



“OUR FORESTS: A FOUNDATION FOR SHARED PROSPERITY”

Aboriginal Forestry Forum

February 28th & 29th, 2012 | The Sutton Place Hotel | Toronto, ON

Mission Statement:

The 2nd Aboriginal Forestry Forum provides a national venue for indigenous forestry practitioners to discuss preeminent issues, concerns, opportunities, and trends related to local, national, and international forest-based development. Speakers and participants at the Forestry Forum will provide valuable insight towards understanding the complex issues affecting Aboriginal forestry. The Aboriginal Forestry Forum will address a broad range of issues through expertise from various indigenous organizations, industries, environmental groups, government departments, and academic disciplines.

Forestry Forum Objectives:

- To provide a forum to:
 - discuss Aboriginal engagement in forest sector growth and improvement;
 - develop leadership options and requirements;
 - foster new productive partnerships between diverse forest experts and Aboriginal forest practitioners;
 - strengthen communication links between Aboriginal forest practitioners at all levels.
- To promote knowledge sharing on emerging topics of interest to governments, industry, and aboriginal peoples (e.g., bioenergy, best management practices, etc.);
- To generate conversation about the current state of the Aboriginal Forest Sector in Canada;
- To identify opportunities to advance Aboriginal Forest Sector development and forest management;
- To introduce emerging ideas and propose effective mechanisms related to ecosystem based management, ecosystem approaches to development, and interdisciplinary approaches to forest management in the context of First Nation Forest Land Stewardship;
- To encourage dialogue on issues related to improving economic access for Aboriginal Peoples in the Forest Sector;
- To identify gaps in capacity and programming and identify strategies to address those gaps;
- To identify critical prerequisites to Aboriginal forest-based development, i.e. product and market development.