



FORESTRY

INTRODUCTION

The mandate of the Forestry Program is to locate and identify Forestry and Resource sector opportunities for member First Nations. With the inception of this Program and staff positions, specific priorities have been established:

CURRENT ENVIRONMENT

The Forestry Program Director currently reports directly to the CEO – Johnny Walker. The Program Director provides staff direction, discipline, and financial administration and coordinates current duties and projects.

Identified areas of responsibility are, but not limited to, the following:

- Report on all Forestry activities on First Nations Lands as depicted in the Indian Act.
- Raise the profile of Forestry within PAGC, and provide mentorship to First Nation youth in pursuing forestry careers through education, training and skill development. This is currently accomplished through representation on a wide range of Forestry Committees and attending Meetings and Conferences on behalf of member First Nations.
- Boards and Commissions
- Program Manager – Cliff Buettner
- Board of Directors – Vice President – Prince Albert Model Forest

Locate opportunities within Forestry for member First Nations by:

- Assist First Nations with the development of harvesting and reforestation plans and permitting process for timber permits or licenses both on and off reserve lands.

- Provide technical assistance to member First Nations upon request. This includes compilation of funding proposals and fiscal reports.
- Facilitate the transfer of Forestry Policy - attendance at Provincial Forestry Advisory Committee meetings, participation in Land Use Planning and discussions on the Forest Fire Values Protection, Forest Disease and Insect Policy.

SASKATCHEWAN FIRST NATION FOREST FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES AGREEMENT

The PAGC Forestry Program provides administrative and technical assistance for the Saskatchewan First Nations Forest Fire Protection Services Agreement. This is a 4-year agreement from 2013 – 2016, negotiated with Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment and AANDC employing 33 - 5 man crews within PAGC totaling 165 personnel. The most important aspect of this agreement is in respect to the training requirements that are essential to further develop individuals within the current agreement terms.

Through this agreement "Firesmart" Fuel Management Projects are contracted and provide employment and Wildfire Protection to Communities and Provincial Recreation Sites.

PRINCE ALBERT MODEL FOREST/ FOREST COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

The Prince Albert Grand Council along with other organizations including individual First Nations form a partnership called the Prince Albert Model Forest. The Vision Statement of the Model Forest is "*We envision the Prince Albert Model Forest as a landscape demonstrating the spirit of Sustainable Forest Management through the power of working together*": **Ma Maw Wechehetowin** - working together/ helping each other.

The Forestry Program Manager is the current Vice –President of the Prince Albert Model Forest. The PAMF is a non – profit partnership of forest users who are committed to enhancing forest sustainability through research, education and the equitable sharing of forest resources.

JUNIOR RESOURCE RANGER PROGRAM

The financial administration of this program is the responsibility of the host community, and supported through funding proposals submitted and approved through various agencies.

It is accomplished with assistance from Prince Albert Grand Council, individual First Nations and the Prince Albert Model Forest along with contributions from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment.

The initial direction of this program was to give Aboriginal Youth an introduction into careers in Integrated Resource Management. The program has an itinerary of training in place for the youth to participate in and involve many areas related to the Forest Industry. This involves areas of reforesta-

tion, inventory, cultivation, and preservation of our forests.

This program has given young First Nation individuals a chance to plan their future and how they view their environment and their involvement within society. These achievements require involvement from the community, support from its Chief and Council, and the individuals desire to assist in their personal future development, and most importantly, the parents support in their own youths' aspirations.

The Environment and Renewable Resources are an ever-increasing issue within the PAGC area. First Nations may not have the financial ability to secure investment capital and technical advice on Environment and Renewable Resource issues and may not have the capacity to provide this expertise internally. Through the PAGC Forestry Program we will continue to assist First Nations in sustainable economic and cultural benefit.



ELK RIDGE FUEL MANAGEMENT