



SFI PROMOTES INDIGENOUS RIGHTS, RESPECT AND ENGAGEMENT

At SFI® we respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples and believe our shared quality of life improves when forests are sustainably managed for current and future generations. These shared values allow for a strong and multi-faceted link between SFI and Indigenous communities across Canada and the U.S.

We are an organization that derives our energy and inspiration from making a positive difference and by taking action today to build a better future for generations to come. We do this by promoting progressive Indigenous relations, through partnerships and initiatives that promote trust, conservation, community engagement and education.

The SFI Forest Management Standard is aligned with Indigenous values, including rights, knowledge, and environmental considerations. SFI also partners with leading organizations like the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business and Habitat for Humanity Canada's Indigenous Housing Partnership.

To date, SFI has awarded nine grants focused on these values from the boreal forests of Canada to the rainforests of the Pacific Northwest.

Use of the SFI Forest Management Standard continues to grow across Canada and U.S., with communities using SFI standards to address cultural, economic and environmental interests. In Canada, the SFI Small-Scale Forest Management Module for Indigenous Peoples, Families and Communities also offers the opportunity to participate in a group certification and benefit from economies of scale.

Indigenous communities began certifying to SFI in 2010. Today, 39 Indigenous groups across Canada and the U.S. work on over 4-million hectares/10-million acres of land certified to SFI.



SPEAKING OUT ABOUT WHY THEY PARTNER WITH SFI

INDIGENOUS INTERESTS REPRESENTED ON SFI BOARD

SFI Inc. is led by an independent board of directors that represents environmental, social and economic interests equally. SFI has brought Indigenous interests onto its board through the appointment of Lennard Joe, President of the Nicola Tribal Association.

“Decisions we make today should result in a sustainable world seven generations into the future. As my community works to become more involved in forestry, additional tools are supporting our seven-generations outlook. A key support is our partnership with SFI.”

LENNARD JOE

SFI Board Member, Social Sector
President, Nicola Tribal Association

THE YAKAMA NATION

The SFI Forest Management Standard respects traditional knowledge about forests and promotes the protection of historically and culturally important sites.

“The timber-based economy of the Yakama Nation in Washington State is unique in that it balances economic needs while ensuring the protection of Yakama cultural and traditional practices. To keep this balance, it's critical that we maintain a high sustainability standard, and SFI helps us do just that.”

STEVE ANDRINGA

Administrative Forester, Yakama Nation, Washington

MIITIGOOG L.P.

Miitigoog L.P. is a partnership between Kenora area First Nations, forest industry partners and Kenora independent loggers.

“The SFI standard reinforces many of the objectives we currently have in managing our forests — protecting special sites, conservation and community involvement. Through certification to SFI we can now communicate these important values to our customers and communities.”

CHIEF LORRAINE COBINESS

President, Kenora Chiefs Advisory

CAPACITY FOREST MANAGEMENT LTD.

Capacity Forest Management Ltd. specializes in the management of First Nations forestry operations in conjunction with our First Nations clients.

“We found that a lot of the SFI principles matched the objectives and goals of First Nations communities for long-term management of their land base.”

CORBY LAMB

President, Capacity Forest Management, British Columbia
Winner SFI President's Award 2012

CANADIAN COUNCIL FOR ABORIGINAL BUSINESS

In May 2013, SFI signed a memorandum of understanding with the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business (CCAB). This agreement expands our relationship, engagement and outreach with the Indigenous community.

“Partnering with SFI builds the brand of the CCAB's Progressive Aboriginal Relations (PAR) program. When you look at products, a dual logo highlights both SFI and PAR. It's a sign that the product comes from responsibly managed forests that involved progressive Aboriginal relations. It's a good thing.”

JP GLADU

President and CEO of CCAB



INDIGENOUS HOUSING

In Canada, Indigenous housing is a national challenge. SFI supports Habitat for Humanity Canada's (HFHC) Indigenous Housing Partnership. To date, the partnership has enabled almost 150 families to realize their dream of affordable home ownership.










“Habitat for Humanity Canada is one of the very few non-profit housing organizations actively engaged in making the difference in First Nations communities and now SFI is a partner in that effort.”

MARK RODGERS

Chair of the SFI Board of Directors
President and CEO, Habitat for Humanity Canada



INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES SUPPORT THE SFI FOREST MANAGEMENT STANDARD

CERTIFICATION	COMMUNITIES	ACRES	HECTARES	LOCATION
 Capacity Forest Management	Namgis First Nation • Wei Wai Kum First Nation, Kitasoo Band • Wuikinuxv Nation • Lower Similkameen Indian Band • Mowachat/Muchalaht First Nations • Mamalilikulla-Qwe'Qwa'Set'Em Band • Sechelt First Nation	853,498	345,398	British Columbia
 Hancock Forest Management	Muckleshoot Indian Tribe	105,000	42,492	Washington
 Miitigoog General Partner Inc.	Anishnabeg of Naongashing • Naotkamegwanning First Nation • Northwest Angle #33 • Ochiichagwe'Babigo'ining First Nation • Ojibways of Onigaming • Shoal Lake #40 • Wabaseemoong Independent Nation	2,811,716	1,137,861	Ontario
 Montreal Lake Business Ventures Ltd Saskatchewan Woodlands	Montreal Lake Cree Nation	569,192	230,344	Saskatchewan
 Nipissing Forest Resource Management Inc.	Antoine Algonquin First Nation • Mattawa/North Bay Algonquin First Nation • Dokis First Nation • Nipissing First Nation • Temagami First Nation • Wolf Lake First Nation	2,084,444	843,545	Ontario
 Obishikookaang Resources Corporation	Lac Seul First Nation	2,645,429	1,070,567	Ontario
 Rainy Lake Tribal Resource Management Inc.	Couchiching First Nation • Mitaanjigaming First Nation • Naicatchewenin First Nation • Nigigoonsiminikaaning First Nation • Rainy River First Nation • Seine River First Nation	698,516	282,679	Ontario
 Stuwix Resources Joint Venture	Cook's Ferry Indian Band • Coldwater Indian Band • Nooaitch Indian Band • Shackan Indian Band • Siska Indian Band • Upper Similkameen Indian Band • Lower Nicola Indian Band • Upper Nicola Band	195,213	79,000	British Columbia
 Yakama Nation	Yakama Nation	632,411	255,928	Washington
	TOTAL - 39 COMMUNITIES	10.6 million acres	4.3 million hectares	

SFI CONSERVATION AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS GRANT PROGRAM

Since 2010, SFI has awarded 100+ SFI Conservation and Community Partnerships grants, totaling more than \$3.9 million, to foster conservation and community-building projects. When leveraged with project partner contributions, the total investment exceeds \$14 million. To date 10 Indigenous communities have benefitted from this program.

The **Tk'emlups First Nations** in British Columbia worked with their elders to describe cultural heritage resources, such as traditional foods and medicines, and trained youth to work with the forest sector to protect these resources.

The **Native Earth Environmental Youth Camp** is a youth camp devoted to sustainable science and traditional ecological knowledge run by the State University of New York in partnership with the Haudenosaunee Environmental Task Force.

On BC's central coast the **Heiltsuk** are using databases and geographic information systems to improve the understanding of location and importance of culturally-modified trees distributed throughout their traditional territory.

The Effingham River Restoration Project is improving salmonid rearing habitats in British Columbia, while providing training opportunities for local Indigenous community members.



Quebec's **Laval University**, SFI and its partners supported Indigenous communities and forest companies to expand opportunities for Indigenous forestry workers.

Monitoring Water Temperatures and Flows for Steelhead in Relation to Forest Management Practices, from the Fraser Basin Council, will work to conserve steelhead trout in BC through improved forest management techniques.

The **San Carlos Apache Forest Resources Youth Outreach Program** is being supported by SFI to promote the link between sustainable forestry, cultural heritage and empowering tribal youth.

CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP

The Nanwakolas Council, a leadership group for 12 coastal British Columbia First Nations, worked with SFI Program Participant Interfor, to identify the qualities of western red cedar trees suitable for carving traditional canoes and poles, and for Big House construction. Suitable trees are at least three feet in diameter, 300 to 600 years old and free of large knots. Forestry professionals from Interfor and master carvers from area First Nations developed field criteria, which were then used by crews to identify appropriate trees. This partnership, respecting traditional lands and cultural needs, was awarded a SFI Conservation Leadership Award.



LEARN MORE:
sfiprogram.org/Indigenous-communities



PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

During the 2015-2019 standard revision process, SFI received comments from Indigenous people and held a dedicated workshop on addressing those comments and incorporating them into the standard.

Many SFI standard requirements reflect and support values and an approach to land management that are important to Indigenous communities:

INDIGENOUS RIGHTS: Objective 8 recognizes and respects Indigenous Peoples' rights and traditional knowledge. This includes understanding and respecting traditional forest-related knowledge, protecting spiritual, historical and cultural sites, and using non-timber forest products.

WATER: Objective 3 requires protection and maintenance of rivers, streams, lakes and other water bodies, a top priority for Indigenous communities that rely on naturally functioning water resources.

SPECIAL SITES: Objective 6 calls for the protection of special sites and requires SFI Program Participants to manage lands that are ecologically, geologically, historically or culturally important in a manner that takes into account their unique qualities. This includes sites special to Indigenous Peoples.

RESEARCH: Objective 10 requires support for forestry research, science and technology. Indigenous land managers work with a variety of agencies to advance research and combine it with cultural ideals, objectives and values.

TRAINING: Objective 11 requires that SFI Program Participants train personnel and contractors so they can support sustainable forestry practices. Indigenous communities working in forestry value this opportunity to build capacity within their communities.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: Objective 12 encourages public involvement in the practice of sustainable forestry, which means providing opportunities for Indigenous communities to provide input about plans for traditional lands and their use.