of Arizona to the boreal forests of Canada and the rainforests of the Pacific Northwest.

SFI has provided awards recognizing leadership in the protection of forest resources and the incorporation of traditional design in modern wood structures.

Use of the SFI Forest Management Standard continues to grow across North America. Communities from the Pacific Northwest to the boreal forest use the SFI Standard to address cultural, economic and environmental interests. Indigenous communities began certifying to SFI in 2010 and since then dozens of communities and businesses have used the SFI standard to certify millions of acres/ hectares in both Canada and the U.S.





SPEAKING OUT ABOUT WHY THEY PARTNER WITH SFI

INDIGENOUS INTERESTS REPRESENTED ON SFI BOARD

SFI Inc. is led by an independent board of directors that represents environmental, social and economic interests equally. SFI has brought indigenous interests onto its board through the appointment of David Walkem, Chief of the Cooks Ferry Indian Band.

“ SFI certification addresses much that is important to First Nation communities — from recognizing indigenous peoples’ rights and traditional knowledge to environmental values, such as wildlife habitat, to social and economic values, such as stable jobs and markets.

CHIEF DAVID WALKEM

SFI Board Member, Economic Chamber
Chief, Cook’s Ferry Indian Band
President, Stuwix Resources Joint Venture

THE YAKAMA NATION

The SFI Forest Management Standard respects traditional knowledge about forests and promotes the protection of historically and culturally important sites.

“ The timber-based economy of the Yakama Nation in Washington State is unique in that it balances economic needs while ensuring the protection of the Yakama cultural and traditional practices. To keep this balance, it’s critical that we maintain a high sustainability standard, and SFI helps us do just that.

STEVE ANDRINGA

Administrative Forester, Yakama Nation, Washington

MIITIGOOG L.P.

Miitigoog L.P. is a partnership between Kenora area First Nations, forest industry partners and Kenora independent loggers.

“ The SFI Standard reinforces many of the objectives we currently have in managing our forests — protecting special sites, conservation and community involvement. Through SFI certification we can now communicate these important values to our customers and communities.

CHIEF LORRAINE COBINESS

President, Miitigoog, Ontario

CAPACITY FOREST MANAGEMENT LTD.

Capacity Forest Management Ltd. specializes in the management of First Nations Forestry Operations in conjunction with our First Nations clients.

“ We found that a lot of the SFI principles matched the objectives and goals of First Nations communities for long-term management of their land base.

CORBY LAMB

President, Capacity Forest Management, British Columbia
Winner SFI President’s Award 2012

CANADIAN COUNCIL FOR ABORIGINAL BUSINESS

In May 2013, SFI signed a memorandum of understanding with the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business (CCAB). This agreement expands our relationship, engagement and outreach with the indigenous community.



“ Partnering with SFI builds the brand of the CCAB’s Progressive Aboriginal Relations (PAR) program. When you look at products, a dual logo is going to highlight both SFI and PAR. It will be a sign that the product comes from responsibly managed forests that involved progressive Aboriginal relations. It’s a good thing.

JP GLADU

President and CEO of CCAB



INDIGENOUS HOUSING

In Canada, indigenous housing is a national challenge. SFI is a partner in Habitat for Humanity Canada’s (HFHC) Indigenous Housing Program. To date, the HFHC program has enabled almost 150 families to realize their dream of affordable home ownership.








“ Habitat for Humanity Canada is one of the very few non-profit housing organizations actively engaged in making the difference in First Nations communities and now SFI is a partner in that effort.

MARK RODGERS

SFI Board Member, Social Chamber
President and CEO, Habitat for Humanity Canada



LANDS UNDER INDIGENOUS MANAGEMENT CERTIFIED TO THE SFI FOREST MANAGEMENT STANDARD

CERTIFICATION	COMMUNITIES	ACRES	HECTARES	LOCATION
 Capacity Forest Management	Namgis First Nation • Wei Wai Kum First Nation • Kitasoo Band • Wuikinuxv Nation • Lower Similkameen Indian Band • Mowachat/Muchalaht First Nations • Lower Similkameen Indian Band • Mamalilikulla- Qwe'Qwa'Set'Em Band • Sechelt First Nation	811,295	328,319	British Columbia
 Hancock Forest Management	Muckleshoot Indian Tribe	104,999	42,491	Washington
 Miiitigoog General Partner Inc.	Anishnabeg of Naongashing • Naotkamegwaning First Nation • Northwest Angle #33 • Ochiichagwe'Babigo'ining First Nation • Ojibways of Onigaming • Shoal Lake #40 • Wabaseemoong Independent Nation	2,811,716	1,137,861	Ontario
 Montreal Lake Business Ventures Ltd Saskatchewan Woodlands	Montreal Lake Cree Nation	508,007	205,583	Saskatchewan
 Obishikookaang Resources Corporation	Lac Seul First Nation	2,645,429	1,070,567	Ontario
 Stuwix Resources Joint Venture	Cook's Ferry Indian Band • Coldwater Indian Band • Nooaitch Indian Band • Shackan Indian Band • Siska Indian Band • Upper Similkameen Indian Band • Lower Nicola Indian Band • Upper Nicola Band	195,213	79,000	British Columbia
 Yakama Nation	Yakama Nation	632,411	255,928	Washington
	TOTAL - 28 COMMUNITIES	7.7 million acres	3.1 million hectares	

SFI CONSERVATION AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS GRANT PROGRAM

Since 2010, SFI has awarded Conservation and Community Partnership grants totaling more than \$2.7 million to foster research and pilot efforts to better inform future decisions about our forests. When leveraged with project partner contributions that total exceeds \$9.2 million. To date 6 indigenous communities have benefitted from this program.

The **Tk'emlups First Nations** in British Columbia worked with their elders to describe cultural heritage resources, such as traditional foods and medicines, and trained youth to work with the forest sector to protect these resources.

The **Native Earth Environmental Youth Camp** is a youth camp devoted to sustainable science and traditional ecological knowledge run by the State University of New York in partnership with the Haudenosaunee Environmental Task Force.

On BC's central coast the **Heiltsuk** are using databases and Geographic Information Systems to improve the understanding of location and importance of culturally-modified trees distributed throughout their traditional territory.

Quebec's **Laval University**, SFI and its partners are helping aboriginal communities and forest companies cooperate to expand opportunities for aboriginal forestry workers.

Washington State's **Muckleshoot Tribe** is using an SFI grant to help build an education facility to promote responsible forestry and traditional values, and connect youth to their land and culture.

The **San Carlos Apache Forest Resources Youth Outreach Program** is being supported by SFI to promote the link between sustainable forestry, cultural heritage and empowering Tribal youth.



RECOGNIZING INDIGENOUS ACHIEVEMENT

WOOD DESIGN AWARDS PROGRAM

Using wood in innovative and beautiful ways to bring new life to a BC community hub has earned KH Designs the SFI Award, which is part of the 2015/16 Wood Design Awards program.



The Quilakwa Center, in Enderby in the southern interior of BC, is home to the Splatsin boardroom and development corporation offices, a First Nation's arts shop, gas bar, convenience store, and a Tim Hortons restaurant and drive-thru. The winning partnership includes KH Designs, Splatsin, Omega & Associates Engineering and Sperlich Log Construction.

The 13,520 square foot, two-storey structure used heavy timber logs from Downie Timber in Revelstoke, which is part of the Gorman Group of Companies, and the Revelstoke Community Forest Corporation. Both are certified to the SFI Forest Management Standard.

Splatsin members also harvested some of the special character logs from their own lands. These types of logs are typically not used by the forest industry because of their crookedness and character.

CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP

The Nanwakolas Council, a leadership group for 12 coastal British Columbia First Nations, worked with SFI Program Participant Interfor, to identify the qualities of western red cedar trees suitable for carving traditional canoes and poles, and for Big House construction. Suitable trees are at least three feet in diameter, 300 to 600 years old and free of large knots. Forestry professionals from Interfor and master carvers from area First Nations developed field criteria, which were then used by crews to identify appropriate trees. This partnership, respecting traditional lands and cultural needs, was awarded a SFI Conservation Leadership Award.

LEARN MORE:

Andrew de Vries, VP Conservation & Indigenous Relations
613-424-8734
or: www.sfiprogram.org/indigenous-communities/



PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

During the 2015-2019 standard revision process SFI received comments from indigenous peoples and held a dedicated workshop on addressing those comments and incorporating them into the standard.

Many SFI Standard requirements reflect and support values and an approach to land management that are important to Indigenous communities:

INDIGENOUS RIGHTS: Objective 8 recognizes and respects indigenous peoples' rights and traditional knowledge. This includes understanding and respecting traditional forest-related knowledge, protecting spiritual, historical and cultural sites, and using non-timber forest products.

WATER: Objective 3 requires protection and maintenance of rivers, streams, lakes and other water bodies, a top priority for Indigenous communities that rely on naturally functioning water resources.

SPECIAL SITES: Objective 6 calls for the protection of special sites and requires program participants to manage lands that are ecologically, geologically, historically or culturally important in a manner that takes into account their unique qualities. This includes sites special to Indigenous peoples.

RESEARCH: Objective 10 requires support for forestry research, science and technology. Indigenous land managers work with a variety of agencies to advance research and combine it with cultural ideals, objectives and values.

TRAINING: Objective 11 requires that SFI Program Participants train personnel and contractors so they can support sustainable forestry practices. Indigenous communities working in forestry value this opportunity to build capacity within their communities.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: Objective 12 encourages public involvement in the practice of sustainable forestry, which means providing opportunities for Indigenous communities to provide input about plans for traditional lands and their use.