



Year-End Report – Carrier Sekani Tribal Council 2005-2006  
Land Use Planning – Natural Resources Department  
By: Jaime Sanchez, B.Sc. – Consultation Coordinator for Land Use Planning

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Greetings,

The past year has been quite a busy and interesting one for me and for the CSTC land use planning initiatives. I was hired in July 2005 to work on coordinating land use planning issues, under the BC Capacity Initiative funding. Several key items that I have been working on include the development of a Consultation Policy and Protocol, draft Carrier and Sekani Land Use Vision, as well as a resource inventory of the current natural resources that are within the CSTC member nation's territory. I have also been assisting with other natural resource issues including referrals, pipelines (PNG and Enbridge), mapping and training in land use planning. I've worked closely with all of the CSTC staff and many of the staff throughout the member nations. There are many exciting and provoking issues going on between the Province of BC and First Nations.

**Biography**

Family is from Chile, with Mapuche ancestry. Born in Winnipeg, grew up in Toronto. Traveled to Chile, Peru, Bolivia, Mexico, Cuba, US, France, Switzerland, and Germany. Lived in Haida Gwaii. Background in architectural drafting, cabinet making and design. Completed a B.Sc. from UNBC in Environmental Science major in First Nations Community Planning, 2005. Speaks fluent Spanish. Married with one son (Tavin) and one little dog.

In May 2005 BC Premier Gordon Campbell and leadership of the First Nations Summit, the Union of BC Indian Chiefs and the BC Assembly of First Nations agreed to the document entitled "*A New Relationship*": *Implementation of Supreme Court of Canada Decisions*. The purpose of this *New Relationship* document is to set out a vision, goals, principles and action plans on how to establish new a government-to-government relationship between the BC Crown and First Nations based on respect, recognition and accommodation of Aboriginal title and rights. Land use planning plays a key role in the *New Relationship* document, including the exercising of First Nations jurisdiction over the use of the land and resources through their own structures, laws and values. The Province of BC has been conducting land use planning through the Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) process, which has been an inadequate process for First Nations for several reasons: it delegates First Nations as a 'stakeholder' akin to an 'interest group', it does not recognize Aboriginal title and rights, there is potential to prejudice treaty negotiations, and it does not allow for sufficient resources (financial and human).

The 9 LRMPs within CSTC territory:

- Kalum
- Bulkley
- Morice
- Lakes District
- Vanderhoof
- Fort St. James
- Prince George
- Mackenzie
- Quesnel

However, there have been some discussions between the province of BC and BC First Nations about how First Nations interests and rights can be accommodated in land use planning.

There are currently 9 LRMPs being developed by the province of BC within the combined territories of the CSTC membership. These LRMPs propose to tell people how the land should be used, what should be protected and who should be influencing and making these decisions. The Carrier and Sekani people have not been part of these discussions. This is why the CSTC has initiated a *Land Use Planning Initiative* that is developing a Carrier and Sekani Land Use Plan. We

are entering the third year of this project.

Some of the things that have been accomplished since this project started include:

- ☑ Government-to-Government Protocol discussions with BC;
- ☑ Background research on First Nations land use planning, available at the CSTC office and some documents soon to be on the CSTC website;
- ☑ Development of a Carrier and Sekani Land Use Vision, which has been translated into Dakelh by Elder Catherine Coldwell – both the English and Dakelh version require verification;
- ☑ Collection of digital data for Resource Inventory Analysis;
- ☑ Upgrading of computer hardware and software, for mapping and general use;
- ☑ Many community visits to discuss this project – many more visits are still required, so if you hear that we are visiting your community please attend the meetings, direction for such projects should be coming from the community members.

The next phase of the CSTC Land Use Planning Initiative (2006-2007) includes the development of a mapping department at CSTC which will see the purchasing of a Geographic Information System (GIS) to store, manipulate and develop maps for CSTC member nations. By CSTC having a GIS system (ArcINFO 9.1) all the CSTC member nations will be able to access the software in their own communities for free or at minimal cost; all that would be required at the community level is a reliable computer, internet access and someone who knows how to use a GIS. We are also organizing training in land use planning, GIS, research methods and data management. Discussions with BC continue regarding a Government-to-Government Protocol for Land Use Planning. We will also be visiting your communities to continue the updates and get feedback from you regarding this land use planning project.

*Different types of land use planning in First Nations territories:*

- **Reserve Lands** – INAC, Comprehensive Community Plans, Capital Plans, or under the First Nations Land Management Act;
- **Territory or Regional Plans** – with or without a treaty, can be part of BC's LRMPs or it can be separate;
- **Urban Areas** – on treaty settlement lands, other.

It is unclear at this time how First Nations and the Province of BC will reconcile their different approaches to land use planning. There are several different scenarios for land use planning in First Nations territories.

Another project that I have been working on has been the Sustainable Development Institute (SDI) Project. This project is examining the possibilities of developing a First Nations controlled institute that will serve as technical support in policy analysis for natural resource management, land use planning, economic develop and other areas that fit within the concepts of sustainable development. This SDI would be separate from the CSTC and have its own governance structure and partners. We are currently (June-July) examining different governance options and developing partners with similar entities. The Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador (AFNQL) created their

own SDI in 1997. There is some strong interest from different groups including the International Institute for Sustainable Development, AFNQL SDI, and the National Centre for First Nations Governance. There is more information about this project available on the CSTC website.

I have also been developing relationships with UNBC's School of Environmental Planning (ENPL) and the First Nations Studies (FNS) Program. From this relation with ENPL we will be developing workshops that are relevant for CSTC staff and members in areas of land use planning and introductory GIS. In April CSTC hosted an EcoHealth Forum in Saik'uz that brought in experts to discuss with community members and staff the implications of the mountain pine beetle to their aboriginal livelihoods. Guests included Olla Ullsten - Co-Chair World Commission on Forests and Sustainability & former Prime Minister of Sweden, David Rapport - University of Western Ontario, Luisa Maffi – bioculture diversity expert, and John Howard – Professor of Medicine, University of Western Ontario. Since this meeting these guests have expressed much interest in building a relationship with CSTC and its members. The concepts of EcoHealth are very holistic and fit well within the Carrier and Sekani view of seeing everything connected to each other.

In closing I would like to express my gratitude to the Council of Chiefs, CSTC staff and many community members that have supported the work I am doing at CSTC. I always try to exceed my abilities and I am constantly learning new things from the Elders, youth and other community members. I am honoured to continue serving the nations of the Carrier and Sekani people. Gracias. Mussi Cho.

**Websites to First Nations Land Use Planning Projects:**

- Haisla Nation – [www.haisla.ca](http://www.haisla.ca)
- Taku River Tlingit – [www.trtfn.com](http://www.trtfn.com) & [www.roundriver.org/trt\\_conservation\\_main.html](http://www.roundriver.org/trt_conservation_main.html)
- Ktunaxa Nation – [www.ktunaxa.org](http://www.ktunaxa.org)
- Office of the Wet'suwet'en – [www.wetsuweten.com](http://www.wetsuweten.com)
- Xenigwetin – [www.xenigwetin.com](http://www.xenigwetin.com)
- Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council – [www.nuuchahnulth.org](http://www.nuuchahnulth.org)
- Squamish Nation – [www.squamish.net](http://www.squamish.net)
- Treaty 8 Tribal Association BC – [www.treaty8.bc.ca](http://www.treaty8.bc.ca)
- Haida Nation – [www.haidanation.ca](http://www.haidanation.ca)
- Kitasoo/Xai'xais Nation – [www.kitasoo.org](http://www.kitasoo.org)
- Deh Cho Land Use Planning Committee – [www.dehcholands.org](http://www.dehcholands.org)
- Hupacasath Nation – [www.hupacasath.ca](http://www.hupacasath.ca)
- Nunavut Planning Commission – <http://npc.nunavut.ca>
- Pikangikum First Nation – [www.whitefeatherforest.com](http://www.whitefeatherforest.com)
- Grand Council of the Cree – [www.gcc.ca](http://www.gcc.ca)
- First Nations Environmental Assessment Technical Working Group (FNEATWG) – [www.fneatwg.org](http://www.fneatwg.org)