

# ADVANCING RESPECTFUL FOREST-FOCUSED COLLABORATIONS WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES



As an independent, non-profit sustainability organization, SFI is committed to building and promoting forest-focused collaborations rooted in recognition and respect for Indigenous Peoples' rights and traditional knowledge. We firmly believe that inclusive, collaborative approaches to policy, program and relationship development lead to real progress on the ground and a positive difference in people's lives.

SFI recognizes the enduring leadership of Indigenous Peoples with respect to sustainable forest management. We deeply respect the unique place-based traditional knowledge that Indigenous Peoples have come to possess through countless generations of unbroken relationship with their territories.

We recognize that Indigenous Peoples are essential partners in any forest-focused collaboration and that their full participation will better enable us to collectively advance forest sustainability. Together, we can create a world that values and benefits from sustainably managed forests.

SFI draws its energy and inspiration from our many partners, including the dozens of Indigenous communities and businesses who have certified their forestlands to the SFI Standard and more than one hundred that we have partnered with and invested in through programs and initiatives reaching across all four pillars of our work. Every day, we strive to co-create meaningful change alongside our community partners, while also listening, learning and growing as an organization to become the best possible partner we can be.

SFI is convinced that an investment in a young person's future is an investment in an entire community's future. We are committed to enhancing the number, relevancy and accessibility of education, training and job opportunities for Indigenous youth within the forest sector. We will accomplish this through direct investment, strategic partnerships, employer education and SFI's own employment practices.

SFI deeply respects Indigenous Peoples' rights and will adopt the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a framework for policy, program and relationship development. We specifically acknowledge Indigenous Peoples' rights to self-determination, to develop strategies for the use of their territories, and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations.

SFI recognizes the need for ongoing education and training on Indigenous Peoples' rights and respectful relationship building within the corporate sector. We are committed to providing our forest sector network with training, guidance, resources and supports that will promote greater understanding, recognition and respect for Indigenous Peoples' rights, traditional knowledge, representative institutions and distinctive relationships with the forest.

SFI believes that communities themselves are best positioned to create the innovative forest-focused solutions that address the needs of today while also building the lasting capacity to achieve their many aspirations long into the future. SFI will maintain its flexible, adaptive approach to forest-focused community investment that responds to the evolving interests and priorities of our community partners.

Working together is critical to ensuring the sustainability of our planet. By investing in actions and initiatives that make a real difference in people's lives today, learning from our community partners, providing forest sector leadership and looking to future, SFI will steadfastly advance its commitment to building and promoting meaningful forest-focused collaborations that enable all communities to fully value and benefit from sustainably managed forests.