



2023 COMPANY UPDATE

When we created C̓awak ʔqin Forestry, we committed to building a **world-leading forestry partnership** and we are well on our way to achieving this goal. We also committed to holding true to our namesake, C̓awak ʔqin, which means ‘we are one’ in the traditional Nuu-chah-nulth language: we work and speak as one, and respect the interconnectedness between the people, the water, the salmon, and the animals.

This is the foundation upon which we were created and one that will keep us focused on our shared responsibility: **to manage the forests and**

ecosystems sustainably to meet the economic and cultural needs of our people - today and into the future.

“We are one” also holds us accountable to our community members, workers and partners. That means providing regular updates to all of you: in meetings, community updates, our website and now in this newsletter.

We hope you enjoy our first newsletter!

ʔeko ʔeko - Thank you!



ABOUT US

C̓awak ʔqin Forestry, formed in March 2019, is a world-leading forestry partnership that owns and operates a timberlands business on **Tree Farm Licence 44**

(TFL 44) on the west coast of Vancouver Island.

Huumiis Ventures Limited Partnership, beneficially owned by **Huu-ay-aht First Nations**, owns a 35% equity interest in

C̓awak ʔqin Forestry, with **Western Forest Products Inc.** holding the remaining portion. Huu-ay-aht First Nations now have a co-management role in forestry activity on their traditional territory.

Stewardship Commitments & Initiatives

SEEING MORE THAN TREES

At C̓awak ʔqin Forestry we know that our decisions must benefit the waters, people, fisheries, wildlife and lands today and for future generations. Over the past year, we've launched a number of ground-breaking initiatives to set us on this path:

- 1. Building a Sustainable Future.** Through our [*TFL 44 Integrated Resource Management 200-Year Plan \(IRMP\)*](#) we will incorporate values, including fish, riparian, water, biodiversity, wildlife, First Nations use, timber products, economics and employment, and climate change. It will provide both vision and direction for government-to-government land and resource management decisions.

CURRENTLY:

- Other area Nations are currently working on their own IRMPs. Out of respect for their important work, we have delayed the TFL 44 IRMP until that work is completed which will inform our work.
- We are participating in the landscape planning working groups for many of the surrounding First Nations communities.

- 2. Protecting Big Trees.** We are expanding our industry-leading stewardship of tall trees, and the forests around them. Trees within TFL 44 that are over 70 meters in height are kept while our IRMP work is underway. Big trees, identified according to C̓awak ʔqin's Big Tree Policy, are also being managed.

CURRENTLY:

- As of late November 2022, we had identified and conserved 153 big trees and more than 4,000 tall trees.
- We will continue to add more to the inventory as we identify them.

- 3. Old Growth Forever.** In 2022, we [*commissioned a study looking at the status of old growth in the TFL*](#). It showed that 32 per cent of the forests in TFL 44 are old growth (older than 250 years). The study also showed that the amount of old growth is expected to increase over the next seven generations to reach 39 per cent.

CURRENTLY:

- While Integrated Resource Management Planning (IRMP) is completed, we have committed to deferring harvesting within 96% of the area identified by the BC Government's Technical Advisory Panel. Once complete, the IRMP will provide

THE NEW BRAND

The new brand for C̓awak ʔqin (pronounced sa-wa-kin) Forestry was launched in August 2022. The logo was designed by Huu-ay-aht father and son artists, Ed Johnson Sr. and Edward R. Johnson.

"The salmon is the giver of life and the eagle gave the bear his claws so he could catch the fish that he was coaxing up into the woods," explained

Ed Johnson Sr. "The fish carcasses feed the plants and the trees to help them grow."

"The design speaks to nature's life cycle with all the animals working together to protect, nourish and sustain our lands," said Edward R. Johnson. "It also reflects the company's vision as a world leading, Indigenous values-driven company, where our collective

decisions benefit the waters, people, fisheries, wildlife and lands today and for future generations."



C̓AWAK ʔQIN
FORESTRY

further direction on how old forest will be managed going forward.

4. Growing the Forest. Over four million trees have been planted over the past five years across TFL 44, which is more than the provincial standard requires. In accordance with our value, 'We put back in what we take out', we planted 972,480 trees in TFL 44 in 2022.

5. Low carbon, Hišuk ma čawak Manufacturing Initiative (HMI).

This work will support our operations in TFL 44 to be climate positive by 2030 – 20 years sooner than other government commitments. We will explore opportunities for skills training and capital investment, potential income streams through carbon

credits and green energy programs, and adopt innovative approaches to land management.

CURRENTLY:

➤ We are currently working on an action plan including key deliverables for 2023.

6. Watching Over Our Lands. The Witwak Guardians Program ensures that our lands are respected. They provide information to ensure that all invited land users on our traditional territory respect our rights, protocols and our values across the land base.

CURRENTLY:

➤ To date, the program is going well with a Guardian Supervisor and one Guardian, and funding in place for more.



ČAWAK ʔQIN FORESTRY SIGN UNVEILING EVENT, AUGUST 2, 2022.

[From From L to R: **HARRY BROSSAULT**, Čawak ʔqin Witwak Guardian, **JIM PROTEAU**, RPF, District Manager, Ministry of Forests, South Island Natural Resource District, **SHANNON JANZEN**, RPF, Board Chair for Čawak ʔqin Forestry and Vice President, Partnerships and Chief Forester of Western, **BRANDY LAUDER**, Chief Councilor, Hupacasath First Nation, **LES SAM**, Elected Councillor, Tseshaht First Nation, **ROBERT J. DENNIS SR.**, Chief Councilor, Huu-ay-aht First Nations, **JOSH GOODWILL**, Hereditary Chief, Tseshaht First Nation, **BRYCE MERCREDI**, Supervisor, Čawak ʔqin Witwak Guardian]

Community, Collaboration & Partnerships

SHARING INFORMATION & ACCOUNTABILITY

At Čawak ʔqin Forestry, we seek to keep everyone informed and involved. We achieve this by sharing knowledge and listening to our community. Some of our approaches and initiatives include:



- ◀▶ **Co-hosting the Anacla Old-Growth Summit.** In April 2022, more than 100 First Nations, leading experts in forestry, fisheries and ecosystem management, government representatives and the USW came together to share research and information on stewardship and discuss Indigenous-led models.
- ◀▶ **Working Collaboratively with the United Steelworkers.** Members of the Huu-ay-aht First Nations, United Steelworkers Local 1-1937, Navalign Forestry Management Team, and Čawak ʔqin Forestry met in Port Alberni in early November to discuss a joint vision on how to make the new 2023 – 2027 Woodlands Contract successful moving forward.
- ◀▶ **First Nations Advisory Committee.** Made up of delegates from the 14 TFL 44-area First Nations, we meet quarterly to discuss and provide input on management, stewardship, employment and business opportunities.

Employment, Training & Safety

LOOKING AFTER PEOPLE

A key value of our Company is about looking after each other. Providing good, safe and stable employment is part of our commitment. As a brand new company, we've made this a key focus area:

- ◀▶ Today, we employ 17 people as full time staff in our forestry operations in the Alberni Valley.
- ◀▶ Our business supports an additional 190 contractor employees.
- ◀▶ We have a new safety improvement plan in place that includes inspectors to ensure our safety rules and practices meet both our and the government's standards and regulations. We also conducted a safety audit and delivered training to all our contractor supervisors.
- ◀▶ We've met with all 14 Nations whose traditional territory overlaps with TFL 44 to promote employment and training initiatives available across TFL 44 and continue to meet with them regularly.
- ◀▶ Čawak ʔqin will be supporting the Vancouver Island University Fundamentals of Forest Harvesting Practices course scheduled for the fall of 2023.
- ◀▶ We are exploring additional courses to support TFL 44 Nations' members interested in entering the forest sector. We will keep the community updated on upcoming courses.

Questions? T: 250-720-4246
Reach us at: E: info@tsawak-qin.com



Interested in Employment & Training Opportunities?
Contact **Marina Rayner**, Čawak ʔqin Forestry Employment & Training Manager:
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