



Letter of Intent

Purpose:

The purpose of this Letter of Intent is to facilitate the development of a long-lasting and beneficial working relationship between the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council (CSTC) and Zhejiang Forestry University (ZFU).

Background:

Whereas the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council and Zhejiang Forestry University seek to enter into a dialogue and process to build a respectful and mutually beneficial relationship, and;

Whereas the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council is a political organization that represents the collective interests of the following First Nations governments: Burns Lake Band, Nadleh Whut'en Band, Nak'azdli Band, Saik'uz First Nation, Stellat'en First Nation, Takla Lake First Nation, Tl'azt'en Nation, and the Wet'suwet'en First Nation.

Whereas Zhejiang Forestry University is an institution created by the Zhejiang Provincial government in 1958 to impart higher education and to plan and carry out research programs for the purpose of the preservation and extension of knowledge including the awarding of degrees. Zhejiang Forestry University consists of 13 schools and one division. There are 33 disciplines and 37 undergraduate majors covering eight areas of study at both Bachelor's and Master's levels for residents of 18 provinces in China.

Whereas the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council and Zhejiang Forestry University mutually respect, recognize, and accept the mission and principles of their respective institutions and seek to formalize their commitment to work together.

Whereas the member communities of the CSTC have Aboriginal Rights and Title in the within their territories as outlined in Appendix 1.

Definitions

- a) For purposes of this Letter of Intent:
 - i) "Parties" means the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council and the Zhejiang Forestry University;
 - ii) "First Nations" means those First Nations represented by the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council;
 - iii) "Principals" means the Carrier Sekani Tribal Chief, member-Nation Chiefs or delegated representatives, and the Executive Vice President of the Zhejiang Forestry University or delegated representatives;
 - iv) "Research and Education Forum" means the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council – Zhejiang Forestry University forum described in structure section of this Letter of Intent.



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Agreement:

- a) It is therefore agreed that the Parties will enter into discussions to work jointly to:
 - i) Establish committees to facilitate the development and implementation of undertakings and issues in a manner that respects the interests of the Parties;
 - ii) Promote cross-cultural and international relations;
 - iii) Develop and promote Yinka Dene, Chinese and English languages;
 - iv) Advance and sustain Carrier and Sekani First Nations and Chinese culture through education;
 - v) Create a region-wide supportive secondary and post-secondary education system;
 - vi) Provide relevant and appropriate programming to meet the needs of First Nations communities and Zhejiang Forestry University;
 - vii) Develop courses and curriculum specific to Carrier Sekani and Zhejiang Forestry University needs;
 - viii) Encourage, initiate, and guide research that is relevant to the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council and Zhejiang Forestry University;
 - ix) Develop research guidelines and ethics;
 - x) Encourage a positive community response to research;
 - xi) Ensure fair treatment and respect and adhere to intellectual property rights;
 - xii) Investigate opportunities for joint research projects;
 - xiii) Exchange researchers;
 - xiv) Exchange students.

- b) The Parties intend to form a partnership to work on building new approaches to education, research, international trade, and investment.

Structure:

Carrier Sekani Tribal Council – Zhejiang Forestry University Research and Education Forum

- a) The Principals will contact or meet at least twice a year to discuss matters related to this Letter of Intent and other such matters as they agree;
- b) Senior staff from the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council and Zhejiang Forestry University will undertake the following work to support the meetings of the Research and Education Forum:
 - i) Develop a work plan;
 - ii) Recommend agenda items;
 - iii) Undertake technical analysis, research and development activities related to matters being addressed by the Research and Education Forum;
 - iv) Prepare options and set out recommendations for the resolution of policy issues between the Parties;
 - v) Track issues and coordinate follow-up activities; and



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- vi) Establish working committees, as required.
- c) Recommendations of the Research and Education Forum shall be referred to the Principals for ratification in accordance with the respective normal internal review and approval processes of the Parties.

Term:

This agreement shall remain in effect for a period of five (5) years from the date of signing, unless it is cancelled or replaced by mutual agreement before that date.

The next step after signing is for the Parties to work toward formal protocols.

Funding for the Letter of Intent

The Parties will negotiate contribution agreements to flow funding from the Canadian and Chinese government and non-government institutions (ex. Canadian International Development Agency, International Development Research Council, British Columbia, Forest Innovation and Investment, Chinese Academy of Forestry, Zhejiang Provincial Department of Forestry, Zhejiang Provincial Department of Science and Technology) to the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council Society and Zhejiang Forestry University to support activities described in this Letter of Intent.

Cancellation:

Either party may cancel this agreement by providing the other party with written notice.

Signed,

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the Parties have executed this Agreement effective on the 17th day of May, 2005 in Lin'an, China.

Zhejiang Forestry University

By: Zhou Guomo

Zhou Guomo
Executive President

Zhejiang Forestry University

By: Dai Yuncai

Dai Yuncai
Acting Director of the International Office

Carrier Sekani Tribal Council

Carrier Sekani Tribal Council

By: Marlene Erickson

Marlene Erickson
First Nations Education Support Services Coordinator

Carrier Sekani Tribal Council

By: Bruce Allan

Bruce Allan
Education Director

By: Paul Blom

Paul Blom, RPF, RPBio,
Natural Resources Director