

ABORIGINAL OPPORTUNITIES AND LABOUR MARKET ISSUES IN THE FOREST SECTOR

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Forest Sector; 2nd Largest Employer of Aboriginal People



- 15,000 – 20,000 employed
(low-skill to highly professional)
- 1200 – 1500 businesses – mainly forest harvesting companies
- A mix of public/governance and private enterprise



The Forest Sector

- NFS: “all of the people and organizations that derive value and create wealth and well-being from our forests”.
- Traditional land-users
- Forest management & environmental services
- Forest industries; pulp & paper, lumber, panels, value-added & secondary, NTFP's
- Forest conservation & recreation
- Forest bio-products

Aboriginal Owned/Managed Forest Land and Access to Forest Resources:



- Treaties, land claims, TLE, reserve lands – 55,000 sq. kilometers
- Land base to double in 20 years
- Forest Tenure: 12 million m³/year includes FRO's in BC (60%) and NB (5.3%)
- Forest management/stewardship agreement: La Paix des Braves, Whitefeather, Deh Cho, Innu
- Provincial inclusion policies based on “duty to consult and accomodate”.



Forest Sector Transformation

- Industry downturn; 20% reduction in capacity- hundreds of mills closed, tens of thousands of jobs lost
- Consolidation; fewer but larger companies focussed on efficiencies & technology
- High \$ C, higher costs, US housing market, more competition
- Climate change and Mountain Pine Beetle
- Forest conservation, value-added processing, forest bio-products

Aboriginal Opportunities in the Forest Sector



Fundamental need to diversify – less harvesting, more management, servicing and processing;

- Primary processing of commodity wood products, high value specialty wood, and engineered wood products
- Secondary and value-added wood processing diversified to include the manufacturing of finished products
- Non-timber forest products including the harvesting, processing and marketing of wild foods, medicinal plants, botanicals, landscaping and home decor products, etc.
- Forest bio-product development including food, fibre, heat, power, pharmaceuticals and carbon-based fuels, oils, and chemicals