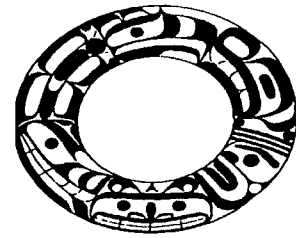


# Musgamagw Forestry Newsletter



## Forestry Update

Change and growth is the focus of my views on the MTTC forestry program. Initially the MTTC received funding from Forest Renewal BC (FRBC) in the fiscal year 2000/01 for a Forestry Extension Coordinator. This position was based on the objectives the MTTC has had for number of years regarding forestry, to MANAGE OUR RESOURCES. This is an all-encompassing goal, one that is deep in each of our hearts and it from this that we keep trying to reach this goal. Forestry has been a priority for many years; in bits and pieces we have been slowly making progress. It is a lack of consistent funding, as with all organizations, that affects us the most. But when we do have the people and funds the work is phenomenal.

Mary Thomas had taken over forestry in the middle of our FRBC funding in 2000. Many objectives were met, specifically maps of the MTTC traditional territories that included types of TFL's currently existing, forestry companies in the area that hold tenure, and locations of all this activity with the our traditional territories. Also meetings were arranged with Interfor and Weyerhaeuser to discuss possible areas for joint ventures (notes from these two meetings are available at our office if you would like copies). The focus of this particular FRBC contract was traditional type logging activities. Unfortunately, at the end of this contract Mary had to leave the MTTC due to a family health crisis. We re-applied to FRBC for 2001/02. This just so happened to be during the time of the Provincial election and all

government programs were on hold. We were verbally approved in April, a brief note in August again approving our proposal then in October we were directed by FRBC to revamp the activities. This was mainly due to the change in focus of FRBC who was stepping back from the traditional type related logging activities. We reorganized our objectives to meet the new guidelines of FRBC and were finally approved in November with the strong recommendation to hire a consultant to assist us in meeting all our objectives that were still due by March 31, 2002. This is how Jay Silverberg of Synergy Consultants came to be involved with the MTTC in our contract to FRBC.

The new direction is on Non-Timber Forest Products and small business that are attainable. This is the focus of this newsletter.

An interesting note is Forest Renewal BC no longer exists; it has been amalgamated into the newly developed MINISTRY OF SUSTAINABLE RESOURCES! We have since also applied to this new Ministry for continued funding through to March 31, 2003 – but of course we are still waiting for any news.

The long-term goal of managing our own resources and assisting our member band to reach this continues to be the MTTC priority and we welcome your ideas, comments and input.

Carole Perrault

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## Understanding Forestry, and the Best Access Points for M.T.T.C Opportunities

To increase First Nation role's in forestry will result in more business and employment opportunities for the First Nations in the M.T.T.C.

To date the communities of the M.T.T.C have had limited participation in the forest sector in the past. There are a number of reasons for this.

- the past strength of the fisheries sector, the provincial policies that tended to exclude First Nations from participation in forestry and disregard within the (non-native) forest industry of First Nation history and values. These were just some of the contributing factors for the M.T.T.C. limited role.

The reduction in the fishing industry has exaggerated the need for the M.T.T.C nations to diversify into other sectors. This move towards a more diversified economy will provide the community with increased stability. An expansion in the forest sector will provide some of these benefits.

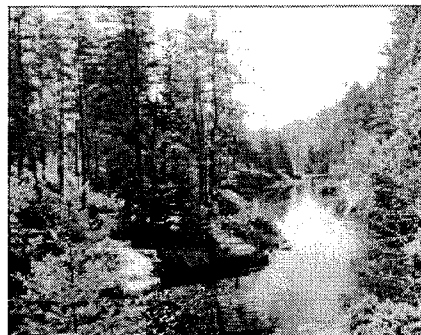
It is a very complex business that combines resource management, scientific knowledge and business. Compounding the complexity of the industry is the policy framework that governs the management of the provincial forest resources in B.C.

**Although there is a high degree of complexity in the industry, it is not difficult to develop a basic understanding. If one allows the flow of the wood from forest to mill, it becomes quite clear where the business and employment opportunities lay.**

In general, the forest sector is divided into three distinct phases: pre-harvest or planning; harvest or logging; and, post harvest including manufacturing, and silviculture and stand management. These will be further explored in Workshops (pg. 3)

If we can think "outside" of traditional logging practices and evaluate our own skills, many learned & practiced since childhood our forests, can provide an economic base for many.

The following summaries are from workshops held in Alert Bay in January. We are hoping to bring these workshops to our member communities. When our new funding with the Ministry of Sustainable Resources has been confirmed.



# Forest Sector Strategic Plan Workshop

**Focusing on Non-Timber Forest products (NTFP's) each section gives an example of what NTFP's are.**

## PRIMARY FORESTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Logging, Licensees, logging sorts, logging contractors. Not entirely and some are NTFP the most time consuming & intricate in getting the appropriate licensing

The highest priority opportunities included the following:-

Preparing for the future in forestry by submitting proposal to MoF and the larger forestry Co. seeking Tenure (control over the forests land base, etc)

Education, certification and capacity building as part of preparedness.

Building business preparedness as well.

Formation of an M.T.T.C Forestry Initiatives Management Corporation (described on pg.4)

Christmas tree farming

Craft supplies from the forest lands.

Take advantage of gaps in forestry, where majors have road building contracts, or MoF now has special programs

Proactive forestry activity re the above, initially using outside expertise, but capacity building from within in M.T.T.C over time.

## VALUE ADDED FORESTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Sawmills, Furniture, Milling, Crafts, Log Homes, custom fabricators, jointed products, laminates, pulp & paper, construction.

Salvage and driftwood furniture.

First Nations themed accessories, decorative wall panel, door inserts, etc

How best to value-add every piece of wood available.

Replica tools, ceremonial pieces, weapons, for museum shops (a growing market).

Some assistance to artists and carvers to get better access to markets, imagine the group of carvers.

Log home accessory market (pieces and decorations to be sold to log home builders who are looking to up sell their home kits).

Custom Milling for flooring and other lumber needs of the bands.

Paddles for ecotourism market.



## Workshops continued from previous page.

### BOTANICAL FOREST OPPORTUNITIES

**Traditional Medicinal, Herbs, Cedar for oils, Berries, Harvesting**

**Reselling/Distribution, Value Adding, Mixing Blending**

Focus on harvesting available NTFP's within the region and set up distribution channels with buyers identified in the report.

As for the more sensitive NTFP's such as medicinal and cures there would be both a protocol established to pre-approve the production and sale with Chief and Council, and there would be a mechanism in place to safeguard the formulations.

Possibly designed and established an M.T.T.C Non Timber Forest Products Group that would direct the growth in these sectors, market on behalf of all M.T.T.C members, make sure prices are fair, access opportunities for mushroom picking and harvesting opportunities in the area.

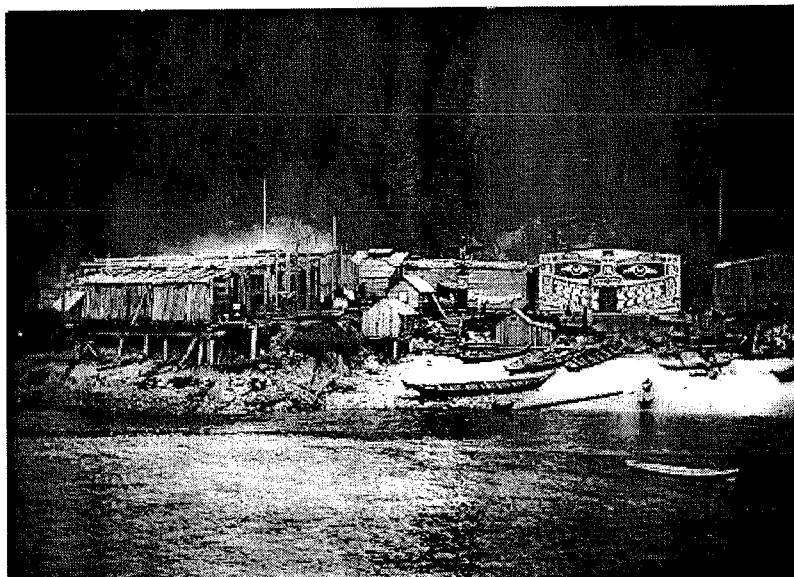
### FORESTRY TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES

**Wilderness camping, Traditional Fishing, Marine & Rafting, Soft Adventure Tours Historical Site Tours, Lodge, Destination Resort, Accommodations**

Developing ecotourism, cultural tours, and building upon the natural beauty of the region.

With the rampant RV and condo defoliation of Telegraph Cove, this presents an opportunity for Alert Bay. Alert Bay has five strong selling points, off track location much sought after tourists, natural setting, funky / unspoiled community, the presence of whales and other wild life, and the native culture. However Alert Bay needs more dock space and accommodations, and continued beautification of the waterfront.

Brier Island, Nova Scotia was cited as a role model where the entire community has converted from fishing to whale watching, with massive accommodations, artists shops and whales watching tours. It does not have the charm or potential of Alert Bay, or the over whelming beauty & bounty of member bands traditional territory.



# The Next 12 Months

Pending funding the following have been identified to focus on. Note that these areas focus on creative self employment & small business.

There are four projects that Musgamagw Tsawataineuk Tribal Council wishes to undertake over a 12 month period (Apr/02– Mar/03). All four Projects are LRMP based on economic opportunities, as identified in the Musgamagw Tsawataineuk Tribal Council Forest Sector Strategic Plan (copies are available at the Musgamagw Tsawataineuk Tribal Council Office).

1.) Formation of an **M.T.T.C Forestry Initiatives Management Corporation** designed to focus on Forestry opportunities and joint ventures, strength in negotiating with MoF and the majors, program and policy development, employment opportunities, entrepreneurial development, securing a Community Tenure, etc.

2.) The development of a **Value Added Shared Resource Facility** that would supply the building and equipment for many of the small scale producers. They would use the shop to work, learn new techniques, business skills training, better access to markets, apprenticeship program, sales show room for tourists, etc.

This is a very successful concept used in other communities.



3.) An **M.T.T.C Tourism Marketing Agency** was recommended to direct the growth of this sector . It would be responsible amongst other areas, to

- Joint marketing all tourism operators
- Run a proactive, well linked website
- Develop the 'theme' and image for tourists to buy into
- Encourage and help support new native tourism entrepreneurs and businesses
- Plan out and promote special events and festivals.

4.) **Botanical Forest Products.** Focus on Harvesting available NTFP's within the region and set up distribution channels with buyers identified in this report.

Focus strongly on 'value added' First Nation products such as traditional teas, lotions, pressed berry leather, soaps and so on. These products have a strong appeal in health food and beauty shops, and can even be sold through 'nature catalogue sellers' and the Internet.

Packaging and theme-ing would be important.

These 'cottage opportunities', as for all the opportunities presented for all sectors, are focused on creating employment and entrepreneurial opportunities for band members first and foremost, as well as capacity building and the development of business skills and market access and capabilities. This is built into ALL the opportunities within the M.T.T.C Forest Sector Strategic plan.

The M.T.T.C. would appreciate & welcome your thoughts & comments regarding the direction we are going and about this Newsletter.

# Closing Words

If you are interested in any of the topics discussed at the workshops, & would like more information Jay Silverberg of Synergy Consultants have forms available to assist you in starting you own business within the 4 sectors of forestry. They are available at the Musgamagw Tsawataineuk Tribal Council Office, ph. # 250-974-5516 Ask to speak with Deane Wadhams.

Also if you would like a copy of the Forest Sector Strategic Plan manual you can call the Musgamagw Tsawataineuk Tribal Council office for more information.



Musgamagw Tsawataineuk Tribal Council



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"KNOWLEDGE IS POWER"