

**Municipality of North Cowichan
Council - Regular and Public Hearings
ADDENDUM AGENDA**

Wednesday, May 19, 2021, 1:30 p.m.
Electronically

Pages

3. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

3.1. *Late Items*

Purpose: To add a letter of support from the Khowutzun Forest Services for consideration under New Business.

12. NEW BUSINESS

12.2. *Letter of support from the Khowutzun Forest Services*

2 - 4

Purpose: To consider the letter of support from the Khowutzun Forest Services that was added as a late item.

From: Elodie Roger <ejyroger@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 2021 1:50 PM

To: Dave Preikshot <dave.preikshot@northcowichan.ca>; Shaun Chadburn <shaun.chadburn@northcowichan.ca>

Cc: David Conway <david.conway@northcowichan.ca>

Subject: Request for Support Letter for Cowichan Tribes' long-term tree planting program

Dear Dave and Shaun,

I am contacting you about a request for a support letter from the Municipality of North Cowichan. I was honoured to be approached earlier this month by [Khowutzun Forest Services](#) to help them collect support letters for one of their long-term tree planting projects. I was hoping Municipality of North Cowichan would consider writing a support letter to Khowutzun Forest Services for their participation in [Growing Canada's Forests](#) Program.

Khowutzun Forest Services (KFS), a company that is 100% owned by Cowichan Tribes, which provides forest management planning, engineering, silviculture, harvesting, and GIS mapping services to the Forest Sector. KFS has 15 years of experience and 50 fully trained Cowichan Tribes staff.

Summary of Khowutzun Forest Services' participation in Growing Canada's Forests Program for 2022-2030.

KFS is currently applying to take part in Growing Canada's Forests (GCF) Program, launched last year by the Federal Government. KFS successfully received the approval to go ahead with a pilot year for the proposed Project: In 2021, KFS will be planting 5000-7000 native trees on degraded upland and lowland areas in the Koksilah Watershed.

KFS is currently filling out Stage II of this Federal Program for 2022 - 2030. The overarching goal is to plant 2 billion trees by 2030, nation-wide. Through this Request For Information, the Government seeks to identify opportunities for tree planting projects from organizations across Canada.

KFS is hoping to receive support letters from local governance and stewardship groups, to support its application. The project is explained below in greater details.

Through Growing Canada's Forest Program, KFS is aiming to restore degraded (i.e., from historic logging, as well as agricultural, residential, and/or industrial development) riparian and adjacent upland sites that have no to low forest cover within the Cowichan River watershed and adjacent Koksilah and Chemainus river watersheds. The primary objective would be to restore these degraded riparian areas to high functioning ecosystems from a First Nations cultural, biodiversity, fish and wildlife habitat perspective. In addition, high levels of CO2e per hectare will be sequestered over 30+ years (helping Canada to meet its 0 Net GHG emissions 2050 targets) with a significant net positive increase in forest carbon stocks (i.e. significant enhanced GHG removals) by 2030.

A secondary objective would be to restore/afforest some cleared sites that would remain in low or no forest cover if no restoration practice was implemented. One specific target would be native forest cover along streams and agricultural ditches connected to fish streams in active farming areas. These restoration/afforestation pilot projects will serve as demonstrations of best practices for stakeholder awareness and capacity building in the community. KFS has recently developed and used leading-edge best practices in restoring a degraded riparian reserve (i.e., 18 hectares of riparian alongside Summit Creek) within its Community Forest Licence (i.e. BC Community Forest #K1K).

KFS is currently filling out a Participants Request For Information (RFI). This RFI is meant to provide the broad concept and scope of the strategy that would be implemented by KFS between 2022-2030 to support Growing Canada's Forests Program.

At this stage, we believe that receiving a support letter from your organization would make a significant difference in the success of this RFI application. Providing a support letter for this RFI does not commit North

Cowichan to anything related to the project and our deliverables. This RFI provides the broad scope and concept of the project. It will be followed by a Request For Proposal, at which point we can explore possible partnerships in finding degraded land and conducting the work.

If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to connecting in the future again and thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Attached is a draft support letter that you're welcome to edit. I am hoping to gather letters before May 18th 2021.

Kindly,

Elodie, on behalf of Khowutzun Forest Services

Elodie Roger, MSc

Cowichan Bay, BC
250-818-1661

Cowichan Search And Rescue

Letter Head

Your Organization's Name

Contact Details

Date:

Re: Khowutzun Forestry Services (KFS) Request For Information for Growing Canada's Forest Program

To Whom It May Concern,

The *Your Organization's Name* is pleased to offer this letter in support of the Khowutzun Forest Services' (KFS) Request For Information regarding funding to plant trees in the Cowichan Watershed. KFS has a proven record of tree planting and riparian restoration experience in the Cowichan Valley and supports capacity building and the generation of meaningful employment, management expertise and economic benefits to the Cowichan Tribes and Cowichan Valley communities. KFS's work also contributes to the overall wellbeing of our watersheds and our communities by hiring local Cowichan Tribes members and developing partnerships with local organizations.

The work of KFS supports our *Your Organization's name*'s long-term vision and objectives, which include [...].

With GCF support to help reforest/afforest damaged uplands and lowland area in the Cowichan Watershed to high functioning ecosystems from a First Nations cultural, biodiversity, fish and wildlife habitat perspective, we (the *Your Organization* and KFS) will be able to demonstrate *to the broader community the process of forest restoration and encourage other landowners to participate (you're welcome to change that line to fit your strategic plan and objectives)*.

Should this Request For Information lead to a Request For Proposal for Growing Canada's Forest Program, we would look forward to exploring partnerships towards terrestrial ecosystem sustainability and community resilience in the face of climate change.

Sincerely,

Organization's representative

Signature