



# **First Nations Engagement & Information Sharing Referrals**

## **Perspective from a Woodlot License Holder in the Chilliwack Natural Resource District**

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# First Nations Engagement



Why do Woodlot License Holders share information with First Nations and other potentially affected stakeholders?

- Requirement of the Ministry of Forests to support the approval of WMP's, WLP's, and CP/RP applications.
- Gather information that may be relevant to forestry management objectives within Woodlot Licenses.
- Build trusting relationships with First Nation communities and a variety of user groups.
- Demonstrate to First Nations and user groups that Woodlot License Holders are diligent land stewards.
- Create and maintain our Social License.



# Challenges in the Chilliwack Natural Resource District

## NUMBERS

There are approximately 73 First Nations with asserted Traditional Territory in the District

## CAPACITY

Many First Nations lack the resources/capacity to address the numerous Information Sharing Referrals received.

## LOCATION

Many of the Woodlot Licenses in the District are located close to population centers/urban interface areas, which comes with increased scrutiny and management considerations.

## ORGANIZATION

Some First Nations have formed 'collective' entities to represent their common interests providing a single point of communication.

## COMMUNICATION

Many First Nations have identified dedicated lines of communication to departments or individuals to address Information Sharing Referrals.

## LOCATION

Many of the Woodlot Licenses in the District are located close to First Nation communities where past and present archaeological values and cultural uses are well documented and understood.



# The Process...

**The objective is to share relevant information with First Nations, in an acceptable format, with the intention of receiving feedback that assists in forest management planning within a Woodlot License area.**





# Limitations and Opportunities for Improvement

## CAPACITY

Some of the more critical limitations in the Chilliwack Natural Resource District seem to be the capacity of First Nations to receive, evaluate, and respond to Information Sharing Referrals.

## EDUCATION

Efforts should be made by all Licensees to educate themselves and develop a better understanding of cultural heritage resource values and traditional uses of local First Nations.

## ADAPTIVE PROCESS

Licensees should be working to develop a repeatable, yet adaptive, process to prepare and provide clear and transparent Information Sharing Referral specifically tailored to First Nations.

## RELATONSHIP BUILDING

Encourage and support First Nations in gaining a greater understanding of the challenges of small-scale forestry management while using these opportunities to build relationships.



# Questions or Comments?