

## Coastal Guardian Watchmen Network

What Good are Conservancies?  
*And Why Do You Want Watchman In Them Anyway?*



Coastal First Nations – Turning Point Initiative – Guardian Watchman Network

## Why Conservancies?

### A Few Good Reasons:

- Protection of Aboriginal Rights and Title (i.e. culturally important areas and resources) for future generations
- Securing access to traditional and conservation-based economic opportunities
- Rebuild and strengthen community capacity to steward territorial lands and resources
- Build new, collaborative arrangements with the Province that will reduce conflict and improve decisions making

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## A Few Problems Needed Fixing

Problem #1 – Park Act didn't recognize Aboriginal Rights and Title

Solution #1 – Section 3.1 of amended Park Act

(3.1) Conservancies are set aside

- (a) for the protection and maintenance of their biological diversity and natural environments,
- (b) for the preservation and maintenance of social, ceremonial and cultural uses of first nations,
- (c) for protection and maintenance of their recreational values, and
- (d) to ensure that development or use of their natural resources occurs in a sustainable manner consistent with the purposes of paragraphs (a), (b) and (c).



## A Few Problems Needed Fixing

Problem #2 – Park Act didn't clearly specify prohibitions

Solution #2 – Section 10 of the amended Park Act

(10) A park use permit must not be issued to authorize the following activities in a conservancy:

- (a) commercial logging;
- (b) mining;
- (c) hydro electric power generation, other than local run-of-the-river projects;
- (d) any other activity unless, in the opinion of the minister, the activity will not restrict, prevent or inhibit the development, improvement or use of the conservancy in accordance with section 5 (3.1).



## A Few Problems Needed Fixing

Problem #3 – Park Act didn't provide for joint management

Solution #3 – Section 4.2 of the amended Park Act

### Relations with first nations

4.2 (1) The minister may enter into an agreement with a first nation respecting the first nation

- (a) carrying out activities necessary for the exercise of aboriginal rights on, and
- (b) having access for social, ceremonial and cultural purposes to,

land to which section 3 or 6 applies, and in respect of other topics relating to the management of matters and things referred to in section 3 or 6.



## A Few Problems Needed Fixing

Problem # 4 – First Nations need funding to make it work

Solution # 4

- Conservation Financing
- Enhanced Access to Commercial Opportunities
- Coast Opportunities Fund
- Operator Protocols/Benefits Sharing



## A Few Problems Needed Fixing

Problem # 5 – First Nations need funding to make it work

Solution # 5 – Conservancy Management Agreements

- Recognition of First Nation and Provincial title, laws, customs & policies
- Parallel decision making & dispute resolution (sections 5, 10, 11)
- Joint preparation and implementation of conservancy management plans (section 7)
- Preparation of an economic strategy (section 9) that:
  - provides First Nations with enhanced economic access
  - advances the First Nation's economic and employment goals
- Financial support (section 12) for:
  - regular meetings and conservancy management planning
  - conservation and cultural heritage projects

## But Then Management Plans Need Preparing

**Individual Conservancy Management Plans should provide for:**

- Identification of cultural use areas and resources and related strategies and objectives and inventory/monitoring plans
- Identification of other allowable uses, use zones and related strategies and objectives and monitoring plans
- Identification and assessment of economic opportunities including exclusive commercial opportunities for First Nations

**To Implement Conservancy Management Plans MOE should work with FN to develop:**

- An economic development strategy for First Nations commercial use of conservancies
- A joint First Nation-MOE workplan and budget for conservancy management operations, including watchman/guardian activities

## And the Watchmen/Guardians Need To . . .

### **Annual Watchmen/Guardian workplans and budgets should provide for:**

- Routine monitoring to ensure park and conservancy use is consistent with objectives and strategies, including internal cultural use
- Inventories of cultural and heritage resources as identified in Park Management Plans (e.g. monumental cedar, shellfish, traditional plants)
- Operational activities such as construction and maintenance of cabins, camping sites and recreational sites
- Technical analysis of park and conservancy use permit applications
- Cultural and wildlife guiding activities

