



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SFI INC. PRESENTS INTERFOR WITH CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP AWARD

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – International Forest Products Ltd. (Interfor) received a Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) Conservation Leadership Award today for a partnership with Aboriginal people along British Columbia’s Pacific Coast that will ensure there is a suitable supply of monumental cedar trees to meet long-term cultural needs.

“One of the principles of SFI third-party forest certification is to protect sites with special significance, including those with cultural importance,” said Kathy Abusow, president and CEO of SFI Inc., in presenting the award to Interfor at the SFI annual conference. “Through their partnership, Interfor and the N̄anwak̄olas Council are working together to ensure there will be appropriate cedar trees to meet the cultural needs of coastal First Nation communities for 300 years.”

The N̄anwak̄olas Council, a leadership group for 12 coastal First Nations, worked with 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. Forest professionals from Interfor and master carvers from area First Nations developed the field criteria, which were then used by crews who travelled to the most likely locations, identified appropriate trees, and marked their locations by GPS. Interfor operates on public land certified to the SFI forest standard.

“Interfor is pleased to receive this leadership award from SFI Inc. for our partnership with First Nations people on managing cultural cedar inventories,” said Duncan Davies, Interfor’s president and CEO. “Working with others has been the key to our success in the central coast area that has been globally recognized for its collaborative approach to land use planning.”

“The process leading to ecosystem-based management has helped First Nation governments build a stronger partnership with forest licensees and a government-to-government relationship with the British Columbia government,” said Dallas Smith, president of N̄anwak̄olas Council. “By helping us build and maintain this inventory, Interfor is showing it cares about our traditional lands and respects our cultural needs.”

The monumental cedar inventory project arose from community-based land and resource management planning involving environmental groups, First Nations, the forest sector and government in the globally unique Central and North Coast regions, also known as the Great Bear Rainforest. In 2006, following government-to-government discussions with area First Nations, British Columbia announced it was protecting 1.8 million hectares (4.5 million acres) in the region, which contains one-quarter of the world’s coastal temperate rainforest. Where resource development is allowed, it is to be guided by ecosystem-based management, an approach to managing resources that ensures the co-existence of healthy, fully functioning ecosystems and human communities.

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The SFI program is one of the largest third-party forest certification programs in the world, with more than 70 million hectares (175 million acres) certified across North America. In 2001, Interfor became the first company in Canada to certify its operations on public lands to the SFI forest standard, and it now has more than two million hectares (five million acres) certified to the SFI standard in British Columbia.

SFI program participants are involved in more than 100 projects across North America, which improve scientific information and enhance conservation and forest management. Since 1995, these organizations have contributed more than \$1 billion (US) for research activities that improve the health, productivity and responsible management of forest resources. SFI Inc. introduced its conservation leadership award in 2007 to recognize projects with strong partnerships that achieve ongoing and far-reaching benefits.

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Editors Note: A backgrounder on the monumental cedar inventory project is attached.

About SFI Inc.

SFI Inc. is a 501c(3) non-profit charitable organization, and is solely responsible for maintaining, overseeing and improving the Sustainable Forestry Initiative program (www.sfiprogram.org), which is internationally recognized and among the largest in the world. It is one of the fastest-growing forest certification programs with more than 70 millions hectares (175 million acres) of SFI-certified forests across North America. The SFI Standard also includes unique fibre sourcing requirements that promote responsible forest management on all suppliers' lands and a chain-of-custody certification, which is used to tell buyers how much certified fibre is in a specific product. The SFI forest standard is endorsed by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes, a global umbrella organization that has strict requirements for endorsement. SFI Inc. is governed by a three-chamber board of directors representing environmental, social and economic sectors equally.

About International Forest Products Limited (Interfor)

Interfor (www.interfor.com) is one of the Pacific Northwest's largest producers of quality wood products. The company's sawmilling operations have a combined manufacturing capacity of 1.6 billion board feet of lumber with sales to North America, Asia-Pacific and Europe. Interfor is based in Vancouver, British Columbia, and has manufacturing operations in British Columbia, Washington and Oregon. Interfor is a leader in employing new sustainable forestry practices, and has received international awards for its involvement in an innovative approach to forestry called ecosystem-based management in coastal British Columbia.

About Nanwakolas Council

Nanwakolas Council (www.nanwakolas.com) was incorporated in February 2007, and is a coalition of First Nations in the southern portion of the Central Coast planning region on British Columbia's Pacific Coast. Traditional territories of Nanwakolas Council Society Nations are located on Vancouver Island and the British Columbia mainland coast. The Council represents members from the Mamalilikulla-Qwe'Qwa'Sot'Em, Tlowitsis, Da'naxda'xw Awaetlatla, Gwa'Sala-'Nakwaxda'xw, Kwiakah, and Comox First Nations who have come together on a regional basis to participate collectively on various land and resource management and planning issues, including the Coast Land Use Decision.



BACKGROUND: Creating Monumental Cultural Cedar Inventories

First Nations in Canada's Pacific Coast region have long used cedar for traditional and cultural purposes. Current forest management regimes manage second-growth forests on rotations considerably shorter than 300 years so the supply of accessible, large cedar logs suitable for carved poles, canoes, and Big Houses construction is diminishing in some areas along the British Columbia coast.

In 2008, First Nations on the north and central coast of British Columbia participated in pilot projects to test an approach to secure a perpetual supply of cultural cedar. International Forest Products (Interfor) was the partner forest company and the Nanwakolas Council Society provided project coordination and funding.

The cultural cedar inventory aims to strategically secure a rolling 300-year supply of cultural cedar, and to coordinate management of the data on the selected cultural cedar trees. A rolling inventory means that as trees are cut for cultural use, other trees are added to the inventory. The inventory includes trees suitable for carving today and younger trees that can provide a steady stream of suitable cultural cedar over the next 300 years.

The pilot projects resulted in a report, *Cultural Cedar Inventory: An Approach with Case Studies*, that provides guidelines and principles for the long-term coordination of the cultural cedar data that can be used by forest professionals and First Nation communities. This is important since the cultural cedar strategy must survive through at least 10 generations of land and resource managers.

The report includes a worksheet to illustrate an approach for estimating the size and quantity of logs required for cultural and ceremonial use for the next 300 years, along with factors to allow for breakage, loss and unexpected defects which can render a tree in the inventory unusable. Each First Nation community determines how much cultural cedar it will need for cultural purposes, and the field work finds and reserves those trees on the land.

First Nations participating in the pilot inventory projects are members of the Nanwakolas Council Society whose traditional territories are located on Vancouver Island and the British Columbia mainland coast. The pilot projects were part of the implementation of ecosystem-based management in the globally unique Central and North Coast land and resource management planning areas, part of which is known as the Great Bear Rainforest.

In 2006, as a result of community-based land use planning and government-to-government discussions with First Nations, British Columbia announced it was protecting 1.8 million hectares (4.5 million acres) in the region, which contains one-quarter of the world's coastal temperate rainforest. Where resource development is allowed, it is to be guided by ecosystem-based management, an approach to managing resources that ensures the co-existence of healthy, fully functioning ecosystems and human communities.