

COURTESY TRANSLATION

February 27, 2006

Mr. Jean-Pierre Gauthier  
Chairman  
Cree-Quebec Forestry Board  
2875, boulevard Laurier  
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Sainte-Foy (Québec) G1V 2M2

Mr. Gauthier,

I am replying to your letter of November 21, 2005, concerning the evaluation report for the operations of the Joint Working Groups (JWG). You proposed that I designate representatives from the Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune (MRNF) in order to form a working group to analyze and follow-up on the recommendations of this report.

First of all, allow me to thank you and your team for this first diagnostic of the JWG operations. The synthesis of elements to improve should help us in our procedures to enable the Joint Working Groups to be even more efficient.

What I mainly retain from this report is that there must be specification of the ties and responsibilities existing between the main stakeholders of the Agreement. In addition, I fully understand the emphasis that the Crees place on the need for an *a priori* participation in the planning process of the forest management activities.

I agree with the proposal of the Cree-Quebec Forestry Board concerning the creation of a bipartite Task Force supported by the Board Secretariat, in order to follow up on the recommendations contained in the deposited report. To this effect, I inform you that Messrs. Georges Laferrière, management unit chief in Chibougamau, André Roy, management unit chief of the Harricana and Quévillon, Marco Trudel, Quévillon office manager and Roch Allen, assistant to the wildlife management director for the Nord-du-Québec, will be the MRNF representatives on this Task Force. I invite you to directly contact them in order to initiate the required works. Their coordinates are attached to the present letter.

Sincerely yours,

Minister of Natural Resources and Wildlife,

Pierre Corbeil

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