



SQUAMISH NATION

Chiefs and Council

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SQUAMISH NATION ACQUIRES TFL 38

The Squamish Nation wishes to announce that the Nation has now acquired Tree Farm Licence 38 from International Forest Products Ltd (Interfor).

Tree Farm Licence 38 grants the exclusive rights to harvest timber over an area of land totaling 218,000 hectares north of Squamish, in the Squamish, Elaho, Sims and Ashlu River drainages. It covers the north-western third of the Squamish Nation aboriginal title lands. The AAC (Annual Allowable Cut) for TFL 38 will be 109,000 cu.m., which will be combined with an earlier 98,800 cu. m. that Squamish Nation obtained under a Forest and Range Agreement with the Province of B.C. This acquisition will make the Squamish Nation the largest forest licensee in the Squamish Forest District.

'This is a great day for the Squamish Nation declared Chief Bill Williams, Co-Chair of the Squamish Nation Chiefs and Council, we have a long-standing desire to participate fully in economic activity on our traditional territory, and we have a long-standing determination to increase our decision-making authority within our lands.'

This is also a great day for the District of Squamish noted Chief Williams. We intend to continue to operate these licences, and provide employment to local people and full activity to the local economy. The Squamish Nation is a Licensee who will not be moving on when economic conditions falter, or profits are greater elsewhere. Unlike other corporate owners, this is our home, and were here to stay.

The licence will be owned by Northwest Squamish Forestry Limited Partnership, a wholly owned structure of the Squamish Nation. It will be fully managed by CRB Logging Ltd, a local Squamish forestry company in co-operation with the Squamish Nation. Another local company, Elaho Logging Ltd. has existing Bill 13 contractor rights to 82% of TFL volumes, which sub-contract will continue under the new ownership with existing Elaho employees. The new company has also arranged for some planning staff from Interfor to transfer into operations of the new owners.

Chief Williams thanked Interfor for their willingness to deal with the Squamish Nation, and the co-operative spirit with which the deal was done. He wished them well in their new ventures.

Ever since our Xay Temixw Land Use Plan in 2001, the Squamish Nation has identified ownership of an area-based forest tenure in this area as a high priority, and this completes that objective. The Squamish will be continuing to seek a forest tenure in the Mamquam Valley which is presently outside of the TFL.

Three areas identified in the Xay Temixw Land Use Plan as Wild Spirit Places are in the TFL area acquired by the Squamish Nation. Chief Williams confirmed that it is the intention of the Squamish Nation to continue to protect these areas, while Government-to-Government discussions continue on the Sea-to-Sky LRMP. This acquisition will help, and may be the first step in finding a solution to these other difficult land use issues.”

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