

# FIRST NATIONS INTERCOMMUNITY MEMORANDUM

March 9th, 2007

## **A First Nations Independent Issues Analysis of the Integrated Pest Management Act and Proposed Consultation Guidelines (First Nations Ad Hoc Technical Working Group)**

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This is a cover memo from the First Nations Ad Hoc Technical Group (AHTWG). We are sending all First Nations a copy of our Issues Analysis, this is an initial legal and technical analysis and it is provided for discussion purposes only. We recommend that the Ministry engage in full and meaningful consultation with each First Nation and engage discussions with First Nations organizations.

On January 16, 2007, the Fish and Wildlife, Wildlife Act Section and the Integrated Pest Management and Industry Section of the Ministry of Environment invited a few First Nation representatives to a “Design Workshop.” The stated purpose of the workshop was to develop a design for workshops to be held around the province in regards to the Integrated Pest Management Proposed Consultation Guidelines and *Wildlife Act* revisions. The Province was not ready with materials to discuss the *Wildlife Act* revisions.

An outcome of the workshop was the suggestion for a technical working group to develop an independent First Nations legal, legislative and policy analysis of the *IPMA* and proposed Consultation Guidelines. On February 5<sup>th</sup>, the province suggested an approach and a series of emails ensued to seek clarification, confirm the purpose and ensure the work of the ad hoc technical working group would be independent and that they would report the results of their work to all First Nations in BC openly and transparently (please see the AHTWG terms of reference located in Appendix 1 of the Issues Analysis).

From February 5, 2007 to March 3, 2007, the AHTWG exchanged upwards of 150 emails; 54 with government, the remaining 96 were specific to the internal and independent communications of the AHTWG. The expected purpose and outcomes were clarified and finalized between the AHTWG and Government on February 23<sup>rd</sup>; the technical and legal resource analysts provided Drafts for the AHTWG review on February 28<sup>th</sup>; the AHTWG met once on March 2, 2007 to review the *IPMA* Issues Analysis; final substantive revisions were conducted via email on Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>; and the AHTWG Issues Analysis was released to the government; minor editorial and AHTWG member profile revisions continued on March 4<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup>.

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This undertaking is without prejudice to First Nations title, rights and interests; and in no way represents any First Nations views, independently or collectively.

## FIRST NATIONS INTERCOMMUNITY MEMORANDUM

March 8, 2007

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Our Technical Working Group has no official status, we are not trying to represent the views of any First Nations. We *only* agreed to do the issues analysis because the Province was moving ahead with their regional workshops on the proposed consultation guidelines and we felt that an independent issues analysis was necessary. **Please see the AHTWG terms of reference located in Appendix 1 of the Issues Analysis.**

It is the sincerest hope of the AHTWG that the attached Issues Analysis will assist First Nations in their discussions with government relating to the use of pesticides and herbicides in your Territories.

We welcome any questions or comments about this Issues Analysis.

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Respectfully, Elmer Derrick, Jason Lee, Fred Fortier and Kathleen Johnnie

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