

# FSC Standards Revisions in Canada

December 2012

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## Background

In February 2012, FSC International membership approved the revised Principles & Criteria (P&Cs). The FSC P&Cs are the guiding framework for developing regional forest management standards globally.

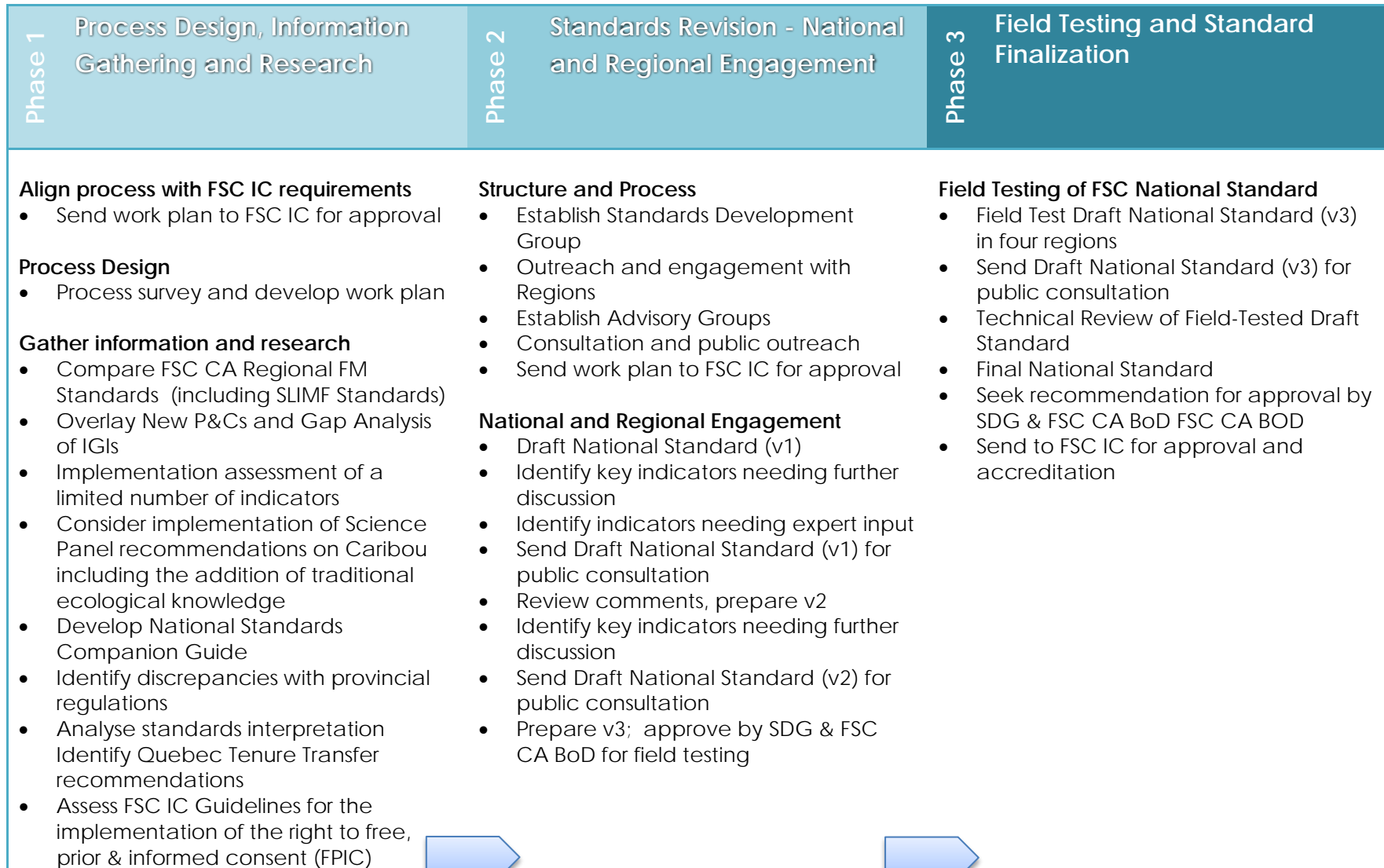
This milestone marks the beginning of an important next phase in FSC's work. FSC Canada will engage stakeholders in revising and aligning the regional Forest Management (FM) Standards (National Boreal Standard (2004), Maritimes Standard (2008), BC Standard (2005) and Great Lakes-St. Lawrence draft Standard (2010)) with these revised Principles and Criteria. The revision of these regional FM Standards will build on previous work and agreements while providing opportunities for focused regional and national discussions.

The FM Standards Revision Process is expected to take approximately two years. The Process Design Phase started in August 2012 with a survey asking Canadian stakeholders about the values important to them. This design phase culminates with the standards revision strategic direction, put out to the FSC Canada membership for approval in January 2013.

Engaging Indigenous Peoples and stakeholders around key indicators and through indicator specific discussions will facilitate input to the standards, drafts 1 through 3. Field testing will occur in multiple regions with the goal of having standards approved by FSC IC by December 31, 2014.

The FM Standards revision process will align with the revised international P&Cs and FSC international generic indicators (IGIs) that are currently being drafted.

# Structural Phases of the Process



# FSC Canada Standards Revision Process Organizational Structure

## FSC Canada Board of Directors

- Elected by FSC members in Canada, the BoDs are responsible for providing guidance and approval over the standards process
- The BoDs will provide direction on major issues to Standards Development Group including resolving outstanding issues should the SDG not reach agreement

## FSC Staff

- Reports to FSC Canada BoD
- Manages process as directed by President
- Oversees process design; establishes draft criteria to be used for selecting region specific indicators; ensures effective consultation & outreach processes
- Recommends final standard for approval to FSC IC
- Solicits input from Indigenous Peoples, stakeholders governments and other governments

## Standards Development Group

- An eight person Standards Development Group (SDG), (4 members and 4 alternates) will be appointed from nominees identified by members
- With consideration for regional representation, SDG members will be appointed on a chamber basis
- SDG is accountable to FSC Canada Staff
- Operates under defined budget and timelines
- Seeks additional technical expertise on an as-needed basis
- Recommends draft standards for review and final approval

## Technical Advice

- Advisory Groups and experts will provide technical advice on specific indicators, as needed
- Involves soliciting guidance from technical experts, certification bodies and governments

Examples of advisors that will be needed

## Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group

Provides guidance on key issues like standards interpretations, FPIC Guidance

## Science Advisors

Provides guidance on key issues like Caribou and pesticide use

## Public

## FSC Members

- Approves standards revision process

## Thematic Working Groups

Working Groups will be convened around key indicators and issues needing further discussion

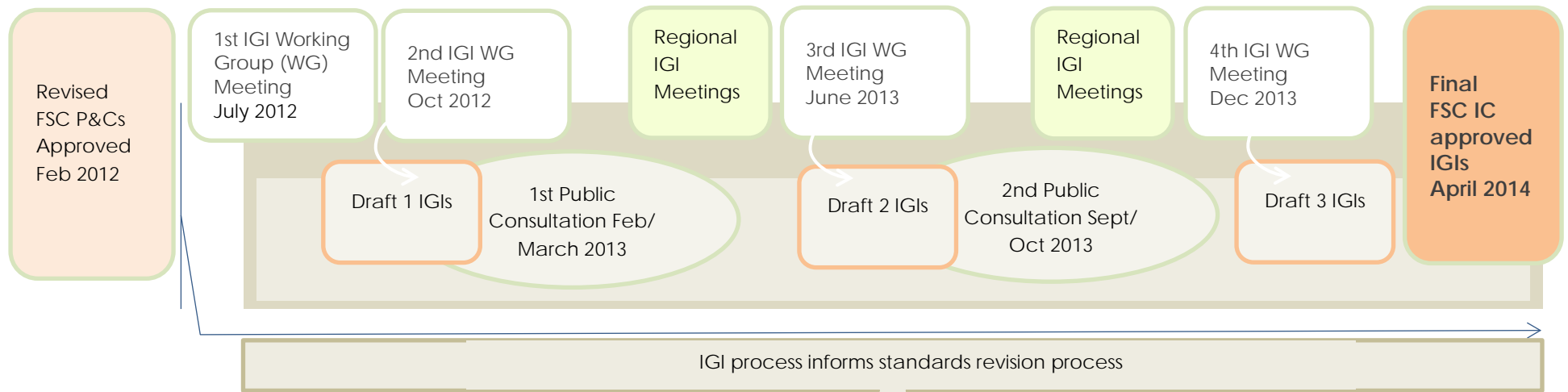
## National and Regional Stakeholder Engagement

- Includes FSC members
- Helps to identify region specific indicators
- Reviews and provides comments on draft standards
- Provides feedback to and direction from the SDG
- Participates on thematic working groups (e.g. National Caribou WG)

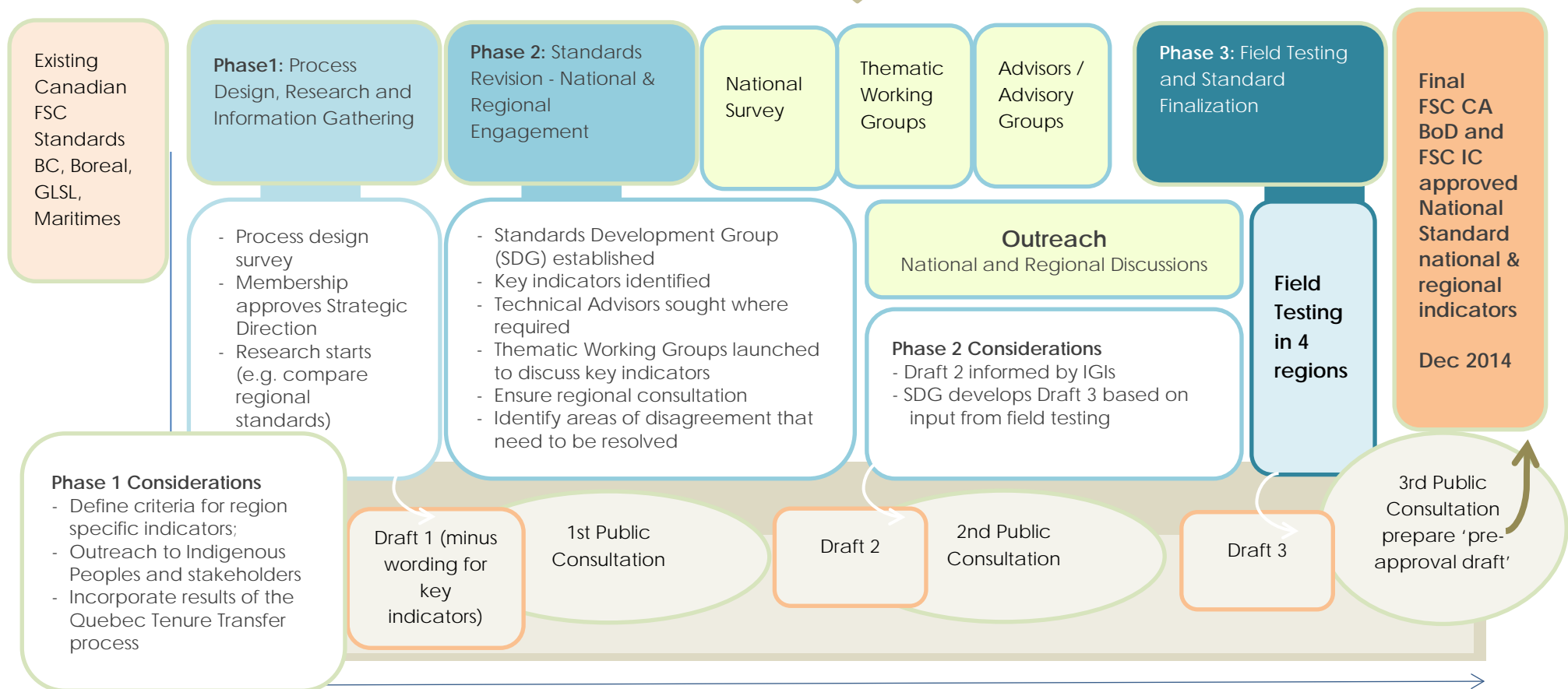
## Technical Writer

- Holds the pen for all drafting
- Reports and responds to direction of SDG

## FSC International IGI Process



## FSC Canada Standards Revision Process



# Details on key process characteristics



## How will the list of key indicators and/or issues be determined?

FSC Canada has completed four regional and two SLIMF standards processes in the past 15 years. With this experience in working with regions and as informed by the hard work of regional processes, there is wide acknowledgement and agreement in the treatment of many of the indicators. FSC Canada has compared existing regional FSC FM standards and found substantial alignment across a majority of the indicators. As a result, FSC Canada would like to focus the discussion with stakeholders and Indigenous Peoples on regionally significant indicators.

FSC Canada will work with technical experts and seek input from stakeholders and Indigenous Peoples to identify key indicators and issues that need further regional or national discussion. The purpose of this is to focus the majority of time and effort on indicators that Indigenous Peoples, stakeholders, auditors, and certificate holders have identified as problematic, important or that require additional strengthening.

The majority of the remaining indicators will be drafted by a technical expert and FSC Canada staff and will include common indicators and regionally specific indicators. All indicators will be subject to two rounds of public consultation. The key indicators will be identified as described by the following process.



## How will regional variation be determined?

Important to convening national and regional dialogues around indicators and key issues, is FSC Canada's ability to characterize, manage and gauge the character of the indicator. The following are proposed criteria that may be considered.

1. Is the intent or requirement of the indicator addressed by multiple regions?
2. Is the indicator addressed in a similar way by multiple regions?
3. Is the indicator applicable in multiple regions? Should all regions be required to meet the indicator, even if they currently are not required to meet this requirement?
4. Is the indicator, its underlying intent and requirement unique to the specific region, because of the ecological and social context?
5. Are there accepted and clear best management practices or science related how the indicator is addressed?
6. What is the level of agreement by stakeholders and indigenous Peoples related to how the indicator is addressed?
7. Does the indicator have wide support across chambers?
8. Does the indicator align or exceed best management practices or science?

Note: key indicators and/or issues will be flagged in Draft National Standard v1 (to be sent for public consultation). The scope of the indicator is identified for discussion purposes, but the intent of the indicators will be determined through further discussions (e.g. thematic working groups and/or input of technical advisors).



## How will a national and regional dialogue occur?

### Summary

- FSC CA BoD is accountable for the Standards Revision Process and all decisions made
- A Standards Development Group will oversee the process and reports to the FSC Canada Staff
- National and regional discussions will focus on key indicators identified through stakeholder engagement and expert input
- The remaining indicators will be drafted through consolidating and adapting regional indicators and IGIs. These will include national indicators and may include indicators with regional variation
- discussions will be thematic, and depending on the scope of the indicator will occur at a national or regional level
- Early discussions in the process will not require chamber balanced representation. Chamber representation may be sought at later phases of the process depending on the level of agreement and willingness of the stakeholders and indigenous Peoples to engage in constructive dialogue



**A Standards Development Group (SDG)** will be established to provide oversight and strategic direction in the development of the National FM Standard. Representation will be across chambers (Aboriginal, Social, Environmental and Economic), with an equal number of people in each chamber and consideration for regional representation. The SDG will be responsible for recommending drafts and will review and advise on comments submitted by stakeholders.



## Regional and National Dialogue

Based on the key indicators identified, different thematic issues will emerge. Depending on the nature of the indicator or issue, the type and scope of dialogue will differ.

### National and Regional Discussions

#### Thematic Working Groups

Initial discussions will not be chamber balanced but participants will need to formally sign-up for the Working Group and declare their affiliation. The venues for discussion will involve virtual electronic tools such as on-line conferences and surveys. When necessary forums may be convened. Existing FSC Guidance will be considered and technical experts will provide guidance. Input from the Working Group will be provided to the technical writer who will draft indicators. The draft indicators will be reviewed by the SDG and Working Group, prior to public consultation.

### Chamber Negotiations

#### High Level of Disagreement

If during the process it is determined that there is a high level of disagreement then a mechanism to support a chamber negotiated approach will be considered and enabled. This will be facilitated through the SDG chamber balanced structure. The Boreal Standards Development Process provides a precedent for using this approach.





For more information on FSC Canada's Standards Revision Process, visit <http://ca.fsc.org/>  
For questions, please contact Vivian Peachey, E: [ypeachey@fscCanada.org](mailto:ypeachey@fscCanada.org)