



## B.C. INTERTRIBAL FORESTRY ASSOCIATION— ACTIVITIES UPDATE

The Intertribal Forestry Association of BC is now comfortably located and operating in offices at the following address:  
201-515 Highway 97S  
Kelowna, B.C. V1Z 3J2  
Phone (604)769-4433

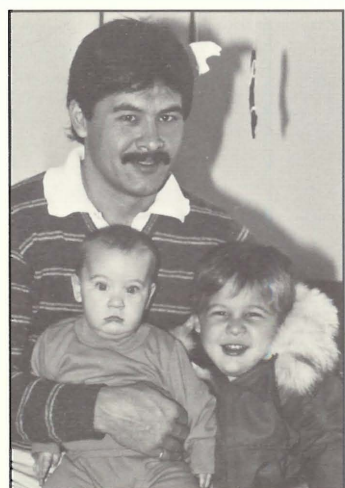
Assisted by funding from FRDA and Indian Affairs, the IFABC and the Kamloops Indian Band hosted a two day (November 17-18, 1988) Forestry Workshop in Kamloops. The goal of this workshop was to provide information on a wide range of forestry topics of particular relevance or interest to Native Forestry in B.C. Speakers included representatives from Forestry Canada, the B.C. Ministry of Forests, plus several native and non-



IFABC Logo:First Nations Forestry

native speakers. Other workshops are planned for northern bands in Smithers and for coastal bands in Nanaimo before the end of the 1988/89 fiscal year.

As outlined in their constitution and depicted by their logo, the primary mandate of the IFABC is "...to protect, maintain, enhance and develop First Nation forestry resources for the use, benefit and enjoyment of First Nations of today and tomorrow and to establish and fulfill the rights and responsibilities of British Columbia First Nations with regard to First Nations Forestry resources". Information on membership in the IFABC may be obtained from the Association office in Kelowna.



Merkel: Establishing an Inheritance

## NATIVE FORESTER FILLS VITAL REGIONAL POSITION

The INAC Regional Forester's position has been filled by Garry Merkel, Registered Professional Forester. Mr. Merkel comes to the position with considerable experience in field forestry, forest planning, policy and economics, and forestry consulting. Born and raised in Whitehorse, Yukon, and a member of the Tahltan Band from Telegraph Creek, B.C., Mr. Merkel began his career as a fire camp cook at fifteen. He holds a Forest Technician Diploma from Selkirk College (1979), a Bachelor of Science in Forestry from the University of Alberta (1985), and is currently completing a Master of Science in Forestry from U of A in Forest Planning.

"The Indian people can, must, and will determine their own destiny in a positive and

constructive way," he says. He believes in "...providing assistance, creating opportunities and/or reducing risks to those who want to become involved in some facet of forest resource management."

Eliminating the gap between those who create policies (the government) and those who have to live with them (the Indians) is high among his priorities. "My underlying premise is that the Indian people are the only ones who know what they are and what they want to be." As both a public servant and a father, Garry Merkel takes his responsibilities seriously.

"I am doing my part to establish an inheritance."



# WOODLOT LICENCE PROGRAM

## ***What Is A Woodlot Licence?***

A Woodlot licence is a legal agreement between its holder and the Ministry of Forests that allows the holder to reap certain social and economic benefits from an area of Crown forest land, including profits from the sale of timber. In return for this, the holder is expected to manage the Crown land and any included private or Indian land for the sustained production of timber in accordance with a Management and Working Plan approved by the Ministry. Each licence is valid for up to 15 years and is replaceable every five years on request of its holder.

## ***What Is The Woodlot Licence Program?***

The Woodlot Licence Program is designed to increase opportunities for private citizens to become involved in small-scale forestry in British Columbia. Involvement in the Program increases the amount of private forest land under proper forest management and improves the productivity of both this and provincial Crown forest land. The program is administered by the B.C. Ministry of Forests Timber Harvesting Branch.

## ***Why Was It Created?***

The Program was created in recognition of the growing number of British Columbians who are personally interested in the

management of B.C.'s forests through small-scale, area-based forestry operations.

## ***Can Indian Bands Become Involved in the Program?***

Indian Bands can contribute Reserve lands under a Woodlot Licence agreement provided they do not own or control a corporation that owns a timber process-

ing facility and they do not already hold a Woodlot licence.

For information on how to apply for a woodlot licence bands should contact the Timber Harvesting Branch of the B.C. Ministry of Forests. ■

# WOODLOT ASSOCIATION - A NEW FEDERATION

The Federation of British Columbia Woodlot Associations held its inaugural meeting in Fort St. John in November, 1988. The meeting, chaired by Peter Sanders, president of the new Federation, and funded by Forestry Canada, provided a forum for representatives of the province's woodlot associations to air their concerns. Among those attending were John Burch from the Pacific Forestry Centre in Victoria, and Harold Derickson, president of the IFABC. The new organization encourages membership by all local private forest owner associations, and will provide

advisory services to existing and newly formed associations on organizational matters. Eventually the Federation hopes to play an important role in forest policy formulation as it relates to private forest land, and in particular to the FRDA program. For more information contact the Federation of British Columbia Woodlot Associations at:

14294 Marc Road,  
R.R. #2, Maple Ridge, B.C.  
V2X 7E7  
Phone (604) 467-2455 ■

## Canadian Forestry Service now Forestry Canada (FORCAN)

The announcement by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney in September, 1988 of the creation of a new Department of Forestry, has resulted in a name change for the CFS. It's goodbye to the Canadian Forestry Service and hello to Forestry Canada, or ForCan for short. The functions of Forestry Canada in British Columbia are not expected to

change significantly, nor is it likely that the transition will affect present FRDA programs such as the Indian Forest Lands Program.

The mandate of the new Forestry



Forestry  
Canada

Forêts  
Canada

Department includes the development and coordination of national forest policy, research and development in the forest sector, and cooperation with industry and provincial and territorial authorities on a wide range of forestry matters. Frank Oberle, MP for Prince George - Peace River has been named Minister of State (Forestry). ■



# THE BUSINESS OF GROWING CHRISTMAS TREES

Christmas trees are big business in Canada, with British Columbia generally ranking fourth after Nova Scotia, Quebec and New Brunswick in trees exported annually. In 1980, B.C. exported approximately 250,000 trees, valued at \$500 thousand, chiefly to the United States. The main species exported from B.C. is Douglas-fir from the interior of the province. The dry, cold climate of this region is ideally suited to the growing of high quality Christmas trees. Gone are the days when customers were satisfied with "Charlie Brown" Christmas trees; today's market demands the carefully cultured and shaped contours of plantation grown trees.

## THE BASICS OF GROWING CHRISTMAS TREES

Sites which are level or slightly rolling, are free of heavy brush and have few stumps and rocks are best. Smaller growing sites are more manageable and require less planning than larger tracts. Sites with thin, gravelly soils, clay or wet soils, or alkaline soils should be avoided. Growers must prepare sites for planting and then secure planting stock from local nurseries or grow their own stock from seed. Trees must be properly planted and spaced to

Now is the time to  
start growing trees  
for the 2005  
Christmas market

expose them to plenty of light on all sides. This encourages good tree color and form. Trees must also be shaped by shearing leaders and the tips of longer branches by hand or with powered shears. Depending on the quality of the site, fertilizers may be applied to improve tree health and color. Enemies of Christmas trees include adverse weather, insects, diseases, animals and fire. Growers must watch for these factors and be prepared to manage them.

Faced with ever-increasing competition from both the artificial tree market and an extensive, plantation-based Christmas tree market in the U.S.,

Christmas tree growers, especially small or new producers, must produce high quality, marketable trees to compete effectively.

## POTENTIAL AS A NATIVE BUSINESS VENTURE

Some areas of Tribal or Band Council Lands, particularly those in the Interior may be ideally suited for growing Christmas trees. Areas designated as not suitable for timber production will often produce a profitable forest crop of Christmas trees! While the market is an extremely competitive one, natives may be able to take advantage of local, often isolated markets, and reap the benefits of providing employment for band members.

Some useful publications on Christmas tree production are listed below:

**An Introduction to Christmas Tree Growing in Canada.** 1982. Canadian Forestry Service Publication No. 1330. Copies available from the Pacific Forestry Centre or Minister of Supplies and Services Canada.

**Christmas Tree Culture.** 1988. B.C. Ministry of Forests and Lands. Copies available from the Timber Policy Branch, Ministry of Forests and Lands, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B.C., V8W 3E7.

**Christmas Tree Farming.** Publication B.16. Copies available from the B.C. Forest Service, Victoria, B.C.

Bands can also obtain information on growing Christmas trees at their local offices of the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Ministry of Forests.

## FRDA ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMPLETES FIRST YEAR



Harold Derickson, President of the IFA of BC and Gerald Merrithew, former Minister of State (Forestry and Mines) at the Pacific Forestry Centre in Victoria.

As of October 1, 1988 the FRDA Advisory Committee marked its first year of activities. Made up of representatives from various forest worker organizations, forest resource user groups, federal and provincial resource agencies, and related professional organizations, the committee has the task of advising the FRDA Management Committee on all key issues relevant to present and future FRDA agreements. This committee is different

from the Indian Advisory Board, a group comprised of five Native and four government members whose principal function is to review proposals submitted to the FRDA Indian Lands Program.

Recently, a delegation from the FRDA Advisory Committee, including Harold Derickson, President of the Intertribal Forestry Association of B.C., met with former Minister of State (Forestry and Mines)

Gerald Merrithew and provincial Forest Minister Dave Parker to discuss the progress of the present FRDA and the real need for a second agreement. Members of the Committee are currently working to reach a consensus on the specifics they wish to see in the next agreement. To this end the IFABC is preparing a position paper on components of native forestry which they wish to see included in a second FRDA.





## "DO IT YOURSELF" FORESTRY HANDBOOK NOW AVAILABLE

Have you ever felt like you wanted to get involved in forestry but just didn't know how? Or you felt intimidated by all the big words and fancy terms used by the professionals who do forestry for a living? If so, this handbook, entitled **Managing Your Woodland: A Non-Forester's Guide to Small-Scale Forestry In British Columbia** might be just what you need. It provides basic forest management information for non-foresters who are interested in small-scale forestry in language they can understand and relate to. Users will discover fundamental information on topics such as:

### Forestry Basics:

- Tree identification and how trees grow

### Forest Inventory:

- Understanding what it is and how to do it

### Forest Management Planning:

- How to develop a forest management plan

### Forest Access:

- planning and construction of roads

### Reforestation:

- Choosing species, how and when to plant them

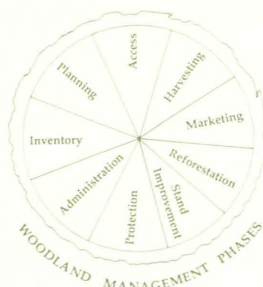
### Business Basics:

- How to develop a business plan and keep records

### Getting Help:

- How to get financial, technical and training assistance

In addition, readers will find information on tending forest stands and protecting them from fire and pests, harvesting trees and getting them to the marketplace, and understanding stumpage and tax procedures in the province.



Since the book is written for non-foresters it will be a good reference document for current and future band councils making resource management decisions. It could also find some use in band schools and libraries.

The handbook has now been distributed to Band and Tribal Councils in British Columbia. Councils who have not yet received a copy should contact Forestry Canada at 388-0600. ■

## ANNOUNCEMENT

### SIZE OF ELIGIBLE RESERVES REDUCED

FRDA announces that the size of reserves eligible for funding under the Indian Forest Lands Program has been reduced from the original minimum of 20 hectares to 10 hectares on the Coast and 16 hectares in the Interior. This decision was made as a result of lobbying by the FRDA Native Advisory Board, the Intertribal Forestry Association of B.C. and a number of bands with small reserves

### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR INDIAN BANDS?

This means new opportunity for Bands with smaller reserves which were originally excluded from the Program and may mean increased opportunity for Bands already participating. For further information contact Mark Atherton, Program Coordinator, 388-0600. ■

## TREES FOR A REASON

**Trees for a Reason** - a forestry video coordinated and produced by native people, with financial assistance from FRDA, has been completed. Featuring all native talent the video outlines the present state of Native Forestry in British Columbia and describes how Indian Bands and Tribal Councils can utilize and manage their lands for forestry purposes

while preserving cultural, aesthetic, and recreational values. The hows and whys of doing this through the Indian Forest Lands Program of FRDA are also explained.

The video will be screened at several Tribal and Band Council meetings in the province over the next few months. Coordination is being provided by the Intertribal Forestry Association, which will see that each band and tribal council receives a copy for their video libraries. ■

### TREE TALK

Indian Forest Lands Program

published by

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Pacific Forestry Centre  
506 W. Burnside Road  
Victoria, B.C., V8Z 1M5  
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Canada

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