



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 18, 2022

shishalh Nation and Interfor Strengthen Economic Relations and Further Reconciliation

shishalh Nation, BC – On Wednesday, August 10, 2022, shishalh Nation (shishalh) and Interfor Corporation (Interfor) took another critical step in advancing their economic relationship and supporting the economic vision of the shishalh Nation. In 2017, shishalh and Interfor fundamentally transformed their work together through a new Relationship Agreement which set out a path for shared decision-making and economic development. Shishalh Nation also set the goal of furthering economic development through the forest sector and being the largest forestry tenure holder. Shishalh made this goal clear, and we began the work of transforming our relationship in light of this goal. Today, we are deepening our relationship and making a drastic step in achieving shishalh’s desires through the purchase of 100,000m³ of annual volume from Interfor. The purchase is being supported through funds provided by the Province of British Columbia through the Foundation Agreement.

Crown laws and policies have resulted in shishalh long being deprived of its proper jurisdictional, stewardship, and economic relationship with the resources of the shishalh swiya (world, lands, “Territory”) consistent with shishalh Title and Rights. The shishalh – Province of British Columbia Foundation Agreement signed in 2018 included goals to dramatically expand shishalh’s forestry economy; shishalh acquiring additional annual volume is one essential aspect of achieving this goal.

“shishalh has in the past been shut out of much of the economic development within our swiya. Partners who believe in a changed future, in a future where we can all prosper, are helping to change that reality. Through this purchase we are becoming real players in the forest sector. We believe in sustainable economic development that secures benefits for many future generations and for all those creatures that make our swiya home. Our people are looking forward to a brighter future, to innovation, and to sustainability. We thank Interfor for continuing to chart a new path with us and to being a leader in our swiya”, said hiwus Warren Paull of shishalh.

The tenure purchase has been approved by the British Columbia Ministry of Forests, and marks a milestone in the relationship between shishalh and Interfor. Ralph Friedrich, Vice President Coastal Operations of Interfor said “After working with shishalh over the past 20 years, we are pleased to mark this achievement and we will continue to work with its forestry corporation, Tsain-ko, through the transition. This tenure transfer is an exciting step for shishalh and Interfor, and reaffirms Interfor’s commitment to building on our economic partnership and stewardship measures with shishalh.”

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