

Annual Report

2002-03

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Introduction

Almost 80 percent of First Nations across Canada live within the country's vast forested landscape. Forests have always been a way of life for First Nations, bringing together cultural, spiritual and social values. Forests have always provided the essentials of life — food, clothing, shelter and medicine. Today, forests, both on- and off- reserve, continue to offer First Nation communities their traditional values as well as business and economic opportunities.

The First Nations Forestry Program (FNFP) is the Government of Canada's primary forestry capacity building program to encourage First Nations to sustainably manage forests and to position communities to participate in and benefit from on- and off-reserve forest-based development opportunities.

2002-2003 Program Highlights

- 178 forestry projects were supported by the FNFP in 147 First Nations communities, 10 Tribal Councils and nine First Nation organizations.
- \$3.5 million in FNFP funds was expended and an additional \$12.8 million was provided by First Nations and their partners for a total value of approved projects of \$16.3 million.
- 27 forest management plans were prepared or updated.
- 16 feasibility studies and nine business plans were prepared.
- 52 training courses, two workshops and a national conference were held.
- 941 First Nations workers received forestryrelated work experience on the various projects implemented.

This highly innovative and successful program was introduced in 1996 for an initial five-year period (1996-2001). It was twice extended on a yearly basis in both 2001-02 and 2002-03.

In February 2003, it was renewed for an additional five-year period to March 31, 2008.

Purpose and Objectives

The goal of the FNFP is to improve economic conditions in status First Nations communities with full consideration of the principles of sustainable forest management. In 2002-03 the program pursued this goal through the following four objectives:

- 1. To enhance First Nations capacity to sustainably manage their forest lands;
- 2. To enhance First Nations capacity to operate and participate in forest-based development opportunities and their benefits;
- 3. To develop innovative mechanisms for financing First Nations forest management and development; and,
- 4. To enhance First Nations institutional capacity at the provincial/territorial level to support their participation in the forest-based economy.

Management

The management structure of the FNFP contributes to the success of the program by offering flexibility that recognizes the diversity of First Nations across the country and meets provincial and territorial needs and opportunities. First Nations have direct involvement in the prioritization of regional objectives.

The FNFP management structure consists of a National Management Committee (NMC) and Provincial and Territorial Management Committees (PTMC).

National Management Committee

Committee membership includes a representative from Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), and First Nations.

The committee, which meets on a regular basis, provides the overall direction for the program. Responsibilities include, but are not restricted to: developing program policy; setting standards and procedures for the administration and delivery of the program; providing annual funding allocations to the PTMCs; national communication initiatives; establishing cooperative arrangements with other federal departments and programs; and, identifying and directing the implementation of national initiatives, program evaluation and project audits.

Provincial and Territorial Management Committees

There is a program management committee in each province or territory (except Nunavut) which sets regional program priorities, direction, and guidelines, including project funding and approvals.

Each committee is comprised of First Nation representatives along with representation from NRCan and INAC. On a number of committees representatives from the forest industry, provincial and territorial governments, and other federal departments have been invited to participate in program management.

Through this management structure, First Nations have a strong influence on the direction of the program while being able to draw on the experience and expertise of other committee members. NRCan's Canadian Forest Service offers professional forestry expertise, program experience, and scientific and technological knowledge. INAC offers established links with First Nations communities and other economic development programming. Representation by forest industry, provincial and territorial governments and other federal agencies on committees offers additional expertise and experience.

The program is delivered by way of contribution agreements between the Canadian Forest Service (NRCan) and project proponents.

Funding

Total federal funding to the FNFP in 2002-03 amounted to \$4.5 million (Table 1). INAC's funding of \$2.75 million is in the form of contribution funds and NRCan's funding of \$1.75 million is divided into \$1 million in contribution funds and \$750,000 for operational activities and salaries.

Table 1: FNFP funding, 2002-03

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC)	\$2.75 million
Natural Resources Canada (NRCan)	\$1.75 million
Total	\$4.50 million

Budget and Expenditures

The budget allocation to each provincial and territorial management committee has been a constant since 1996-97. The allocation is based on a formula using criteria related to forest opportunities in the region (e.g., size, state and accessibility of reserve forests, opportunities to access off-reserve forested areas, reserve population, etc.). An allocation is also made to cover costs of national initiatives such as central administration, communications and outreach initiatives, program evaluations and audits, projects of interest nationally to communities and other developmental initiatives.

In 2002-03, FNFP supported 178 projects in 147 First Nations communities, ten Tribal Councils and nine First Nation organizations. Table 2 shows FNFP expenditures on projects through contribution agreements totalling \$3.5 million across Canada. Of this, about 53 percent was spent on forest management projects (Objective one) and 46 percent was spent on forest-based development capacity (Objective two). The residual was expended on building institutional capacity (Objective four). There were no proposals received

for financial support under Objective three, "to develop innovative mechanisms for financing First Nations forest management and development."

FNFP operating and capital expenditures, including A-base salary expenditures, totalled \$876,100. Operating expenditures include expenditures on First Nation leadership and skills development (workshops, training sessions, seminars and conferences), provincial and territorial management committee meetings, preparation and distribution of communications material, national meetings, employment of Aboriginal students for program delivery and monitoring, and program administration and delivery. The greater percentage of the \$876,100 expended was for First Nations and associated program activity.

Table 2: FNFP expenditures, 2002-031

Province/Territory		Contribut	Operating ² Expenditures	Total Expenditures			
	Objective 1 Forest Management Capacity	Objective 2 Forest Based Development	Objective 3 Financing Mechanisms	Objective 4 Forestry Institutions	Total Contribution Funds		
British Columbia	279.4	497.5	0.0	0.0	776.9	138.0	914.9
Alberta	116.0	164.0	0.0	12.0	292.0	71.0	363.0
Saskatchewan	160.0	200.5	0.0	0.0	360.5	69.5	430.0
Manitoba	52.0	224.0	0.0	0.0	276.0	58.5	334.5
Ontario	425.6	235.6	0.0	0.0	661.2	149.5	810.7
Quebec	249.8	223.7	0.0	37.4	510.9	140.0	650.9
New Brunswick	167.0	25.5	0.0	0.0	192.5	41.5	234.0
Prince Edward Island	10.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.3	2.0	12.3
Nova Scotia	173.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	173.3	24.0	197.3
Newfoundland & Labrador	27.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	27.2	2.0	29.2
Northwest Territories	55.2	19.1	0.0	10.3	84.6	11.5	96.1
Yukon Territory	98.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	98.2	0.0	98.2
National	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30.0	168.6	198.6
Total	1,844.0	1,589.9	0.0	59.7	3,493.6	876.1	4,369.7
Contributions by objective (%)	52.8	45.5	0.0	1.7	100.0		

^{1.} Estimate of expenditures subject to audit.

^{2.} Includes A-base salaries and Operating and Maintenance expenditures.

Program Activity

Program activity was undertaken in all provinces and territories in 2002-03 (except Nunavut). The program received 292 proposals, of which 178 received FNFP funding. The total value of approved proposals, including contributions from First Nations and their partners, was \$16.3 million.

Table 3 shows the number of proposals submitted, the approval rate and their values by province and territory. As indicated by the number of proposals received in contrast to those approved,

Table 3: Number and value of proposals submitted and approved, 2002-03

Province/Territory	Number of Proposals			Total Value	of Proposals
	Submitted	Approved	Approval Rate	Submitted ¹ (\$000)	Approved ² (\$000)
British Columbia	131	43	33%	5,149.3	2,185.7
Alberta	28	17	61%	5,438.2	4,881.1
Saskatchewan	14	14	100%	1,309.2	1,300.9
Manitoba	18	16	89%	2,571.0	995.2
Ontario	33	33	100%	2,685.0	2,447.2
Quebec	25	19	76%	6,038.6	3,210.0
New Brunswick	16	11	69%	693.9	486.5
Prince Edward Island	1	1	100%	20.3	20.3
Nova Scotia	12	12	100%	222.3	222.3
Newfoundland & Labrador	2	2	100%	91.5	65.3
Northwest Territories	8	6	75%	374.3	364.2
Yukon Territory	3	3	100%	117.8	117.8
National	1	1	100%	37.5	37.5
Total	292	178	61%	24,748.9	16,334.0

^{1.} Total value of proposals equals requested FNFP funds plus contributions to projects by First Nations and their partners.

^{2.} Total value equals approved FNFP funds plus contribution to projects by First Nations and their partners.

the program remains oversubscribed. Of the eligible proposals submitted to the FNFP, only 61 percent received funding. Many approved projects were only partially funded to allow support to additional proposals deemed worth funding by the management committees. In British Columbia, only 33 percent of proposals submitted received funding.

Annex 1 tabulates individual projects funded and total project value, by province and territory for 2002-03.

Financial Leverage

Since the program's inception, program applicants have been expected to secure additional funding from other sources in addition to receiving FNFP funds. In 2002-03, FNFP contribution funding of \$3.5 million was supplemented by \$9.7 million from First Nations and \$3.1 million from their partners (Table 4). These amounts include cash and in-kind contributions.

The support of First Nations' partners (federal and provincial government agencies and members of the forest industry) is important. In addition to financial contributions, partners provide moral and technical support, as well as continuing mentoring, to ensure projects are successfully completed.

FNFP contribution funding of \$3.5 million combined with \$12.8 million from First Nations and their partners brought the total value of all approved projects to \$16.3 million for the fiscal year. FNFP funds represented 21 percent of the total.

The FNFP provides essential seed funding to First Nations that allow them to leverage additional funds from both First Nation and non-Aboriginal sources. The Interim Review of the FNFP, completed in the fall 1998, stated: "most projects would not have been started without the FNFP." This statement remains as true in 2002-03 as it was in 1998 and indeed, since the program began in 1996.

Table 4: Project funding by source of funds, 2002-03

	First Nations		Other Sources ¹			Total		
	Contribution Funds \$000	Cash \$000	In-kind \$000	Total \$000	Cash \$000	In-kind \$000	Total \$000	\$000
All Projects	3,494	8,553	1,184	9,737	2,554	550	3,103	16,334
% of Total	21.4%	52.4%	7.2%	59.6%	15.6%	3.4%	19.0%	

^{1.} Federal and provincial government agencies and the private sector.

Economic Impact

The FNFP measures economic progress toward its objectives through a set of economic indicators. In 2002-03, FNFP projects provided experience and new knowledge in many different areas of forestry-related activities to 941 First Nation workers. It sponsored 52 training courses, two workshops, and a national conference as well as providing financial assistance to prepare and/or update 27 forest management plans, complete nine business plans and 16 feasibility studies (Table 5). Many of the business plans, forest management plans and training courses led to part-time and full-time employment for First Nations both on and off-reserve.

Table 5: Performance Indicators, 2002-03

Province/Territory	Number of Persons Provided with Work Experience	Workshops Held	Training Courses Supported	Forest Management Plans Prepared or Updated	Business Feasibility Studies Prepared	Business Plans Prepared
British Columbia	167	1	10	8	4	1
Alberta	134	0	5	1	1	1
Saskatchewan	158	0	8	2	0	0
Manitoba	163	0	11	0	3	0
Ontario	132	0	3	7	5	5
Quebec	112	0	7	5	2	2
New Brunswick	31	1	2	0	1	0
Prince Edward Island	3	0	0	0	0	0
Nova Scotia	7	0	0	3	0	0
Newfoundland & Labrador	8	0	0	0	0	0
Northwest Territories	23	0	1	1	0	0
Yukon Territory	1	0	5	0	0	0
National	2	0	0	0	0	0
Total	941	2	52	27	16	9

Communications and Outreach Activities

FNFP's communication and outreach goals are to promote the program's achievements to program participants and potential participants and to provide information to others interested in the program's overall operations. In 2002-2003, the program supported a number of communications and outreach initiatives.

Communications

In 2002-2003, a review of the program's communications activities was undertaken. Feedback was gathered from across the country that helped identify activity needs and gaps. From this, a new comprehensive communications and outreach plan was prepared and a new visual identity created.

Communications activities included printing and distribution of **Success Stories**, a compendium of 40 FNFP projects profiling First Nations' forest-related achievements. The projects profiled include examples of First Nations involved in developing and delivering sustainable forest management, strengthening capacity and professional development, developing forest resources and eco-tourism opportunities, establishing forestry businesses and joint ventures, creating community employment, and recording and sharing traditional knowledge.

Core activities during the year included the planning and development of a brochure geared for First Nations audiences; a booklet for a policy-oriented audience; a series of templates for themed poster development, newsletter production and fact sheet creation; and the re-development of the content, look and feel of the program's Website (www.fnfp.gc.ca).

A series of regional and national newsletters were distributed to FNFP program participants, government, industry and interested public audiences. Newsletter content highlighted FNFP funded projects that focussed on showing capacity building in forest management, interesting and successful projects, partnerships and business development practices, program administrative information, websites of interest to readers, and upcoming regional and national events in Aboriginal forestry.

The May 2002 edition of **Aboriginal Times** featured an eight-page special report about the FNFP entitled **Sowing the Seeds - A forest is a living thing.** The article examined Aboriginal forestry through the presentation of a series of FNFP projects from across the country.

Outreach activities

The FNFP participated a number of conferences and trade shows during the year including:

• Working Together to Create Wealth and Opportunity. AFN - NEXUS 2002, Joint Ventures and Partnerships, Business Conference and Trade Show in the Kahnawake Mohawk Territory, Montreal, Quebec.

- Forests Sustaining Communities / Communities Sustaining Forests. The Canadian Institute of Forestry's (CIF) 2002 Annual General Meeting in North Bay, Ontario.
- **Navigation: Directions for Development**. Ninth Annual National Conference and Trade Show in Edmonton, Alberta for the Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers (CANDO).

The new visual identity was incorporated into the re-design of display booths used at these conferences to promote the program.

The FNFP is considered to be the leading program to deliver sustainable forest management programming and funding to First Nations. Through its communications and outreach activities, the FNFP continues to increase awareness about program successes and illustrate the Government of Canada's continuing support for First Nations aspirations to utilize the forest for employment and economic development opportunities leading to increased participation in Canada's forest sector.

Projects

Annex 1: 2002-2003 Projects

The following table lists all projects funded by the FNFP in 2002-03, by province and territory. Projects are typically in remote areas where the majority of First Nations communities and other reserve lands are located.

Project Title	First Nation	FNFP (\$000)	First Nation and partners (\$000)	Total Project Value (\$000)
British Columbia				
Crown Forest Tenure Acquisition for Xsu Wiiax Forest Products Corp.	An Dsap Wilp Society	19.6	28.5	67.7
Forest and Plant Inventory, Mapping and Opportunity Development Initiative	Ashcroft First Nation	20.0	34.6	74.6
TEK Management & Collaborative Planning	Blueberry River Band	7.0	8.0	22.0
Forest Management, Planning & Development	Bonaparte Indian Band	20.0	41.7	81.7
Forested Reserve Land Improvement Project	Boothroyd Indian Band	20.1	28.6	68.8
Community Forest Initiative	Burns Lake Band	18.1	26.3	62.6
Carrier Chilcotin Forestry Initiative	Carrier Chilcotin Tribal Council	20.0	41.5	81.5
Block Layout Training and Contract Pilot Project	Cayoose Creek Band	19.8	26.8	66.3
Ulkatcho Reserve Lands Forest Resource Management Plan	Chunta Resources Ltd.	25.0	56.0	106.0
Mobile Dimension Sawmill Integration into Ditidaht Forest Products Ltd. Operations	Ditidaht Cedar Salvage Ltd.	25.0	108.5	158.5
Esketemc Reserve Beetle Control Program	Esketemc First Nation	20.0	21.4	61.4
Gitsegukla Band Brushing & Weeding Crew Training	Gitsegukla Band Council	25.0	52.0	102.0
Limited Partnership Development	Heiltsuk Tribal Council	25.0	175.0	225.0
Inventory of Woodlot Licence 1877	Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k:tles7eth Nation	14.5	17.8	46.8
Kitkatla Forest Development Project	Kitkatla Band Council	10.0	12.0	32.0
Forest Business Feasibility Study & Implementation Plan	Kitsumkalum Band Council	19.6	58.6	97.8
Conifer Protection, Cage Reinstallation and Maintenance	Kwakiutl Band	25.0	40.0	90.0
Fort Babine Forest Land Management	Lake Babine Nation	10.0	14.0	34.0

Project Title	First Nation	FNFP (\$000)	First Nation and partners (\$000)	Total Project Value (\$000)
Lakeshore First Nations Traditional Land Use Study and Occupancy Study (TLUOS) Project	Lakeshore First Nations (Swan R., Driftpile, Sucker Cr)	42.0	133.2	175.2
First Nation Forestry in Treaty 8: The Next Five Years	Lesser Slave Lake Indian Regional Council	12.0	10.0	22.0
Conference Attendance (FNFP Conference 2003, Saskatoon, SK) for Alberta First Nations.	Lesser Slave Lake Indian Regional Council	20.0	10.0	30.0
Preparation of a Business Plan for Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation Harvesting	Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation	34.0	6.5	40.5
Saskatchewan				
Capacity Building in Mechanical Harvesting Operations	Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation	40.0	35.8	75.8
Forestry Manager	Canoe Lake First Nation	30.0	69.0	99.0
Land and Resources Department	Meadow Lake Tribal Council	20.0	9.4	29.4
Log Home Construction Training	Buffalo River Dene Nation	40.0	176.7	216.7
First Nations Summer Student Program	Meadow Lake Tribal Council	15.0	22.0	37.0
Forestry Program	Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation	15.5	7.4	22.9
Forest Fire Fighting Training and Employment	Flying Dust Band	20.0	46.0	66.0
Small Motor Maintenance and Repair Training Course	Cumberland House Cree Nation	15.0	125.0	140.0
James Smith Cree Nation Forestry Program Fire Suppression Training and Capacity Building	James Smith Cree Nation	30.0	92.5	122.5
Athabasca Land Use Project	Prince Albert Grand Council	30.0	116.0	146.0
Forestry Coordinator	Prince Albert Grand Council	40.0	98.7	138.7
Forest Management Plan	Lac La Ronge Indian Band	20.0	16.0	36.0
Community Consultation, Support and Training for Community Based Sawmills	Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation	20.0	25.0	45.0
Forest Fringe Inventory	Yellow Quill Band #90	25.0	101.0	126.0

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Publications List: 1996-97 to 2002-03

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FNFP Facts - Program Summary, current **Faits concernant le PFPN - Résumé**, à jour

	Publication title	Language English/Francais	Quantity
Name/Nom			
Organization/Orga	anisme		
Address/Adresse			
	Province Postal Co		
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