

TURNING POINT

Newsletter · April 2003



Turning Point signs coastal land use planning letter with Province

Turning Point has signed a letter of understanding with the Province that identifies the overall approach for government-to-government discussions between the First Nations of Turning Point and the Province to finalize land use agreements.

"This is an important milestone in the sense that it is yet another step towards our participation in the coastal economy and one that will result in certainty for us as well as government, business and others," says Art Sterritt.

The two parties have agreed to finalize all government-to-government discussions regarding First Nations land use plans and the Central Coast Land and Resource Management Plan by March 31, 2004.

Sterritt, an executive committee member of Turning Point, said each First Nation is responsible for the negotiation of its land use plan on a government-to-government basis.

"If requested, Turning Point representatives will be available to support First Nations in specific land use negotiations."

The understanding also includes the following performance requirements and timelines on land use issues.

By June 30, 2003 the following is required:

- The Kitasoo First Nation and the Province will complete a management agreement on the Kitasoo Spirit Bear Protection Area;
- First Nations will finalize the boundaries, access, use and management of as many Protection Areas and Option Areas as possible;
- First Nations will identify those Protection Areas and Options Areas that require further discussion; and
- First Nations will present land use visions and further plan details to the CCLRMP Completion Table.

Forestry among economic measures discussed with Province

The inclusion of economic measures in the letter with the Province was absolutely essential, according to Turning Point executive committee member Art Sterritt.

"We understand the importance of showing concrete progress to our community members. So we've agreed to a number of specific economic development projects and associated funding for implementation by June 30 of this year," he said.

The Ministry of Forests has agreed to have discussions either with individual First Nations, or collectively through Turning Point, about forestry economic development opportunities and revenue sharing arrangements.

Over the next few months significant

discussions with the province will occur. "The discussions will include the identification and selection of forest lands on the Central Coast by June 30, 2003," said Sterritt.

The Province has also agreed to complete tenure and revenue sharing agreements with the First Nations of Turning Point by Dec. 31, 2004, Sterritt said.

Turning Point, along with the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management, and Land and Water BC, are also developing action plans and identifying resource requirements to carry out the next steps in developing tourism and shellfish businesses on the Coast. Both action plans are based on recently completed regional reports on tourism and shellfish.

In this issue:

Turning Point Signs Letter with Province

Forestry Discussed with Province

Business Strategy for Shellfish Aquaculture

Fish & Marine Issues Move Forward

Clearcutting Status Report

Basketball Tournament

Tournament a Boon for Prince Rupert

Climate Change a Concern

Highlights of Survey



Photo by: Gordon Eshom



North Coast Shellfish Aquaculture Regional Business Strategy

“... report estimates that BC shellfish industry could reach \$100 million in 10 years.”

- Ross Wilson

A business strategy and framework on shellfish aquaculture for First Nations on the Central and North Coast, and Haida Gwaii has been developed to support First Nations' entry into the commercial shellfish farming.

The report, *North Coast Shellfish Aquaculture Regional Business Strategy*, states the framework is intended to identify the best sites and best species for farming in each First Nation community included in the study. It also establishes a template for business planning which can be used by First Nations to apply for tenure, obtain seed and equipment, capacity building, processing, transportation, and the marketing infrastructure necessary to succeed in shellfish aquaculture.

The report, conducted by Kingzett Professional Services Ltd., provides a comprehensive overview of the requirements for developing conservation-00000 commercial shellfish farming along the Central Coast, North Coast, and Haida Gwaii.

First Nations included in the study are: Kwakiutl, Gitga'at, Wuikinuxv, Kitkatla, Heiltsuk, Metlakatla, Kitasoo, Lax Kw'alaams, Haisla and the Haida.

"The report is not intended to make any final decisions for First Nations but to provide options and recommendations," said Turning Point executive member Ross Wilson.

"The recommendations will assist in the development of a viable shellfish aquaculture industry on the Central and North Coast."

The report contains 52 recommendations including the establishment of two small steering committees in both the Central and North Coast. These steering committees will encourage community involvement in shellfish aquaculture and assist in implementing the recommendations

contained in the *Regional Business Strategy*.

The Provincial and Federal governments are focusing more attention on shellfish aquaculture as a vehicle for sustainable economic development, particularly for First Nations, Wilson said.

The report also states that commercial shellfish aquaculture production offers the advantage of situating economic development in the heart of Aboriginal communities.

Wilson said recent reports indicate that there is strong growth potential for shellfish aquaculture. "A 1997 Coopers and Lybrand report estimates that the BC shellfish industry could reach \$100 million in 10 years."



A number of First Nation communities have already shown interest in the commercial potential of shellfish aquaculture for economic development. "Aboriginal communities are very familiar with shellfish

resources and already have extensive experience in harvesting them. This historical relationship provides us with an ideal foundation for moving into commercial ventures," Wilson added.

Shellfish aquaculture has high labor demands year round and creates a wide diversity of full-time and part-time jobs. "Expanding shellfish operations into processing further increases the number of managerial and skilled positions," he said, adding "like any other business venture, shellfish aquaculture projects will succeed only if the driving force for the developments comes from the communities themselves."

"Government or other groups can't be seen as the driving force behind the developments otherwise it may be viewed as setting up projects for failure," he said.

Kingzett Recommendations



Key recommendations from the North Coast Shellfish Aquaculture Regional Business Strategy include:

- Prior to commencement of any shellfish aquaculture venture, strategic planning must include consideration of the various business structures, training models, employment opportunities, processing capacity, marketing opportunities, as well as social and cultural issues;
- Strongly encourage joint venture partnerships that bring a combination of financial investment, technical, business and marketing management skills to any proposed shellfish aquaculture project;
- Major projects should target final products that can be frozen or value added rather than fresh products;
- Larger scale commercial aquaculture should concentrate on developing cold-water species such as mussels, oysters and scallops;
- Projects should support research and commercialization of lower priority native species: green sea urchins, abalone, cockles, geoduck, rock scallops and kelps;
- To achieve cost and time efficiencies, focus efforts on developing existing or underutilized facilities and infrastructure within the area; and
- Before growing any shellfish species, a confirmed marketing plan that matches the production plan must be developed. The plan needs to outline where the product will be processed and which markets are being targeted.

"Having the regional business plan will give First Nations a head start in the planning process."

- Guujaaw

Economic measures on fish and marine issues move forward

Turning Point is forging ahead with its planning and work on economic measures related to fish and marine issues.

With the completion of the regional study on shellfish aquaculture, Turning Point has started stage two of the process that will result in a number of projects, says executive member Guujaaw.

One of the initial tasks will be to arrange a conference on shellfish aquaculture in April. "In part, the conference will look at ways to harmonize the work we're doing with other First Nations. We don't want to duplicate our efforts or work," Guujaaw said.

A significant recommendation in the regional shellfish aquaculture report was that First Nations work together. "The conference would bring the Turning Point Steering Committee, growers and others together to talk about planning a strategy," he added.

At the same time Turning Point would begin work on a regional business plan for entering the shellfish aquaculture industry, he said. "The plan would include some specific information on where the markets are,

logistics of processing plants and the other details necessary to be successful. Having the regional business plan will give First Nations a head start in the planning process."

An equally important component of the workplan is species trials by individual First Nations, Guujaaw said. "It's anticipated that a marine biologist will work with Turning Point communities and their fisheries team on this project. They would identify five to six potential sites for shellfish aquaculture."

Gujaaw noted that it's necessary to have the seeds in by the end of June. "The trials will tell us how quickly the species will grow. If we don't do it by the end of June then we'll miss the summer growing season and that will set us back."

Despite the fact that First Nations are being asked to move quickly this is not a race, he said. "What we are doing is building a viable industry. It's estimated that it will cost between \$4-5 million to build a shellfish industry."

Stage three of the project would involve First Nations completing their own business plans for entering the shellfish industry.





Clearcutting Canada's Rainforest: Status Report

Only four percent of the plans provide for protected buffers on small fish streams.

Clearcutting is still happening along BC's northern coast

According to a report released by the David Suzuki Foundation more than 70 percent of the logging completed or being planned for the Central and North Coast and Haida Gwaii still uses clearcutting to remove the trees from logging sites or cutblocks. The report also states where clearcutting occurred more than 80 percent of the forest was logged.

The report, *Clearcutting Canada's Rainforest: Status Report*, also found that 85 percent of the logging plans analysed in the Great Bear Rainforest and Haida Gwaii called for logging to the banks of small fish streams with no buffers planned for the riparian zone. Only four percent of the plans provide for protected buffers on small fish streams. In British Columbia, forestry regulations do not require the protection of small fish streams, while ecosystem-based management calls for riparian buffer zones up to 200 metres from the stream bank.

Some of the timber companies say they are practicing "retention" logging methods. But when more than 80 percent of the forest is being logged this can only be described as clearcutting, says the report.

Very few trees are left behind and the patches of trees left standing are often severely fragmented across the cutblock or are too small to conserve the unique temperate rainforest ecosystem. This study found that where retention logging was employed, the amount, size and species of trees left behind cannot support the intricate ecological structures and functions of Canada's rainforests. In 163 of the 227 cutblocks analyzed, or 72 per cent, companies left behind less than 20 per cent of the forest.

Background

On April 4, 2001 – under the glare of television cameras – the government of British Columbia and eight First Nations whose traditional territories lie along British Columbia's northern coast, signed a

landmark agreement to protect large intact areas and radically alter forestry practices and land-use planning in Canada's temperate rainforest.

This *General Protocol Agreement on Land Use Planning and Interim Measures* establishes that forestry on British Columbia's Central and North coasts, and Haida Gwaii will be planned and implemented using a process called ecosystem-based management. This practice is fundamentally different from traditional industrial logging because it addresses all forest and socioeconomic values rather than merely the volume of timber that can be logged.

Implementing the agreement

The status report evaluates how - and if - the provincial Ministry of Forests, and the timber companies with cutting rights in these forests, are developing and implementing ecosystem-based management as proposed in the April 4 agreement. The David Suzuki Foundation, Forest Watch of British





Columbia and the Raincoast Conservation Society have examined 227 logging plans approved for these regions between April 4, 2001 and January 2002 to determine the type of logging that companies are conducting and that the government is allowing.

This region is often referred to as the 'Great Bear Rainforest'. Since the April 4, 2001 announcement, people around the world expect this rare and important rainforest to be conserved and that any logging will be environmentally responsible. Unfortunately, the results of the analysis show that a much stronger commitment to ecosystem-based management is needed in order to make this a reality.



In order to determine if the spirit and intent of these agreements is upheld, the David Suzuki Foundation, Forest Watch of British Columbia and the Raincoast Conservation Society intend to monitor the development of land-use plans, protected-area

designations, and logging practices in these forests for at least the next three years. Only with complete implementation of the landmark agreement and a switch to more environmentally responsible logging practices will the incredible diversity of life in Canada's rainforests be maintained.

To see the full report check website:
www.canadianrainforests.org

"Sustainability of the forests is absolutely essential for the First Nations of Turning Point."

- Art Sterritt

Turning Point response to Forestry Status Report

Clearcutting is unacceptable in coastal forests, says Art Sterritt.

Sterritt, an executive committee member of Turning Point, said it is disturbing to the First Nations of Turning Point that clearcutting continues along the coast.

He added, "environmentally responsible logging is needed to conserve what remains of the old-growth forests. Turning Point is working with government, the timber companies and environmental groups to ensure that environmentally responsible practices are implemented on the coast."

Sterritt said the findings of *Clearcutting Canada's Rainforests* are disappointing. "The Province made a commitment to implement ecosystem-based management on the coast and it is clear that it is not being lived up to. The sustainability of the forests is absolutely essential for the First Nations of Turning Point."

Sterritt added that not all forest companies are guilty of clearcutting. "There are examples of companies who are using ecosystem-based management. But that must become the status quo rather than the exception."



More Than A Basketball Tournament

Volunteers key to All Native Tournament success

"The tournament has become a cultural and social gathering for our people."

- Russell Gamble



The Gitmaxmak'ay (People of the Rainbow) Nisga'a Dancers cultural sharing during the opening ceremonies of the 44th Annual All-Native Basketball Tournament in Prince Rupert. Photo by: Gordon Eshom

It's one of the premier amateur basketball tournaments in the country, says a proud Russell Gamble.

But the All Native Basketball Tournament (ANT), held in mid-February in Prince Rupert, is much more than a sporting event. "The tournament has become a cultural and social gathering for our people. In many instances it's the only time we're able to visit our classmates from residential school or friends we met while fishing or working in canneries," Gamble says.

Walking through the civic center it's easy to see that it's more than basketball games that brings people to Prince Rupert each year. "You can see people gathered in the hallways or in the auditorium grabbing a bite to eat and talking about old times," he said.

Gamble, an advisor to the ANT committee, has been involved in the ANT as a player, committee member and chair since it began in 1947. "It's always been a very positive experience for me. I've really enjoyed being a part of this community event."

The tournament has undergone a lot of changes since it began in the 1940s. In 1947 the tournament had about 14 teams,

this year the tournament had 54 teams competing in four divisions. "Every year we try to improve our operations by looking back on what worked and what we might want to change. As soon as the tournament ends, there is a committee that begins planning for next year," Gamble said.

But one constant during the 44 years is the tireless efforts of the tournament committee and volunteers. "Without them the tournament couldn't carry on. The volunteers play a key role in all aspects of planning, and then running the tournament," he said.

More than 100 volunteers ensure the tournament runs smoothly. "Some of our

volunteers have been with us more than 20 years. That shows a real dedication both to the tournament and to our community," he added.

Volunteers are in charge of security, ticket sales, admissions, program sales, 50/50 sales, and sales tables. "We've estimated that the volunteers put in more than 5,000 hours of time during the week of the tournament," Gamble said.

When asked, the volunteers say they keep coming back because they benefit from the experience, he said. "The volunteers connect the ANT with the community members they serve during the week. ANT volunteers are local and they are part of the community."

Volunteer work for the ANT also extends to communities who participate in the tournament. Ann Housty, a Heiltsuk member and team fundraiser, said they raised about \$40,000 to send four teams to the tournament this year. "It takes an incredible amount of time and energy to raise that amount of money, but our community is committed to playing in the tournament."

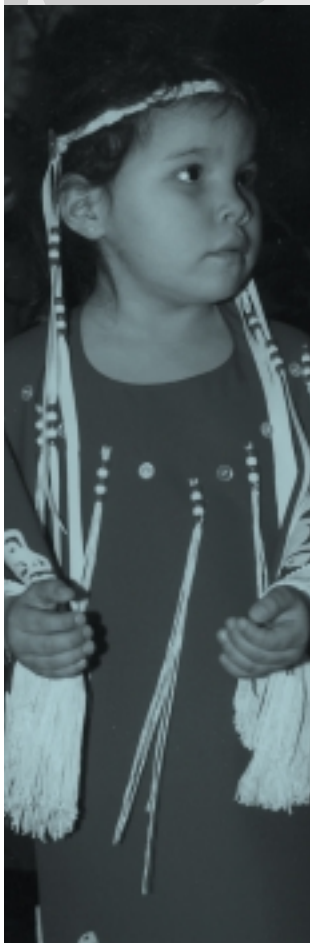


Photo by: Gordon Eshom

All Native Tournament An Economic Boon For Prince Rupert



The week-long All Native Basketball Tournament (ANT) brings millions of dollars into the Prince Rupert economy.

"The ANT provides a much-needed economic winter boost to Prince Rupert," said Don Allan. "We believe it brings about \$2-3 million into our economy."

Allan, manager of the Prince Rupert Economic Development Commission, says the ANT is a big deal for the entire community. "February is generally a low business month so the ANT provides a much appreciated increase in sales for local retailers. At least 3,000 people travel to Prince Rupert for the tournament," he said.

In a time when the economy is in a downturn the money the ANT brings to Prince Rupert is significant. "First Nations are an important part of the local economy, particularly during the ANT week," Allan said.

In the days leading up to the ANT, the advertisements in the local paper increase dramatically, Allan said. "Business really tries to make ANT participants and fans feel welcome while they are here. Almost every store and restaurant puts up posters welcoming tournament participants and fans on their windows."

Businesses will sometimes host special events during the week, Allan said. "Clothing stores, shoe stores and sports wear retailers seem to



Photo by: Gordon Eshom

do especially well during the week. They definitely experience a spike in their business transactions during ANT."

If anyone plans to attend the tournament, Allan recommends that they make their travel and accommodation plans early. "In many cases hotel rooms are booked a full year in advance, and tickets to the weekend championship games are extremely difficult to come by. So if you plan to come next year make your plans early to avoid disappointment."

"At least 3000 people travel to Prince Rupert for the tournament."

- Don Allan

2003 All Native Tournament Results:

Women's Division:

1. Metlakatla, BC
2. Friendship House (Prince Rupert)
3. Bella Bella
4. Ahousaht

Senior's Division:

1. Hydaburg
2. Bella Bella
3. New Aiyansh
4. Lax Kw'alaams

Intermediate Division:

1. Skidegate
2. Ahousaht
3. Similkameen
4. Friendship House (Prince Rupert)

Master's Division:

1. Metlakatla, Alaska
2. Skidegate
3. Bella Bella
4. Kincolith



Photo by: Gordon Eshom



Climate Change A Concern To First Nations According To Survey

First Nations people are concerned about climate change.

Sixty per cent of First Nations people living on-reserve are either extremely or definitely concerned about climate change according to a national federal government survey.

Another 31 per cent say they are somewhat concerned and 10 per cent say they are either not very or not at all concerned about climate change.

The survey, conducted by the national public opinion research firm Ekos Research Associates for five federal departments, is the third survey of First Nations people living on-reserve. The survey focused on a range of issues, including: First Nations priorities for the Federal government; opinions of government performance; Aboriginal children and education; the importance of culture in First Nation communities; health-related issues and environmental issues.

The Ekos survey states almost two-thirds of First Nations people (64 per cent) say they have heard or read something about climate change, an awareness level similar to that of

the general public (69 per cent). Survey respondents were also asked the extent to which they support or oppose Canada's commitment to the Kyoto Protocol which will require a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2010.

Although First Nations residents expressed stronger concern with the issue of climate change than does the general public, they are somewhat less supportive of the Kyoto Protocol. In a September survey of the general public, 79 per cent supported Canada's commitment to the Kyoto Protocol and 14 per cent opposed it.

Support for the Kyoto Protocol varies by gender, income, education, Internet access, first language, age and literacy levels; those with a university education and incomes over \$50,000 demonstrated the strongest support. According to the survey, men demonstrate greater support for the Kyoto Protocol than do women.

Highlights of on-reserve First Nations survey

The single greatest challenge facing Aboriginal children and youth in Canada is a lack of education, according to results of an on-reserve survey.

According to the survey, based on a national sample of 1,507 telephone interviews with First Nations people living on-reserve, First Nations people, like most Canadians, are concerned about early childhood development, education, health and the environment.

Lack of education, drug and alcohol abuse issues, and poverty are seen as the most pressing challenges facing Aboriginal children and youth. These issues continue to be huge concerns according to the results of the third national survey of First Nations people living on-reserve.

Among the survey findings:

- Almost half of First Nations people in the survey said that the quality of on-reserve education received by Aboriginal children and

youth is worse than that received by other Canadians;

- The reasons most often identified by First Nations people for leaving their community are related to employment and education;
- Almost nine out of every ten First Nations people believe that the Federal government should do more to help their communities preserve their culture and heritage;
- Seven out of every ten First Nation people believe that tourism activities related to Aboriginal culture create positive economic benefits for their communities and help others have a better understanding of their culture and heritage;
- Those who are not in the labour force and indicated poorer levels of health tend to be more pessimistic about their economic future. Residents of British Columbia and Alberta are also more likely to think their economic future will worsen in the next 12 months.

The opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of the First Nations of Turning Point.

The office is located on the corner of Granville and Hastings Street, opposite the Sinclair Centre, in the United Kingdom Building.

Turning Point Office
Suite 200
409 Granville Street
Vancouver, BC
V6C 1T2

Tel: 604-696-9889
Fax: 604-696-9887

Editor: Bessie Brown
E-Mail: bbrown@turningpointoffice.org