

**NEWS RELEASE: Canoe Creek Signs \$1.5 Million FRO Agreement****May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2006****Media Contact: Barbara Morin or Hank Adam**

The Canoe Creek Indian Band and the Stswecem'c Xgat'tem Development Corporation (SXDC), a subsidiary of the Canoe Creek Indian Band, are pleased to announce the signing of a Forest & Range Opportunities Agreement with the Ministry of Forests on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006. The FRO agreement is an interim measure agreement that does not infringe on aboriginal title or rights. The Band is also entitled to full consultation with respect to all potential infringements of their aboriginal interests arising from any Operational or Administrative decisions or plans affecting the Band's aboriginal rights.

The five-year FRO agreement allows for a maximum volume cut of 165,000 cubic meters and other possible range tenure opportunities. The band will receive \$303,747 annually.

Chief Hank Adams and Barb Morin, President of SXDC, hail this as an important interim measures agreement that will provide an unprecedented economic development opportunity for the Stswecem'c/Xgat'temc people and will give the band an opportunity to control sustainable forest management harvesting in their traditional territory.

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