



THE INCLUSION OF ABORIGINAL PEOPLES
AND VALUES IN THE CSA FORESTRY STANDARD

GOOD FORESTRY THAT INCLUDES PEOPLE, AND ABORIGINAL RIGHTS AND VALUES

CSA is a strong forestry standard written for Canada. It encourages Aboriginal involvement in forest management, respects Aboriginal rights, and promotes the use of Traditional Knowledge and the participation of Aboriginal peoples in the local forest economy.



For more information visit
www.csasfmforests.ca
or email info@csasfmforests.ca



Your assurance of Canada's highest standards.



GOOD FORESTRY

The CSA forestry standard requires the management of timber and non-timber resources in an ecologically sound, responsible way. Harvest levels are sustainable, forests are regenerated, and healthy forests remain to provide plants, animals, water, fish, and clean air. Areas of special biological and cultural significance are maintained.

RESPECT FOR ABORIGINAL TITLE AND RIGHTS, AND TREATY RIGHTS

Aboriginal and treaty rights are protected by Canada's Constitution. CSA forest management and standards comply with the law and respect Aboriginal title and rights, and treaty rights. Companies applying for certification must make efforts to understand the rights and values of the Aboriginal peoples in the forest area they manage. This involves working with Aboriginal communities on ways to incorporate their rights and values into forest management plans.

ABORIGINAL INVOLVEMENT IS WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED

On the Technical Committee:

The CSA standard is written and maintained by a Technical Committee made up of people with a variety of interests and values. Aboriginal people participate on the Committee as part of the "Aboriginal Peoples, Governments and Regulatory Authorities" group.

On Local Advisory Committees:

Most of Canada's forests are publicly owned. Local advisory groups bring governments, including Aboriginal peoples, and the public together with forest managers to discuss long-term forestry plans required under the CSA standard, and help set goals that are specific to a defined forest management area. Sustainable forest management is a work in progress. Progress against agreed upon targets and requirements is reported annually. The interests of local users are integrated into forestry plans, and performance is monitored to promote continual improvement. Topics discussed by advisory groups include respect for Aboriginal forest values, knowledge and uses, management for timber and non-timber values, Aboriginal participation in the forest economy, and development of working relationships

with willing Aboriginal communities and people. The participation of Aboriginal peoples is encouraged and valued in public advisory groups.

At the Community Level:

Special efforts are made to ensure management plans are understood by Aboriginal communities, and are acceptable. Forums such as open houses, public meetings or discussions with communities, Band Councils and Forestry Committees are also available to interested Aboriginal communities.

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES EXIST

It is well understood that 80% of Aboriginal peoples in Canada live in forested regions, and that Aboriginal participation in the forest sector is growing. Training programs and partnerships to promote Aboriginal access to forest resources and involvement in the local forest sector are encouraged.

TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE IS RESPECTED

The CSA standard recognizes the special knowledge Aboriginal peoples have based on their traditional practices and experiences. The use of traditional knowledge, where available, is incorporated into forestry plans in efforts to manage for culturally important resources and values.

SITES OF SPECIAL BIOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The conservation of biological diversity is an important component of sustainable forest management. The CSA standard includes sites of cultural significance along with the sites of special biological significance that must be maintained and protected to conserve biological diversity. Special strategies are developed for forestry plans to manage for known sites of biological and cultural significance. These include spiritual and cultural sites, and unusual or rare forest conditions.