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File: 10350-00
10410-01

August 29, 2011

To All Campbell River Natural Resource District Major Licensees

Dear Licensee:

Re: Consultation and Information Sharing with First Nations on Permit Applications

In line with recent policy changes with regard to consultation obligations in the natural resource and land management sector, the Province undertakes a formal preliminary assessment of First Nations' strength of claim and the level of potential impact on those interests prior to decision making. In conjunction with this, the Province has provided the (attached) *Guide to Involving Proponents When Consulting with First Nations (March, 2011)* that reflects the opportunity for the Crown to delegate procedural aspects of consultation to proponents (or licensees).

On February 6, 2006, the District Manager issued a letter introducing the *Campbell River Forest District First Nations Checklist for Permits*. I would like to provide the attached updated version entitled the *Licensee Summary of First Nations Information Sharing for Permits and Licences: Campbell River Natural Resource District*, which will replace the former document. Please review the attached template and forward to the appropriate staff in your organization. I suggest that with your assistance, we can continue to provide timely processing of your permit applications.

In order to review adequacy of information sharing and consultation, the District Manager must consider the nature of the proposed activity (the application) and any known information regarding the First Nation(s) interests and strength of interests for the subject area. Licensees submitting applications for decisions should ensure that adequate and timely information sharing has taken place. Reviewing aboriginal interests' information and completing the above noted First Nations' information sharing checklist will provide you with an indication of the depth of the Province's duty to consult in a given location, and may assist you in assessing an appropriate rigor of information sharing and/or involvement of Ministry staff.

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

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The checklist is provided with the objective to increase efficiencies, however, if you choose to provide the information in another format please provide the information contained on the checklist, including the following, with your application:

- A First Nation-specific chronological communication/event log of any information sharing/consultation that has taken place for the applicable permit area (or generally, with a given First Nation, if your intent is to demonstrate engagement overall).
- All known or implied aboriginal interests and the information sources utilized to determine them.
- Information concerning archaeological work completed.
- Any relevant letters, maps, meeting minutes, reports and correspondence.

First Nations' interests, aspirations, and awareness of traditional sites develop through time. Please consider that in the District Manager's assessment of the adequacy of First Nations' information sharing, the District Manager will also consider the length of time since the last information sharing attempts took place for the subject area. We recommend that you default to sharing the complete package of future harvest plans as a part of your annual information sharing commitments under your Forest Stewardship Plans.

Due to recent re-alignment of agency roles and responsibilities, all tenures associated with log handling under the *Land Act* will now be authorized by the District Manager. I strongly suggest you include these *Land Act* tenures (and Special Use Permit areas) in the information sharing process described above and include the attached checklist with all your tenure submissions.

As noted above, with your cooperation, and submission of the information, our administrative reviews will be streamlined, post application consultation with First Nations will be rare, and you will continue to receive prompt and efficient service. If you have any questions regarding First Nation information sharing or this template, please contact Aaron Smeeth, Consultation Specialist or Kerri Brownie, Authorizations Officer at 250-286-9300.

Yours truly,

Romona Blackwell, RFT
Acting District Manager

Attachment: *Licensee Summary of First Nations Information Sharing for Permits and Licences* dated August 29, 2011.

Guide to Involving Proponents When Consulting with First Nations (March 2011)