

## **Plenty Canada (Larry McDermott, Executive Director)**

Plenty Canada is striving to protect biodiversity through the sharing of Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge. In our program of sharing traditional knowledge we have been working with forest managers who have responsibilities under the Forest Stewardship Council program for principles number 3 and 6 – Indigenous people's rights and environmental impact management conserving biological diversity. We have had success in sharing an improved understanding of how to integrate traditional knowledge with western science to achieve stronger protection and respect for the most important source of wealth we have, our biodiversity.

This program includes our work with the American Eel. The Eel has sustained indigenous peoples for millennia from Venezuela to Canada and points in between. The goals of addressing human rights, poverty reduction and environmental sustainability are all addressed in this component of our program. This project has involved gathering information from Aboriginal elders and others and working with leading scientists to establish a national and provincial management plan and recovery strategy. A great deal has been learned about the process of contemporary sharing of traditional knowledge and western science for international, national, provincial and local efforts to protect biodiversity.