

MEDIA ADVISORY

Wednesday, October 22, 2003
For Immediate Release

Public Forum: The Whitefeather Forest Initiative

**Tuesday, November 4, 2003
4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
University of Winnipeg (515 Portage Avenue)
4CM41, C-FIR Boardroom (Centennial Hall, 4th Floor Mezzanine Level)**

WINNIPEG—The Whitefeather Forest Initiative is a community-based planning initiative of Pikangikum First Nation. The Whitefeather Forest is a northern boreal landscape within the traditional territories of the Pikangikum First Nation. The Forest Initiative provides members of the community with opportunities to create employment that are in keeping with First Nations values.

Alex Peters (General Manager, Whitefeather Forest), Andrew Chapeskie (Taiga Institute) and Iain Davidson-Hunt (Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba) will collaborate in this presentation. They will provide information on the Whitefeather Forest Initiative, including documentation of Indigenous Knowledge by the youth and elders of Pikangikum. The presentation will also look at some new media tools developed by the Taiga Institute that can be utilized to archive and present multi-media documentation of Indigenous Knowledge.

Pikangikum First Nation has a population of 1,720 people and is located 100 kilometers north of the town of Red Lake, in the Sioux Lookout District of northwestern Ontario. It is situated on the eastern shores of Pikangikum Lake at the Berens River. The community has a land base of 1,808 ha. and is a member of the Independent First Nation Alliance.

The Taiga Institute for Land, Culture and Economy was established as a non-profit corporation in 1995. The Institute is active in community-based research that supports ecological diversity and equity within community-based social and economic relationships. It promotes local access to resources, recognition of community knowledge, diversity in local economies, and fair trading relationships. Institute members have focused on working in Northern Canada, Mexico and South America.

For more information on the Taiga Institute see www.taigainstitute.org

Information on the Whitefeather Forest Initiative can be found at www.whitefeatherforest.com

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