

# Partnership Agreement Socio Economic Committee

## Terms of Reference **DRAFT**

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### Background

Canada, BC, West Moberly and Sauteau First Nations have recognized the urgent need to act on caribou recovery in the South Peace region. The *Intergovernmental Partnership Agreement for the Conservation of the Central Group of Southern Mountain Caribou* (the Partnership Agreement) was signed on February 21, 2020 by BC, Canada, West Moberly First Nations and Sauteau First Nations. The Partnership Agreement provides a framework for government to government to government cooperation in the recovery of the central group of Southern Mountain Caribou and is guided by the shared understanding that:

- Southern Mountain Caribou are listed as threatened under the federal *Species at Risk Act* and the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada has determined that there is an imminent threat to their recovery.
- Engagement with communities, leaders and stakeholders is necessary to guide recovery actions.
- Sufficient Caribou habitat is a key recovery measure.
- BC and Canada are committed to fully adopting and implementing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.
- Indigenous people play an important role in wildlife stewardship and indigenous perspectives and participation should inform all aspects of the Partnership Agreement.

The Agreement also puts forward a shared recovery objective to immediately stabilizing and expeditiously growing the population of the Central Group to levels that are self-sustaining and support traditional aboriginal harvesting activities, consistent with existing Aboriginal and Treaty rights

In order to achieve the Shared Recovery Objective, the Partnership Agreement commits to protecting areas of caribou habitat from resource development activities and to putting in place management measures to guide sustainable resource development in surrounding areas. The protected areas are expected to have an impact on local economies as they will reduce future resource development. A decline in direct economic output for the forestry and mining sector will have a knock-on effect to related businesses and services and that support these industries and will also have an induced impact on other parts of a local economy. An economic decline in a region can have a significant impact on a community beyond the economic measures. Social impacts related to health, and community well being are often caused by economic decline in a region. In addition, the conservation measures in the Partnership Agreement may provide unique socio-economic benefits for the region in relation to tourism, recreation, ecosystem services, indigenous cultural values and food sustenance.

BC and Canada have committed to working with industry, communities and stakeholders to understand the socio-economic impacts of the Partnership Agreement and bringing forward support for impacted tenure holders, workers and communities. A draft socio-economic impact analysis has been completed by Big River Analytics, however the analysis is high level and will need further detail and input from industry, communities and stakeholders as well as factoring, where possible, any further action in this area related to new land use objectives committed to in the agreement.

## Purpose:

The purpose of the Committee will be to:

1. Review the work done by Big River Analytics and provide recommendations to BC and Canada on further analysis that is needed to understand the impacts of the Partnership Agreement and plan mitigation strategies
2. Discuss and provide recommendations on the structure and approach for worker, community supports, and compensation needed to mitigate the impacts of the Partnership Agreement
3. Provide recommendations on ongoing monitoring and reporting on socio-economic impacts in the area as a result of the Partnership Agreement.

## Principles

***Mutual Understanding and Openness*** – it is anticipated that members of this Committee will have a diversity of interests and perspectives on caribou recovery and snowmobiling, Members will strive to gain a mutual understanding. A need for openness is recognized for information sharing to help foster positive relationships. It is recognized that openness will have to be balanced at time with the need to protect confidential information.

***Communication and Trust*** - the Committee recognizes that information sharing and collaboratively developing effective communication, we can build and maintain trust in our relationships. Any management actions taken at the end of this engagement process by the government of British Columbia will ensure significant efforts are placed into communications. This is to ensure that adequate time can educate and distribute information to recreationalists to support understanding and compliance with management actions.

***Respect*** – The Committee will be a facilitated forum for a frank exchange of information

***Involvement of communities and stakeholders*** – The Committee understands and commits to the importance of community and stakeholder engagement through the entire process of discussions and will strive to ensure community and stakeholder perspectives are included in the committees work and to maintain regular transparent communication with the public

***Information Sharing and Confidentiality*** - The Committee recognizes the importance of sharing all relevant information on the committees work and to ensuring transparency with industry, communities and stakeholders.

***Further terms on handling of confidential information to be provided***

## Scope

The Committee will focus on the socio-economic impacts of the Partnership Agreement with a specific direction on the impact of the protected areas. There may be impacts that will come from the management of other areas of the Partnership Agreement through the develop of Caribou Recovery Related Land Use Objectives however these impacts are expected to be minimal. The Committee will also consider these impacts from the Caribou Recovery Related Land Use Objectives.

The Committee's scope will include consideration for the following:

- Investment and ongoing competitiveness of the mining and forestry sectors is driven by certainty of access to the resource. Immediate access to the resource is important as is the ongoing certainty for access.
- Unintended impacts (or unforeseen impacts) will be factored in to the work of the Committee.
- When looking at how to mitigate impacts of the Partnership Agreement, other land designations in the area should be considered and evaluated to determine if they are meeting their intended objective and if they can be modified to better support or optimize caribou recovery and community socio-economic stability.
- Time is of the essence in order to both support the immediate recovery of caribou and to provide investment certainty.

## Meetings

The committee will hold meetings monthly via conference call / webinar. Meetings will be coordinated and facilitated by the Caribou Recovery Program. Meeting materials will be shared at least 4 days in advance of each meeting.

## Membership

Membership will consist of representatives from industry and local governments *(suggest max 2 reps from each organization)*

Name	Organization	
Mike Peterson	Conifex	
Mark Fonda	Louisiana Pacific	
Donna Kopeky	Louisiana Pacific	
Kalin Uhrich	Canfor	
Don Rosen	Canfor	
Ken Wolfe	West Fraser	
Jeff Mycock	West Fraser	
Colin Neiser	West Fraser	
Diana Walls	MABC	
John Schaden	Conuma Coal	
Peter Arendt	Conuma Coal	
Darryn Mahwinney	Anglo American	
Dyon Armstrong	Dunkley Lumber	

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	
Blair Mayes	Dunkley Lumber	
Archie MacDonald	COFI	
Heather Stevenson	CNRL	
Keith Bertrand	Tumbler Ridge	
Jordan Wall	Tumbler Ridge	
Tony Zabinsky	Fort St John	
Joan Atkinson	Mackenzie	
Emily Kaehn	Mackenzie	
Rob Fraser	Taylor	
Brad Sperling	Peace River Regional District	
Dan Rose	Peace River Regional District	
Allan Courtoreille	Chetwynd	
Renee Lapointe	Environment Climate Change Canada	
Lucy Reiss	Environment Climate Change Canada	
Blair Hammond	Environment Climate Change Canada	
Jim Webb	West Moberly First Nations	
Darcy Peel	FLNRORD	
David Muter	FLNRORD	
Russ Laroche	FLNRORD	
Joelle Scheck	FLNRORD	
Gabby Barwin	EMPR	
Minet Prinslo	Canadian Forest Service	
Adam Keating	Western Economic Diversification	

Each member signature to this document indicates their acceptance to abide by the Terms of Reference.