

Draft Letter of Understanding
Between
Forest Products Association of Canada and FPAC members (to be defined)
ENGOS as signatories to the Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement (to be defined)
First Nations living in the boreal region in British Columbia as represented
through: Carrier Sekani Tribal Council, Kaska Dena Council, Treaty 8 Tribal
Council, Tahltan Central Council, Taku River Tlingit First Nation, Lake Babine
Nation(?), others

Canada's Boreal Forest, which stretches over 5000 kilometers and is six million square kilometers in area, is one of the world's largest intact ecosystems. The Boreal holds massive amounts of carbon; immense populations of plants, birds, fish and other wildlife; and much of the world's supply of freshwater in its many of lakes, ponds and thousands of kilometers of rivers and streams. Home to hundreds of First Nation communities, the Boreal is part of a common heritage of humankind.

The BC boreal First Nations have Aboriginal and Treaty rights and Aboriginal title to the Boreal including the lands, water, and air that is guaranteed by Section 35 of the Canadian Constitution. These rights include the inherent right to make decisions as to the use of the land. These inherent rights flow from First Nations sacred relationship with their territories since time immemorial. First Nations, based on Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Title continue their stewardship responsibilities to ensure the Boreal is protected and sustained for future generations and as an important international treasure.

- In May 2010 the CFBA was signed between ENGOs and FPAC. According to that agreement, the vision "is to demonstrate leadership in developing and implementing a globally significant model for conservation and resource management in Canada's boreal forest in a manner that sets the stage for joint action in relation to both boreal forest conservation and forest sector competitiveness."
- First Nations were not signatories to the CFBA.
- First Nations have clearly expressed their intent to develop their vision, objectives, and goals for the Boreal and will continue to exercise their rights and fulfill their responsibilities. These include their holistic views of sustainability on all issues including forestry, mining, oil and gas, large and small-scale hydroelectric development, water, wildlife and the cumulative impacts of those activities.
- All parties recognize the significance of the boreal forest and seek to build a working relationship to work in partnership in demonstrating leadership for the future of the Boreal.
- All parties recognize that First Nations in other regions of Canada have the right to determine their own way and future in the Boreal.

We the undersigned agree to work collaboratively to undertake the following:

- To develop a protocol that will lead to a respectful relationship among the parties with regard to the Boreal.
- To create a strategic plan to manage the emerging relationship.
- To resource all parties to effectively participate in this engagement.

The parties respect the decision-making processes of other First Nations across Canada.