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Aboriginal Solutions Branch

CANDO 2008 Annual General Assembly "Making A Difference Panel"
Presentation Handout On:

#### **Finding Success Where Least Expected**

By:

Peter Politis, For Evergreen Innovative Strategies Inc.

The proverbial question of "what do aboriginals do while waiting for their rights to be determined through the long and onerous legal course" is best answered in two words – self determination. While the legal community performs the gymnastics of "interpretation engineering", the aboriginal community basically has two choices, either wait for this to take it's course and live as it is today in the interim, or determine it's own paths of self sufficiency while waiting. In a society driven by capitalism, economic development and financial freedom are the most influential elements in self determination. In our experience the most successful at creating economic development in the barrier challenged aboriginal community are those who recognize not only the need to look for success where it is least expected, but also recognize the need to develop the ability to do this.

My presentation surrounds two unique and innovative arrangements we negotiated which truly epitomize the need to find success in the most unlikely of places. It begins with a monologue on how important economic ventures are on providing First Nation communities the tools needed to accelerate the definition of their rights and thus the acceleration of their own self determination, while breaking dependency on the Crown. After which, a slide presentation is done on each of the two initiatives (one in Ontario, the other in Quebec) which provide each community unprecedented access to economic opportunity and control of development. While one community takes a rare form of timber ownership regardless of economic conditions, the other requires industry to apply to them directly for a permit to conduct resource development on Crown lands, as a new form of consultation.

It's my sincere pleasure to make this presentation and I welcome any inquiries or questions you may have - simply call me at 705 272-8564 and I'll be glad to chat with you.

Meegwetch,

Peter Politis, Senior Consultant

Evolving First Nation, Governmental, And Industrial Relations To Fresh New Levels

#### CANDO PRESENTATION AGM, Montreal, Quebec October 7, 2008

#### SELF DETERMINATION THROUGH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

"Finding Success Where Least Expected"

1. I've been asked to speak to you about two exciting opportunities we've helped our clients negotiate which really epitomize the need to look for success where least expected and to the importance of economic development to self determination. Before I do, I'd like to just spend a little time on the evolution of Aboriginal Rights to serve as a backdrop to my presentation. For those of you who know this evolution intimately, you'll appreciate that what I'm presenting is simply a snapshot and not a detailed analysis.

#### 2. SLIDES - RIGHTS EVOLUTION

3. Obviously the legal path is well defined now and entrenched into it's own direction. What it turns out to finally mean in terms of aboriginal rights is anyone's guess at this point. I think it's safe to say that for now there is still a lot of "interpretation engineering" to be done and absolute aboriginal rights are far from sight.

The question becomes then, what to do in the meantime. I mean, do aboriginal people stand by and wait for the legal process to define their futures, or is there something else that can be done to define aboriginal rights and break the chains of dependency? To answer that, first we must understand that our society is a capitalistic one driven by wealth. That's not to discount one culture over another as being in contrast to this and it's not to say which societal is the better or worse one. It's simply to recognize that Canada in itself is driven by a capitalist society. Ironically, we are witnessing just how dependant our society really is on capitalism as our markets crash in unprecedented fashion.

In recognizing this we also recognize that to succeed in capitalism, we need the tools to do this. This holds true in rights and self determination as much as it does in wealth determination as they go hand in hand. You see, to have the greatest influence on rights determination and breaking a long entrenched history of dependency, one must have influence on the matters that are in control of these aspects which one wishes to change in the first place. Imagine for a moment how much faster and how much more prominent the road to rights determination would be if Judges, Politicians, and Bureaucrats, were aboriginal people themselves. Imagine further how resource sharing would be if the C.E.O. 's and shareholders to large multinational corporations where aboriginal. Imagine one more time how much more stable and self

sustained aboriginal society would be if it were wealthy and had an unlimited bank of financial resources. It's not hard to see that even though the legal course is what it is and tends to be logically based, it's not the only course and there are other influences that can shape the legal and realistic outcomes at the end of the day. These influences can be summarized as:

- Wealth securing financial freedom),
- Education become societies developers, managers and educators,
- Leverage influence political direction

Slowly but surely aboriginal people are recognizing that though the legal arena is where absolute aboriginal rights will be ultimately defined, economic development is not only where societies are built, it's where aboriginal rights definition is ultimately influenced. There's an evolution here if you're looking for it. It's the evolution of moving from legally conditioned argumentative warriors to intellectual, wealthy and influential ones.

I've brought two examples of innovative approaches taken by a couple of our clients; one situated in Ontario and the other here in Quebec. Both demonstrate the exciting possibilities that can be achieved when innovatively looking for solutions where they are least expected.

#### 4. SLIDES - START WITH LPFN

Self
Determination
Via
Economic
Development

Real Life
Examples
Of Finding Solutions
Where Least Expected



# THINK CHANGE

WHAT SEEMS LIKE ONLY A RIPPLE TODAY....CAN BECOME THE WAVE OF THE FUTURE.

- 1982 Canada Affirms
   Sovereignty From Britain,
  - –To Define It's Own Human Rights
  - -To Enact It's Own Laws,

- Canada Then Redefines It's Constitution With Its New Powers,
  - Define Human Rights (Among Other Things),
  - Aboriginal Rights Enacted Into Law

- After Rocky Road Since 1981, Aboriginal Rights Where Recognized - But Not Defined,
  - -No One Knew How To Apply Them,

- Four First Ministers
   Conferences On Aboriginal
   Rights Were Held Between
   1983 & 1987,
  - 1st Ministers Forums With Aboriginal Leaders Invited
  - -Specifically To Try & Define Aboriginal Rights,

- First Ministers Conferences
   Ultimately Failed To Find
   Consensus,
  - Could Not Get Past The Concept Of Self Government,
  - 1st Ministers Finally Went Behind Closed Doors & Drafted Their Individual Declarations (Positions)

- Since Then Rights
   Definition Being Left To
   Supreme Court Of Canada,
  - -Slow
  - S.C.C. Reluctant To Define
     Political Direction Or Policy,

- 26 Years Later Aboriginal Rights Still Largely Undefined,
  - Source Of Most Conflicts And Confrontations,
  - -Everyone Naturally Passing The Buck,

# **Aboriginal Rights**

- The Journey
- Consultation Has Emerged As One Specific Right,
  - -Though S.C.C. Is Progressively Defining Consultation,
  - -It Still Remains Largely
    Undefined In Itself

# A Snapshot: The Journey To Consultation

1982 Canada Assert Sovereignty Canada Enacts
Constitution

Aboriginal Rights Become Law

Supreme Court Left To Define Rights FMC Tables
Established To
Define Rights

Aboriginal Rights NOT Defined

23 Years Later
Rights Still
Largely
Undefined

Consultation
Defined As A
Right

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# Passive Vs. Active Consultation

#### **Passive Consultation**

- Consult Only When Others Ask,
- Consultation Offered As A Courtesy,
- Process Is Driven By Others,
- Offer Input In Form Of Considerations Only,
- Final Decisions Made By Other Parties,

#### **Active Consultation**

- Consultation Is Mandatory,
- Process Driven By The Community,
- Input In Form Of
   Dialogue, Analysis, &
   Active Involvement,
- Final Decisions Made Jointly With Community,

# Current Consultative Process

- A Form Of Passive Consultation
- Proponent Makes Application To Province,
- Province Asks Proponent To Show Its Plans To First Nation,
- Proponent & Province Consider First Nation Input,
- Province Issues Permit To Proponent To Develop Land,
- First Nation Accepts Provinces Final Decisions Regarding Development Of Land,

# What Needs To Change?

- Consultation Needs To Become More Than Just A Courtesy,
- Spirit & Intent Of Court Decision's Need To Be Implemented
  - Dalgamuukw Vs. B.C. Supreme Court 1997,
  - Haida Nation Vs B.C. & Weyerhaeuser 2002
  - Mikisew Cree First Nation Vs. Canada 2005
- Spirit & Intent Of Policies & Certification Criteria Need To Be Respected,
  - Quebec Legislature Recognizing Aboriginal Rights 1985,
  - Forest Stewardship Certification,
- First Nations Need To Be Recognized As More Than Just Another Stake Holder,
- First Nation Needs To Be Encouraged To Drive Their Own Process Which Is Geared To Address Their Own Unique Interest's,

# Option: Permitting Consultation

- An Innovation Of Consultation Is Requiring Proponents Of Activity To Apply Directly To First Nation For A "Consultation" Permit,
- The Application Process & The Granting Of A Permit Will Implement & Certify A Specialized Aboriginal Driven Consultation Process (Not Someone Else's),
- The Process Could Be An Additional Process To Those Already Underway (I.E. Crown Process),
- It Would Be A Process Driven By The First Nation With The Support Of The First Nation,

# When Consultation & Innovation Meet

Long Point First Nation's
Natural Resource
Permitting Process

# Who Is The Long Point First Nation?

- An Algonquin Community Of Some 700 Members,
  - About 50% On Reserve
- Located About 200 Km's South Of Val d'Or Quebec In The Settlement Of Winneway,
- They're Lands Are Unceded & They Are Not Signatory To Any Treaty

## LPFN Permit Process Background

- LPFN's New Form Of Consultation Regarding Development Of The Land,
- A Process To Have Proponents Take Initiative To Bring Issues
   Directly To LPFN, As Opposed To Onus Being On LPFN To Ensure
   All Proponents Are Identified & Notified,
- A Means To Ensure That LPFN's Understanding Of Consultation Takes Place,
- A Formal Way For LPFN To Endorse Operations Which Will Be Implemented To The Satisfaction Of The Community,
- Does Not Impact Upon Other First Nations With Interests In The Same Area, & Is Designed To Actually Enhance Interests Of Those Other First Nations Should They Choose To Participate In It,

## LPFN Permit Process Background

- Not Territorial Or Land Claim Orientated, Only Addresses LPFN's Specific Interests In The Land, While Respecting The Interests Of Others,
- The Process Simply Takes Current Consultation (Harmonization) & Industry Policy, And Formalizes LPFN's Active Involvement In It,
- The Process Adds Little To No Additional Work To What Industry Is Doing Right Now, And Provides Them With A Certificate Of Approval For Their Work From LPFN,
- The Process Is Built From The Principles Of Forest Stewardship Certification. Any Company Advocating Or Selling Its Acceptance Of FSC Branding Should Embrace This Process Openly.

### Illustrated View Of LPFN Process



### LPFN Permit Process Overview

#### Permit Application

Proponent Contact Information LPFN Office Use Area

Awards / Certificates Of Proponent

**Activity Description** 

Objectives Description

Proposed Reconciliation Measures

Known Values, Harmonization, and Consultation Completed?

Track Record & Permit History?

Track Record With Other FN's In Quebec?

Corporate Policies On FN's?

#### LPFN Analysis Of Application

- •Natural Resource Office Assess LPFN's Interest In Area,
- •Natural Resource Office Identifies Existing Work on File,
- •Natural Resource Office Identifies Areas Of Concern,
- •Natural Resource Office Makes Report & Recommendations.
- •Chief & Council Review Natural Resource Office Report & Recommendations,
- •Chief & Council Ratify Permit

#### <u>Permit</u>

Proponent Contact Information LPFN Office Use Area

Awards / Certificates Of Proponents

Activity Supported By Permit

General Conditions

Harmonization, Cutting Methods, Protected Areas, etc ...

Special Conditions

Respect Other First Nations, Economic Development, etc ...

Activity Objectives

Grievance Protocol

10 Days To Work Out Dispute

LPFN Traditional Approach Non-Native Approach -Mediation

# LPFN Permit Application

#### Permit Application

Proponent Contact Information LPFN Office Use Area

Awards / Certificates Of Proponent

**Activity Description** 

Objectives Description

Proposed Reconciliation Measures

Known Values, Harmonization, and Consultation Completed

Track Record & Permit History?

Track Record With Other FN's In Quebec?

Corporate policies On FN's?

Contact Info & Office Use

Proponent Awards & Certificates

← Activity Description

Objectives Description

——— Proposed Reconciliation Measures

Known Values, Harmonization, Consultation

Track Record & Past Permit History

Track Record With Other First Nation's In Quebec

Corporate Policies On First Nation's

# LPFN Analysis Of Application

#### LPFN Analysis Of Application

- •Natural Resource Office Assess LPFN's Interest In Area,
- •Natural Resource Office Identifies Existing Work on File,
- •Natural Resource Office Identifies Areas Of Concern,
- •Natural Resource Office Makes Report & Recommendations.
- •Chief And Council Review Natural Resource Office Report & Recommendations,
- •Chief And Council Ratify Conditions For Permit,
- Chief And Council Ratify Permit

# Consultatio orwarding St D

### LPFN Permit

Contact Info & Office Use

Proponent Awards / Certificates

Activity Supported By Permit ——

**General Conditions** 

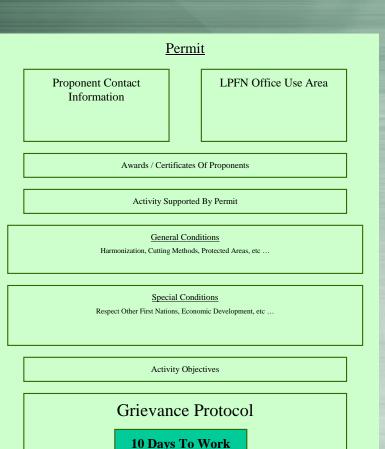
Harmonization, Cutting Methods, Protected Areas etc...

**Special Conditions** 

Respect Other First Nations, Ec Dev., etc...

**Activity Objectives** 

Grievance Protocol —



**Out Dispute** 

Non-Native Approach -Mediation

**LPFN Traditional** 

**Approach** 

### Success Where Least Expected

- The Parties Reshuffled The Existing
   Circumstances Surrounding Consultations

   To Provide Each What They Where After,
  - Company Receives A Certificate Demonstrating That It Has Done Its Due Diligence,
  - First Nation Receives Legitimate Control Over Development On Its Territory,
  - All From Promoting What Was Previously Deemed Taboo – Giving The First Nation The Opportunity To Issue Permits.

# Some Questions & Answers

- Q. Does LPFN's Permit Process Replace Existing Government Process?
- A. No. This Process Is An Enhancement To Existing Arrangements and Established Law Is Not Affected By It,
- Q. Is This Process Illegal For Companies To Administer?
- A. No. This Process Is a Formal Form Of Consultation Which Only Enhances Corporate and Governmental Policies. It Is Not A Replacement Of Current Law, So It Is Not Jurisdictional In Any Way.
- Q. Is This Process Land Claim Orientated Whereby It Makes Claim Over Other First Nations Interests?
- A. No. LPFN Is Only Consulting Regarding Its Specific Interests. The Government And Industry Still Have Their Obligations To Consult With Other First Nations. In Fact, This Process Enhances Other First Nations Interests As They Have Another Avenue To Have Their Own Interests Formally Identified.



Taykwa Tagamou Nation's Long Term Forestry Agreement

# Who Is The Taykwa Tagamou Nation

- A Cree Community Of Some 335 Members,
  - 108 On Reserve, 227 Off Reserve
- Located About 20 Km's East Of Cochrane, Ontario (120 Km's North East Of Timmins)
- They're Signatory To Treaty Nine
- TTN Has Been Actively Involved In Forestry Since 1995, Harvesting About 1,200,000 M3 Of Timber To Date.

# **TTN Agreement Background**

- First Long Term Forestry Agreement Negotiated In 2001 As An Extension Of The Working Relationship Agreement Negotiated In 2000 Between MNR, A Forest Company, And TTN (New Post),
- LTFA Secured 300,000 M3 Of Timber Per Year For TTN Over Five Years.
- Forest Company Accepted Financial Burden Of Paying For TTN Capacity Building,

# **TTN Agreement Background**

- 750,000 M3 Harvested Of Possible 1,200,000 M3
  - Variety Of Reasons Including,
    - Capacity,
    - Forest Company Unable To Satisfy This Agreement And All Other Obligations To Other Contractors (Including Fn's)
    - Unfavourable Cost Implications To Both Parties,
    - 300,000 M3 Never Realized In Any Year
  - Agreement Up For Its First Revision

# The Challenge

- Provide Forest Company Relief From Obligation To Provide 300,000 M3 To TTN & Pay Capacity Building,
  - Regardless Of Other Commitments To Other Contractors,
  - Regardless Of Economic Conditions,
  - Regardless Of Costs,
- Provide TTN Relief From Constant Forest Company Interference Associated To Cost Controls,
  - Late Start Ups Due To Complicated Pricing Negotiations,
  - Complicated Payment Systems Due To Mixing Many Forms Of Service,
    - Struggling To Lower Costs,

# The Challenge

- Provide Avenue For TTN To Step Away From Arms Length Control Of Company,
  - Opportunity To Grow By Assuming More Control And Liability,
- Maintain TTN Opportunities (300,000 M3) Even During Economic Down Turn,
  - Solidify Opportunity,
  - Maintain Unfettered Growth And Development Of TTN.
- Provide Opportunities To TTN In The Form Of Tenure (Forest License)

# The Arrangement For TTN

- TTN Guaranteed 300,000 M3 Per Year In The Form Of A Forest License,
  - Regardless Of Economic Conditions,
  - Regardless Of Company Needs
- Company Has Two Opportunities Per Year To Direct Timber To Their Facility,
  - Whatever They Do Not Direct, TTN's Assumes Tenure Of The Timber To Market As They See Fit At Their Discretion,
- Capacity Building Fund Renewed For Another Five Year Period.
- Agreement Valued At \$450,000 For TTN

# The Arrangement For The Company

- Make 300,000 M3 Commitment More Manageable
  - When Mill Needs Are Reduced, Commitment Shifts To Open Market,
- Generate Cash When Need The Most
  - Normally Wood Supply Left On Stump During Downturn In Economy,
  - TTN Fee Now This Turns Into Cash When It Is Needed The Most,
- More Manageable Wood Supply Commitments To Others
  - When Mill Requirements Are Reduced, TTN Commitment Shifts To Open Market Relieving Company Obligation

# Illustrated View Of The Arrangement

Guaranteed Access To 300,000 m3 Every Year

Forest License - Year In Advance

**Company Directs To It's Mill** 

TTN Assumes
Tenure

—Capacity Building Dollars

Rate Matrix 1 Yr In Advance

Sell To Highest Bidder

Pay Fee To Company

Maintain \$51 Million / Yr Regional Economy

**Agreement Valued To TNN At \$450 Million** 

# Success Where Least Expected

- First Nation And Forest Company Look To Sharing Resource Tenure On Wood Normally Guarded Wood Supply,
  - This Is An Active Mills Normal Furnish,
  - Not Surplus Wood Supply As Is Usually The Case
- By Sharing Tenure,
  - The Company Generates Cash When Needed The Most,
  - Makes An Unmanageable Commitment, Manageable,
  - First Nation Gets Guaranteed Access To Its Volume Opportunity,
  - First Nation Maintains Economic Generation Despite The Partner Company's Own Economic Health.
- More Impressively,
  - Both Parties Find This Solution Of Trust During The Turbulence Of One The Worst Economic Downturn The Forest Industry Has Ever Seen.

# Some Questions & Answers

- Q. Does The Company Lose Control Of It's Mill Furnish?
- A. No. It Decides Two Times Per Year Whether Or Not It Needs The Furnish And Claims Such,
- Q. Does The First Nation Lose Revenue Due To The Arrangement?
- A. No. This Arrangement Is Actually More Lucrative To The First Nation As It Makes More Money When Selling To The Highest Bidder And Under Normal Circumstances Would Not Be Harvesting When Mill Needs Were Reduced.
- Q. What Type Of Control Does The First Nation Have When It Assumes Tenure Over The Wood Supply?
- A. The First Nation Receives Absolute Control To Do What It Wishes And The Company Completely Waives Any Association To The Wood Supply..

# Thank You Questions?

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