Coastal First Nations have always known that the well-being of our people is connected to the well-being of our Traditional Territories. We know that our lands and waters are rich with resources that can provide economic opportunities, as well as they respected ecological and cultural values.

The new Coast Opportunities Funds, or COF, will help us move towards this future. COF will focus on initiatives that connect to conservancies and Ecosystem-based management (EBM), and allow us to capture the full value of our territories. New funds will help us create our own economic opportunities.

Coastal First Nations want strong local and regional economies. We want to create jobs and new opportunities. At the same time, we want to maintain our traditional lifestyle and protect our environment. The new Coast Opportunities Funds, or COF, will help us move towards this goal.

COF funds will flow to First Nations that commit to conservancies and Ecosystem-based management (EBM). These funds will help us to negotiate and develop new economic opportunities. They are part of our work to implement the well-being of our communities. They will help us to breathe new life into our traditional responsibilities for our lands and our people.

As part of this work, we are:

• Negotiating government-to-government agreements with the Government of BC. These agreements recognize that First Nations play a lead role in managing our lands and resources.
• Making land use plans. These plans set out where logging and other resource development can happen in our territories. They are based on our traditional responsibilities as keepers of the land.
• Designing a new kind of forestry. In our territories, logging and other resource development will create jobs, protect our environment, and strengthen our communities. We will do this through ecosystem-based management.
• Building a conservation economy. Our commitment to ecosystem-based management and conservancies is bringing new funds and investment to our region. This will help us create jobs and businesses in our communities.
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Coastal First Nations are very proud of what we have achieved. By working collaboratively with governments and other groups, we have created one of the best conservation and economic development models in the world.

Coastal First Nations believe that the traditional responsibilities for our lands and our people are real. We will hold the BC Government, and other groups, including industry and environmental organizations, to their promises. We will use every tool that is available to us, now and into the future.

Keepers of the Land Ecosystem-based management

Coastal First Nations - Turning Point Initiative is an alliance of First Nations on BC’s Central and North Coast. Field Guides are working hard to sustain the land, water and resources in our Traditional Territories to meet the needs of present and future generations.

Turning Point Initiative 401-409 Granville Street, Vancouver, BC V6C 1T2 Telephone: 604.696.9889 Fax: 604.696.9887 www.coastal firstnations.ca

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Photos By: Ben Fox, Al Harvey, Bess Brown, Douglas Neasloss, Jeremiah Armstrong, Tom Green, Printed on 100% PC Recycled

Coastal First Nations
Coastal First Nations have already decided on many areas that will be permanently set aside for future generations. These areas provide protection for cultural and ecological values. They will help us to take care of bears, salmon, and many other important plants and animals.

The new protected areas are an important step in our land use plans. They are also another example of how Coastal First Nations are leading the way for other First Nations in BC.

First Nations know that land use plans are about more than just land. They are about more than just land. Our territories include forests, ecosystems, plants and animals – and on our communities. We can do better than this.

Collaborative Management: First Nations and the BC Government will jointly manage the coastal areas we’ve set aside for special values. On the ground, our communities are the guardians. We will use traditional knowledge, scientific research, and local knowledge to make sure the conservancies are used in ways that benefit First Nations and the BC Government.

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In 2001, First Nations, the Province, environmental organizations, and forest companies committed to EBM. They set up a group called the Coast Information Team, or CIT. The CIT brought together people with scientific, technical, traditional, and local knowledge. They worked together to produce an EBM Planning Handbook. The Handbook explains how EBM works. It is a guide to help us decide how logging and other activities will be done in our territories.

EBM has two basic goals:

- maintain healthy ecosystems. People, animals, plants, soils, rivers, lakes, and oceans are all connected. EBM respects and sustains this web of life.
- improve human well-being. All people have the right to a happy, healthy life. EBM brings income and new economic opportunities to individuals and communities. It is a powerful tool to strengthen traditional cultures.

EBM uses careful plans to help us make the most of the resources we have. Some plans cover large areas of our region. Other plans focus on smaller sites and local areas.

In EBM, “risk” is the chance that logging or other resource development will have impacts that go beyond natural changes, to the point that ecosystems are no longer healthy. Our goal is to make sure our resource development is “low risk.” This means that our environment will stay healthy over the long term.

In nature, ecosystems are always changing. Fires, insects, and landslides all cause changes. Logging and other human activity causes changes too. When these activities are done well, ecosystems stay healthy over time.

EBM brings together the strength of First Nations’ traditional knowledge and the best of ecosystem science. It is an important step toward building a more sustainable future.

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Our territories include forests, ecosystems, plants and animals that are important to us, and to the entire world. We can protect these areas without hurting our communities.

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