

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)



Yinka Huwunline Department – Nak'azdli Whut'en Strategic Forestry Consultant

Issue Date: April 28th, 2025

Closing Date: May 16th, 2025

Term: 6-month Contract (option to renew)

INTRODUCTION

The Yinka Huwunline Department (YH) of Nak'azdli Whut'en is seeking proposals from qualified individuals or firms to provide Strategic Forestry Consulting Services to support the implementation of Pathways 3.0, the Resource Management Planning (RMP) process, and alignment of forestry operations with Nak'azdli's stewardship vision.

This work will build internal capacity, ensure technical and operational alignment with stewardship goals, and bridge policy, governance, and technical expertise to advance Nak'azdli's leadership in forestry and land management.

BACKGROUND

Nak'azdli Whut'en has entered the next phase of stewardship and governance development under the Pathways 3.0 Agreement. Aligning forestry operations with the Nak'azdli stewardship vision and broader governance reforms is critical to advancing sustainable forest management grounded in Dakelh values, laws and community priorities.

The Strategic Forestry Consultant will work closely with Yinka Huwunline leadership, the Nak'azdli Development Corporation (NDC), Keyoh holders, and external partners to ensure operational activities and planning processes are aligned with Nak'azdli's evolving governance structures and stewardship mandates.

SCOPE OF WORK

The successful consultant will:

- **Strategic Planning and Advisory:**
 - Provide strategic advice to Chief & Council, and YH on forestry matters related to RMP implementation and similar developments
 - Guide operational-to-policy integration to ensure forestry operations align with Nak'azdli's stewardship values and governance objectives.
 - Review and support the development and implementation of the Landscape Stewardship Plan (LSP).
- **Capacity Building and Process Development:**
 - Support internal training and capacity development for stewardship and forestry staff.

- Develop interim policies and recommendations to manage operations during the transitional period before the completion of the full RMP.
- Advise on forest governance initiatives
- **Collaboration and Relationship Management:**
 - Work with neighbouring communities and Keyoh holders to support cooperative and area-based planning initiatives.
 - Participate in strategic discussions to help establish a regional governance body (e.g., Board of Directors) that reflects Dakelh values and joint stewardship.

QUALIFICATIONS

The ideal candidate will possess:

- A minimum of 10 years of experience in forestry consulting, strategic planning, and/or forest management.
- Demonstrated experience working with Indigenous governments, First Nations communities, and Indigenous stewardship initiatives.
- Expertise in operational forestry, policy development, governance processes, and cooperative forest management.
- Strong understanding of Indigenous rights, cultural stewardship practices, and environmental governance.
- Familiarity with collaborative planning frameworks such as Reconciliation Agreements, Resource Management Plans, and landscape-level stewardship.
- Excellent communication, facilitation, and relationship-building skills.

DELIVERABLES

- Strategic forestry advisory services and regular reporting to Yinka Huwunline leadership (monthly reports).
- Technical reviews and input into the LSP, spatial harvest plans, and interim operational policies.
- Support on area-based planning initiatives.
- Capacity-building sessions or materials for Nak'azdli forestry and stewardship staff.

CONTRACT VALUE AND TERM

- **Contract Value:** To be discussed with the successful candidate, based on experience, scope, and available budget allocations.
- **Term:** Six (6) months from the date of contract signing, with potential for extension subject to performance and additional funding approval.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Interested proponents are requested to submit:

- A cover letter outlining relevant experience and approach.
- Curriculum Vitae (CV) or organizational profile.
- Examples of similar projects completed.
- Two (2) references from previous clients, preferably Indigenous governments or forestry partnerships.
- Proposed workplan and hourly/daily rates.

Deadline for Submission: May 16th, 2025

Proposals must be submitted electronically to:

Tracey Baldwin
Nak'azdli Executive Assistant
Email: Tracey.baldwin@nakazdliwhuten.ca
Phone: (250) 996-7171

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Proposals will be evaluated based on:

| Criteria | Weight |
|--|--------|
| Relevant Experience and Qualifications | 40% |
| Approach and Understanding of Scope | 30% |
| Cost Effectiveness | 20% |
| References and Previous Work | 10% |

Nak'azdli Whut'en reserves the right to negotiate terms with the selected consultant and to reject any or all proposals received.