
For many years, our communities worked in isolation, but in the Spring of 2000, leaders of our communities on the Central and North Coast and Haida Gwaii came together to discuss the common problems that we face, such as high unemployment, a lack of access to resources in our Traditional Territories. It was clear from the outset that our strength would be to form a coast-wide united front. Together we could make progress on the socio-economic issues that we have been largely unable to do as individual First Nations.

In 2003, we formed the Turning Point Initiative Society.

Our goal is to restore and implement responsible resource management approaches on the Central and North Coast and Haida Gwaii, which are ecologically and economically sustainable. We have several major initiatives underway: the completion of land use plans and the implementation of government-to-government negotiations; the implementation of ecosystem-based management (EBM) principles and practices; the implementation of First Nations shellfish, tourism, and forestry strategies; and the development of a new marine use planning process.

Over the past five years, Coastal First Nations has played a leadership role in bringing together a range of interests on the coast to address the unsustainable policies and practices that have damaged the environment and devastated coastal economies and communities. New partnerships have been developed with environmental groups, the federal and provincial governments, industry and other interests to begin the move to a new conservation-based economy with increased First Nations involvement through strong leadership and vision.
Our coastal rainforests, like many other global economic, social and environmental crises, seem beyond our capacity to solve. But there is a way forward. Our challenge is to develop a new conservation-based economy on BC’s North and Central Coast and our Traditional Territories.

Our experience has taught us the importance of understanding the limits of natural resource management. For thousands of years First Nations have practiced sustainable wildlife management to ensure the continued availability of marine and land resources. Today, we recognize that our Natural Resource Management system must become more conservation-based.

We acknowledge and honour our hereditary leaders, organizations and academic institutions already supporting our work. We strategically partner with those organizations to ensure that First Nations leadership and expertise of the modern world. For thousands of years First Nations carefully managed the abundance of the lands, waters and resources in our Traditional Territories. By working collaboratively with the Provincial and other groups we were able to come to an agreement that led to an historic decision by the Federal Government. In 2004, 35 First Nations formed the Coastal First Nations and the Coastal First Nations Land Use Planning Agreement. The Agreement guarantees to the lands, waters and resources in our Traditional Territories. The Turning Point Initiative was created with the conviction that if a conservation-based economy is to be effective, it must recognize the role of the coastal forests.

In the past decade concern over the destruction of the world’s coastal rainforests has reached global proportions. Alarm about the extinction of species, the irreversible damage to the delicate balance of the Earth’s climate control system and the tragic harm that’s been done to First Nations cultures has captured the attention of millions of people around the world.

In the north of BC, along our coast, the Coastal First Nations has watched as natural resources within our Traditional Territories have been exploited for maximum profit over the last 100 years.

Our communities mandated the Coastal First Nations to examine the potential impact of offshore oil and gas development on the lands, waters and resources within our Traditional Territories. By working collaboratively with the Coastal First Nations, Enbridge has been able to come to an agreement that led to an historic decision by the Federal Government. In 2004, 35 First Nations formed the Coastal First Nations and the Coastal First Nations Land Use Planning Agreement. The Agreement guarantees to the lands, waters and resources in our Traditional Territories. By working collaboratively with the Provincial and other groups we were able to come to an agreement that led to an historic decision by the Federal Government. In 2004, 35 First Nations formed the Coastal First Nations and the Coastal First Nations Land Use Planning Agreement. The Agreement guarantees to the lands, waters and resources in our Traditional Territories.

The Coastal First Nations works collaboratively with a variety of organizations to support our work. Our strategic partners include organizational and academic institutions already working in the region to provide resources, knowledge and expertise to our communities.

Many organizations have long-standing and important programs addressing many aspects of the problems we face. Many of our responsibilities are, however, still not being addressed, and we have embarked on a process to address the questions of how to balance our economic needs with environmental protection, but we need to do it in a sustainable manner.

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