

# Questions regarding Huu-ay-aht First Nations & Western Forest Products announcement

AUGUST 22, 2018



ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

## 1 What is today's announcement about?

- Western Forest Products (WFP) and Huu-ay-aht First Nations (HFN) are working together to explore potential alternative ownership and forest management structures in the Hahuuli (Traditional Territory) of the Huu-ay-aht Hāwiih pursuant to the [Reconciliation Protocol Agreement](#) signed by both parties earlier in 2018.
- Together we have a demonstrated track record of cooperation and a willingness to work together to achieve reconciliation and forestry revitalization.
- We are going to build on our common belief that by working together we will benefit HFN citizens, the community, the region, WFP, and the forestry sector in the Alberni Valley, and we are exploring all options to do so.

## 2 What does “explore potential alternative ownership and forest management structures in the Hahuuli (Traditional Territory) of the Huu-ay-aht Hāwiih” mean?

- It means that WFP and Huu-ay-aht are going to work together to explore how we can manage the forest resource in the area for the benefit of HFN citizens, the community, the region, WFP, and the forestry sector in the Alberni Valley.

## 3 What is the benefit to Huu-ay-aht citizens?

- Some of the ways this work could benefit HFN citizens:
  - increase HFN participation in tenure ownership,
  - increase business opportunities and sustain domestic manufacturing in the Alberni Valley,
  - increase training and jobs, and
  - provide strong environmental stewardship that aligns with Huu-ay-aht's forestry guiding principles.
- This would all be accomplished within HFN's guiding principles:
  - Hišuk ma ćawak (everything is one)
  - ʔuuʔaʔuk (taking care of future generations)
  - ʔiisaak (conducting ourselves honestly and respectfully)
- Huu-ay-aht Forestry Guiding Principles will be at the heart of the Huu-ay-aht decision-making framework and balance environmental stewardship with economic development. These principles are:
  - Managing forest and fishery values to meet present needs without compromising the needs of future Huu-ay-aht generations.
  - Managing forests based on Huu-ay-aht values.
  - Balancing forest values to meet economic and cultural needs of Huu-ay-aht First Nations citizens.
  - Restoring the damaged ecologies and 35 watersheds within our traditional lands.
  - Conserving biological diversity, soil, water, fish, wildlife, scenic diversity, and other forest resources within the Hahuuli (Hahoulthee) of the Huu-ay-aht Hāwiih.

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## 4 Are the Executive Council and the H̱aw̱iiẖ Council aware of and in agreement with these exploratory talks?

- Yes.

## 5 How does this help with reconciliation?

- Reconciliation involves working together for the benefit of Huu-ay-aht citizens, the community, the region, WFP, and the forestry sector in the Alberni Valley. Exploring how we can achieve forest revitalization is an important example of reconciliation at work.
- This reconciliation work includes seeking further ways to incorporate traditional values and customs in forestry management across the H̱ahuu̱i (Traditional Territory) of the Huu-ay-aht H̱aw̱iiẖ.

## 6 Will this help with economic development?

- It's too early to say what the outcome of talks will be, but there are many ways this could contribute to economic development.

## 7 What other First Nations are you expecting to engage and how will you do so?

- Huu-ay-aht will be reaching out to neighbouring First Nations who have interests in forestry in the Alberni Valley.
- We are hoping to arrange an opportunity for a follow-up general briefing around the time of the Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council Annual General Meeting in September.

## 8 Could these exploratory talks with WFP affect our relationship with our neighbouring First Nations?

- At this point it is too early to say what the outcome of talks will be; however, we have reached out and will continue to reach out to neighbouring First Nations. We will continue to keep them informed as discussions progress.
- We value our relationship with our neighbouring First Nations and will ensure to keep them informed and look for opportunities to work together where possible.

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## 9 Aren't we trying to get away from forestry? How are talks with WFP going to help us get away from this industry?

- If there is a way to ensure that Huu-ay-aht has a more meaningful role in forestry management and practices, we want to explore that.
- Searching for business opportunities and partnerships is in line with the priorities laid out by citizens in the [2016-2020 Huu-ay-aht First Nations Strategic Plan](#).
- As always we are committed to our forestry guiding principles and our sacred principles.

## 10 What is the process for citizen involvement?

- Today's announcement is to ensure citizens are informed at the very beginning and will know what to expect throughout the process. Huu-ay-aht wishes to be as open and transparent as possible with our citizens.
- It is too early to say what the outcome of these talks could be, however as we have done in the past, we will keep HFN citizens informed and engaged throughout the process and they will have their questions answered to the fullest extent possible.
- Any possible outcomes will be brought to citizens to review at a future People's Assembly, and our citizens will have the final say.

## QUESTIONS?

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