



AFN CORPORATE CHALLENGE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

The **National Indian Brotherhood**, incorporated under the laws of Canada and serving as the Secretariat of the Assembly of First Nations with its head office at the Territory of Akwesasne, R.R. #3, Cornwall Island, Ontario, K6H 5R7 (hereinafter referred to as "AFN")

and

The **Forest Products Association of Canada**, a not-for-profit association formed under the laws of Canada, with headquarters at Suite 410-99 Bank Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 6B9 (hereinafter referred to as "FPAC")

Forest Products Association of Canada
fpac.ca

Association des produits forestiers du Canada
fpac.ca

PREAMBLE

The AFN is a national organization that represents First Nations and First Nations citizens in Canada and is represented by a duly elected National Chief.

FPAC represents many larger integrated forestry companies accounting for approximately 75% of the forested land base in Canada.

Business relationships, investments, procurement and employment capacity are critical to the economic growth of First Nations. The AFN has launched a corporate challenge to engage Canadian businesses to establish, enhance and increase business activities with First Nations for the mutual benefit of First Nations and Canadian businesses. Through the corporate challenge, businesses in Canada are challenged to: increase business relationships with First Nations governments and businesses; increase and explore investment potential; establish and foster procurement practices for the mutual benefit of First Nations and businesses; and support efforts by First Nations and governments to enhance human resources development and labour force development activities with First Nations communities and people.

The AFN has also approved resolutions to develop new strategies to enhance and support First Nation's local and regional economic priorities. FPAC members employ and contract with more aboriginal people than any other industrial sector and have a strong interest in the development of successful business and employment relationships with First Nations.

PRINCIPLES

The AFN and FPAC share a common interest in ensuring private sector understanding of, and respect for, the aboriginal title and treaty rights and aspirations of First Nations.

The AFN and FPAC agree on the importance of sustained economic development and economic participation for First Nations, in general and as part of the forest products industry.

The AFN and FPAC share a common interest in the sustainable economic development of Canada's forest resources and the promotion of this interest in global markets.

The AFN and FPAC share a common interest in forestry and economic policies and practices that respect and promote environmental sustainability.

The AFN and FPAC are committed to facilitating substantive economic participation by First Nations in Canada's national and global economy.

The AFN and FPAC agree on the need to create opportunities consistent with the AFN Corporate Challenge. To this end, FPAC and the AFN will work together to identify strategies to promote the participation of First Nations individuals and businesses in the forest industry, and to draw on the experience of the forest industry to expand First Nation participation in other sectors of the economy.

The AFN and FPAC will work together on strategic issues and FPAC member companies will continue to work with individual First Nations and/or tribal councils on local and regional issues.

FPAC encourages its members to respect the economic and cultural interests of First Nations peoples and encourage First Nation participation in the forest products industry. FPAC members engage with First Nations communities directly, through 3rd party sustainable forest management certification standards and regulatory processes.

Discussions pursuant to this Memorandum of Understanding are intended to enhance and support economic development processes and opportunities, are without prejudice to aboriginal title and treaty rights, and not intended to replace or supersede any existing initiative.

OBJECTIVES

The AFN and FPAC hereby confirm their mutual intent to:

1. Support long-term and lasting economic initiatives that promote the socio-economic development of First Nations people, and environmental sustainability.
2. Promote mutually beneficial business relationships that can attract investment and leverage the skills of First Nations peoples, particularly youth.
3. Support strategies designed to promote the capacity for business development of First Nations people and communities.

FPAC and its member companies will take up AFN's Corporate Challenge, through the FPAC and AFN work plan, and will work with the AFN and interested First Nations on local and regional economic development opportunities through existing and new relationships with First Nations.

AGREEMENTS

The AFN will invite the FPAC President and a representative member company CEO to participate in the National Chief's Corporate Table twice each year and will invite FPAC to make a presentation to the national Chiefs Committee on Economic Development once each year. FPAC and a representative member company CEO agree to participate.

FPAC and the AFN will prepare a joint two-year work plan to engage, increase and promote business relationships, investments, procurement and employment with First Nations. The initial two-year work plan to support this MOU is attached.

GENERAL

Any specific discussions or negotiations resulting from this Memorandum of Understanding will be subject to the terms of any agreements entered into between FPAC and the AFN. Unless otherwise agreed in writing, each of the parties will keep any information exchanged under this Memorandum of Understanding in strict confidence and will not without the written consent of the owner of such information disclose, allow access to, transmit, transfer or make it available to anyone else for any use whatsoever. Announcement of the signing of the MOU or initiatives undertaken under the MOU will be made by written consent of both parties.

This Memorandum of Understanding is intended solely to provide a framework for implementing the relationship described herein, but does not itself create legally enforceable rights or obligations for either party or its members and is not a legally binding agreement.

The initiatives contemplated in this Memorandum of Understanding will begin upon signing.

Either the AFN or FPAC may terminate this Memorandum of Understanding upon the delivery of two week's written notice to this effect to the other. This Memorandum of Understanding will be in effect for two years from the signing date, unless terminated earlier as set out above or extended by agreement in writing between the parties. Agreed with effect from the date first above written.

On behalf of the Assembly of First Nations

Witness

On behalf of the Forest Products Association of Canada

Witness