



## Tk'emlups te Secwepemc: Bridging Tribal Elders with Youth through Cultural Heritage Resource Assessment Development in First Nation Communities

### Project Overview

The Tk'emlups te Secwepemc First Nations people of southern British Columbia will receive \$33,900 over three years to work with their elders to describe cultural heritage resources (CHR) in the Kamloops Timber Supply Area and train younger tribal members to work with the forest industry to protect these resources. Cultural Heritage Resources are defined as the legacy of physical artifacts, tangible attributes, and intangible attributes and values of a group or society that are inherited from past generations, maintained in the present and bestowed for the benefit of future generations. The introduction of the *Forest and Range Practices Act* requires the conservation and protection of CHR.

The project will create a sound and consistent method for field assessment of CHRs and develop capacity to conduct CHR assessments. It will also improve CHR identification through providing guidance on traditional knowledge to tribal members. Additionally, Tk'emlups te Secwepemc will aim to improve general awareness of CHR in the forest industry community and raise support for sustainable forest management and the SFI program among the First Nation community.

### Supporting the SFI Standard

This project will support a number of objectives in the SFI 2010-2014 Standard including: Objective 6: Protection of Special Sites, to manage lands that are ecologically, geologically or culturally important in a manner that takes into account their unique qualities. As well as Objective 18: Performance Measure 18.2, Program participants with forest management responsibilities on public lands shall confer with affected indigenous peoples (communication with indigenous peoples, understanding and respect for traditional forest-related knowledge, identify spiritually, historically or culturally important sites and address use of non-timber forest products of value to indigenous peoples)

### Project Partners

This project is a collaboration between seven First Nations: Tk'emlups te Secwepemc, Adams Lake Indian Band, Bonaparte Indian Band, Neskonlith Indian Band, Simpcw First Nation, Skeetchestn Indian Band, Splatstsin First Nation. Other Partners include International Forest Products Limited, West Fraser Timber Company Limited, BC Timber Sales, BC Ministry of Forests: Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Shuswap Nation Tribal Council, Tolko Industries Ltd. and Gilbert Smith Forest Products Ltd.