National Summit on the Indigenous Forest Bioeconomy 2026

"First Nation Forest Innovation, Economic Leadership, and Canada's Strategic Pivot"

National Aboriginal Forestry Association

Hilton Lac-Leamy • Gatineau, Québec

Monday, November 2, 2026 – Tour & Early Registration	
Time	**Session / Speakers**
12:00 - 4:00 pm	**Tour: CanmetENERGY National Clean Energy Research Centre** Meet in Hilton Lac-Leamy Lobby · Bag lunch provided · Advanced Registration Required
6:00 – 8:30 pm	**Welcoming Reception/Early Registration - Suzor-Côté Meeting Room** Cash Bar · Hors d'oeuvres · Sponsored by First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun

Tuesday, November 3, 2026 – Mozart Ballroom	
Time	**Session / Speakers**
8:00 - 8:45 am	**Hot Breakfast**
8:45 - 9:00 am	**Elder Welcoming Prayer** • Elder Verna McGregor (Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg)
9:00 - 9:10 am	**National Aboriginal Forestry Association (NAFA) Opening Remarks:** • Raymond Ferris – Chairperson, NAFA (Aroland First Nation) • Bradley Young – Executive Director, NAFA (Opaskwayak Cree Nation)
9:10 -9:30 am	**Strategic Trajectory for Canadian Natural Resources Development and Considerations for the Indigenous Forest Sector** • Glenn Hargrove – Assistant Deputy Minister, Natural Resources Canada
9:30 - 9:50 am	**50 Million M^3 by 2050 – Transforming the Indigenous Forest Sector: Crossing the Threshold Task Force Submission and the 6th Report on Indigenous-held Tenure** • Bradley Young – Executive Director, NAFA
9:50 -10:10 am	**Health & Networking Break** Project development side room available
10:10 -11:00 am	**Tenure, Manufacturing & Biomass Conversion: Building Indigenous Industrial Capacity** • Chris Cooper – Senior Project Manager (Cree First Nation of Waswanipi) & Geoff Schimmel – Mishtuk Corporation: "Cree Lumber and Lessons Learned: Manufacturing, Talent Development, and Institutional Capital Formation" • Roger Wesley – Manager, Lands & Resources (Constance Lake First Nation): "Smart Power Node Project: Biomass Conversion and Integrated Energy Development"
11:00 - 12:00 pm	**Indigenous-led Regional Bio-utilities** • Jordan Hatton – Director of Economic Development (Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek); Director, LNFMI: "Lake Nipigon Forest Management Inc: Tenure Repatriation Innovations, Community Manufacturing and District Heating, and Advanced Biochar Development" • Cara Sanders (Curve Lake First Nation) - Askii Environmental Inc. – "Lessons Learned and Strategic Approaches to Working in Remote Communities"

Time	Session / Speakers
12:00 - 1:00 pm	**Lunch, Networking & Project Development Session** From Forest to Wire: The Evolution of the Biomass Cogeneration Plant Project in Opitciwan (Video)
1:00 - 2:00 pm	**The Next Generation of Indigenous District Energy Projects** Yukon and Northwest Territories Projects • Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation • First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun • Liard First Nation • Łíídlıį Kų́ę́ First Nation **Moderator:** Jason Collard – CEO, Gonezu Energy Inc. & Doug Van Bibber –Yukon Director, NAFA (Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation)
2:00 - 3:00 pm	**British Columbia Tenure Walkaways & First Nations** • Lennard Joe – RPF; President & CEO, BC First Nations Forestry Council (Shackan Band) • Len Apedaile – RPF; General Manager, Tiičma Forestry LP (Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h' First Nations) **Moderator:** Lori Wilson – RPF; UBC PhD Forestry Student; NAFA Fellow (Tla'amin Nation)
3:00 - 3:15 pm	**Health & Networking Break** Project development side room available
3:15 - 4:00 pm	**Ancestral Territory, Forest Management Innovation, and Natural Resource Development** • Chief Derek Nepinak (Minegoziibe Anishinabe / Pine Creek First Nation) • Seth McDonald – RPF; Forestry Department Lead (Wolastoqey Nation in New Brunswick)
4:00 - 4:30 pm	**Forestry, Trade and Our Macroeconomic Socio-political Cycle** • Don G. Roberts – President & CEO, Nawitka Capital Advisors Ltd.
4:30 pm	**Closing Comments**
6:00 – 9:00 pm	**Networking Reception – Mozart Ballroom Foyer** Janet Pronovost Festschrift · Cash Bar · Hot Hors d'oeuvres

Wednesday, November 4, 2026 – Mozart Ballroom

Time	Session / Speakers
8:00 - 8:45 am	**Hot Breakfast**
8:45 - 9:15 am	**Federal Funding to Support the Indigenous Forest Sector** • Laura MacKenzie – Director, Indigenous Forestry and Bioheat Division, Canadian Forest Service
9:15 - 10:15 am	**Indigenous District Energy in Operation – Lessons, Results and Expansion** Yukon and Northwest Territories Projects • Etzǫ (Edzo) demonstration • Teslin Tlingit Council **Moderators:** Jason Collard – CEO, Gonezu Energy Inc. & Doug Van Bibber – Yukon Director, NAFA
10:15 - 10:30 am	**Health & Networking Break** Project development side room available
10:30 - 11:00 am	**Innovation, Equity & the Pulp Mill Walk-Away: Canadian Civil Society Solutions** • Arnie Bercov – Former President, Pulp, Paper and Woodworkers of Canada

Time	Session / Speakers
11:00 - 11:30 am	**Making It Happen: The Project Finance Stack** • Don G. Roberts – President & CEO, Nawitka Capital Advisors Ltd.
11:30 - 12:00 pm	**The Indigenous Forest Homeland, AI Datacentre Hosting, Power Generation & National Sovereignty in the Age of Skynet** • Bradley Young – Executive Director, NAFA • NAFA Fellows: Lori Wilson – RPF & Keewatin Nepinak (Minegoziibe Anishinabe)
12:00 – 12:10 pm	**Closing Prayer** Elder Verna McGregor (Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg)
12:10 - 12:50 pm	**Lunch, Networking & Project Development Session**
12:50 - 1:00 pm	**Closing Remarks, Safe Travels** • Bradley Young – Executive Director, NAFA
1:00 - 2:00 pm	**National First Nations Caucus Plenary for Policy and Budget Recommendations**