



Québec, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007

Mr. Matthew Mukash, Grand Chief  
Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)  
2, Lakeshore Road  
Nemaska,  
James Bay (Québec) J0Y 3B0

Subject: Mixed stand management strategy and deadline for submitting the general forest management plans (GFMP)

Dear Grand Chief,

As you know, Timber Supply Forest Management Agreement (TSFMA) holders on the territory of the *Agreement concerning a new relationship between le gouvernement du Québec and the Crees of Québec* have to produce, by the end of May 2007, general forest management plans (GFMP) complying with the provisions of Chapter 3 of this Agreement.

At the last Board meeting on April 17 and 18<sup>th</sup>, Board members asked me to write to the Minister of Ressources Naturelles et de la Faune regarding the mixed stand management strategy that TSFMA holders have to applied within the development of the 2008-2013 GFMP and also regarding the deadline given to the beneficiaries to table these plans.

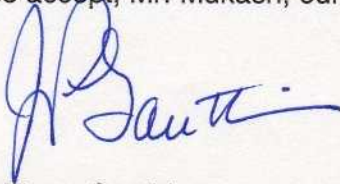
As part of its mandate, the Board will have to review the plans and make sure they respect the terms of the Agreement, including the mixed stand strategy identified under Appendix C-3. Without any complete document being available yet, the Board members considered that they don't have the necessary information to analyse the implementation of that provision. It is the reason why the Board requested from the Minister, a document presenting the MRNF strategy to be applied within the framework of the development of the 2008-2013 GFMP.

The other issue concerns the Cree participation to the GFMP. The beneficiaries have been recently informed that they have until June 1<sup>st</sup> to submit their GFMP to MRNF. Since the first two weeks of May are Crees goose break period, the availability of Cree tallymen to participate to GFMP consultation during this period is a serious concern. This is why the Board asked the Minister to postpone the deadline for submitting the GFMPs.

Please find attached the letter transmitted to the Minister of Ressources Naturelles et de la Faune and related to these issues. I remain available if you have any question concerning the development and analysis of these plans.

In closing, I wish to reiterate the parties' good will and spirit of cooperation to make the adapted regime of the *Agreement concerning a new relationship between le gouvernement du Québec and the Crees of Québec* a reality within the 2008-2013 GFMP framework.

Please accept, Mr. Mukash, our kindest regards.



Jean-Pierre Gauthier  
Chairman of the Board

Encl.

## **ADDITIONAL BRIEFING NOTE**

### MIXED STANDS MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

#### Background:

Schedule C-3, Section C of Chapter 3 on forestry of the Agreement provides that, given the importance of mixed stands as wildlife habitats and their rarity in the Territory, a guide applicable specifically to the mixed forests will be developed by the ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune, in cooperation with the Cree-Québec Forestry Board. Thus the guidelines given to CAAF holders by MRNF for the preparation of the GFMPs instruct the holders to “include the objectives and intervention modalities of the mixed stands specific management guide” (translation).

#### Issue:

As part of its mandate, the CQFB must analyse the plans and make sure they respect the terms of the Agreement and comply with the instructions. The Board shall therefore ensure that the mixed stands strategy is complied with.

In the past year, the Board called upon the Department’s representatives on several occasions in order to obtain clarifications on the orientations and content of this strategy. Certain aspects of the strategy were shared with the Board members but no document containing all the information is yet available. Therefore, the Board does not have clear and complete basic information on the mixed stands strategy adopted by MRNF and to be applied as part of the GFMP process.

#### Recommendation:

That MRNF make available a document presenting the strategy’s basic elements including the context, basic principles, management objectives, intervention scenarios and modalities, as well as the expected results. This document will be used to assess the strategy’s implementation.

## DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING THE GFMPs AND TALLYMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN GFMP DEVELOPMENT

### Background:

One of the main objectives pursued in implementing Chapter 3 on forestry of the Paix des Braves agreement is to ensure Cree participation, by way of consultation, in the different forest management activity planning and management processes. More specifically, Schedule C-4, Section 2.2 of the Agreement provides for the modalities to be applied as part of the GFMP development in order to ensure the tallymen's true and meaningful participation in GFMP development.

In the past year, several concrete and significant actions were taken by the parties and the Board to promote this participation in the 2008-2013 general plans process.

Delays have occurred in the transmission of the instructions and basic information required by CAAF holders to undertake the development of these plans. In early April, representatives from your Department met with the CAAF holders to provide them with the last instructions regarding GFMPs development. They were then informed that they had until next June 1<sup>st</sup> to submit their plan.

### Issue:

The consultation period is therefore very limited as, for the Crees, the first two weeks of May are a spring period where they practice traditional activities related to goose hunting. While acknowledging the obligation to have the tallymen participate in the development of the GFMPs, the circumstances and short timeframe in which the CAAF holders must develop their plans offer little flexibility for holding consultation sessions with the tallymen.

### Recommendation:

Considering the problem related to the non availability of the tallymen in early May and the importance for the CAAF holders and tallymen to have the Crees adequately and meaningfully participate in the development of these general management plans for the implementation of the *Agreement concerning a new relationship between le gouvernement du Québec and the Crees of Québec*, the Board recommends that an additional period of 2 weeks be given to the CAAF holders for submitting the 2008-2013 General Forest Management Plans.