

Cree-Québec Forestry Board





Cree-Québec Forestry Board



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Mr. Clément Gignac, Minister Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune Mr. Matthew Coon Come, Grand Chief Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)



Dear Minister Gignac and Grand Chief Coon Come,

On behalf of the Board members and myself, I am pleased to present the Cree-Québec Forestry Board's ninth annual report.

While reading it, you will see that, following significant changes in Board membership, 2011-2012 marked a

return to normal Board operations — a hope I had expressed in last year's report.

As of October 2011, when the new members were confirmed by the two parties to the *Agreement*, the Board went back to holding regular meetings. Thanks to the diversity and quality of the new members' expertise combined with that of the existing Board members, the Board is now better equipped to fully play its role and carry out its mandate.

The Board was able to develop and approve new strategic directions and action priorities, which should help us to better meet the expectation of the parties to the *Agreement Concerning a New Relationship Between le Gouvernement du Québec and the Crees of Québec.* Very clear priority has been given to ensuring that the Board is able to "monitor and assess implementation of measures concerning forestry that were agreed upon in the Agreement and to recommend to the parties any adaptation or change to the forestry regime in compliance with the *Agreement*".

As Board Chairman, I believe that, by focusing on this responsibility, the Board will be able to play a useful role that will be recognized by the parties to the *Agreement*.

As you will see from this report, while adopting the measures needed to implement this priority, the Board also continued to fulfil its other regular responsibilities, submitting letters of advice and recommendations on various aspects of the implementation of the *Agreement*'s adapted forestry regime.

With the upcoming implementation of the new Québec Forest Regime and the challenge of harmonizing it with the adapted forestry regime governing *Agreement* territory, the effective functioning of the Board as a key instrument for consultation of the Crees, dialogue and cooperation clearly constitutes a valuable asset for the parties. It is the commitment to ensuring this effective functioning that must motivate all Board members, and it is with this perspective that I intend to fulfil my responsibilities as Chairman of this Board.

Yours sincerely,

Chairman of the Board

Albin Tremblay

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Chairman's Statement

he information contained in this Annual Management Report comes under my responsibility as of March 31, 2012. In particular, my responsibility concerns the accuracy and the integrity of data as well as the reliability of the results that are set out in this report.

To the best of my knowledge, the 2011-2012 Annual Management Report:

- Faithfully describes the Cree-Québec Forestry Board's mission, sectors of operations, strategic directions, and priorities
- Indicates the degree of achievement of objectives established in accordance with performance indicators
- Presents accurate, reliable data covering all activities of the Cree-Québec Forestry Board

Throughout the 2011-2012 financial year, and in accordance with its mandate, Management maintained internal accounting and administrative control systems to facilitate the sound management of its operations and to ensure full accountability with respect to the commitments stemming from its strategic directions and objectives for the year just ended.

I declare myself satisfied with the practices and methods used to produce the information in this Annual Management Report.

The Chairman of the Board

Albin Tremblay

CHAPTER



The Agreement and Chapter 3 on Forestry

The Objectives of the Adapted Forestry Regime and its Main Adaptations

On February 7, 2002, the Québec government and the Cree of Québec (Eeyou Istchee) signed the *Agreement concerning a new relationship between the Gouvernement du Québec and the Crees of Québec*. This historic 50-year agreement marked a new era in Cree-Québec relations.

Negotiated on a nation-to-nation basis, this agreement, commonly called the *Paix des Braves*, is intended to forge a common desire to harmonize management of Northern Québec's natural resources, thereby promoting greater autonomy among the Cree and fostering ownership of their nation's development. It includes provisions linked to forestry, mining, hydroelectric development, and the Crees' economic and community development based on the respective commitments made by the parties under the *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement*.

Chapter 3 of the *Agreement* is devoted to forestry, defining the objectives and setting out the specific provisions for managing forest activities in the territory. The Québec Forest Regime applies throughout the territory covered by the *Agreement* but has been adapted to better reflect the Crees' traditional way of life and accord greater attention to sustainable development concerns, paving the way for increased participation by the Cree, via consultation, in forest activity planning and management processes, ranging from planning to the implementation and monitoring of forest management plans.

The main adaptations to the Québec Forest Regime deal, among other things, with defining Forest Management Units (FMU) formed by grouping traplines, identifying and protecting sites of interest for the Cree, allotting a greater percentage to mosaic cutting, introducing maximum

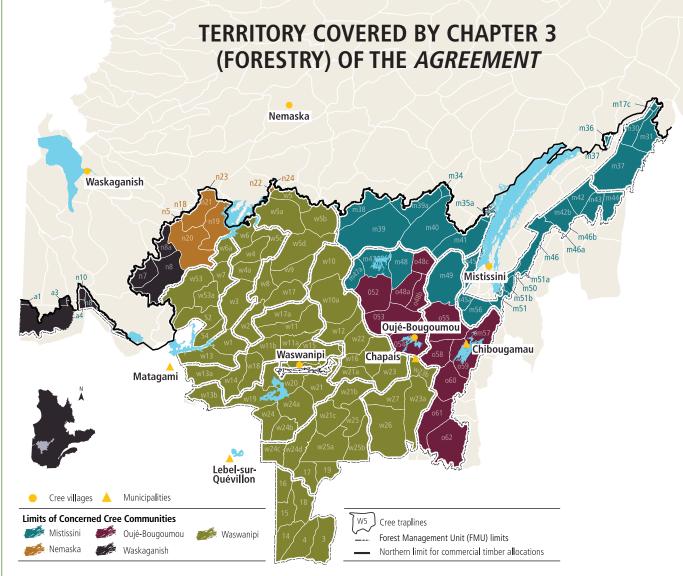
intervention thresholds and rates per trapline, including additional terms and conditions for protecting forests adjacent to watercourses, protecting and developing wildlife habitats, developing the road access network and location of residual forest blocks in cooperation with tallymen.

In terms of economic development, certain provisions of the *Agreement* confirm that timber volumes will be available to the Cree and promote their access to prospective forest management activity-related jobs, contracts and partnerships.

To ensure implementation of the *Agreement's* chapter on forestry, two mechanisms were created: the Joint Working Groups (JWGs) and the Cree-Québec Forestry Board (CQFB). As set out in Chapter 3 and Schedule C of the *Agreement*, the JWGs and Board have specific responsibilities but must work closely together to implement various provisions of the adapted forestry regime; foster, where relevant, new modes of operations between stakeholders and, in the event of conflict, mediate and manage conflicts that may arise. While the core activities of both the JWGs and the CQFB are to contribute to the development of forest management plans, conduct consultations and perform monitoring, these two implementation mechanisms work on different, but complementary, levels.

Territory Covered

The territory covered by the *Agreement*'s forestry regime is included in the territory governed by the *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement*. Bordered by Québec's northern limit for commercial timber allocations to the north, the adapted forestry regime includes the five Cree communities of Mistissini, Némaska, Oujé-Bougoumou, Waskaganish and Waswanipi. The territory defined in Schedule C of the *Agreement* covers a total of 66,036 km². Its productive forests account for almost 10% of Québec's allowable cut.



Statistics Pertaining to Chapter 3 Territory of the *Agreement*

Area of the Territory: 66 036 km²

Population

Cree Communities		Non-Native Communities	
Mistissini	3,427	Chapais	1,610
Nemaska*	712	Chibougamau	7,541
Oujé-Bougoumou	725	Lebel-sur-Quévillon*	2,159
Waskaganish*	2,206	Matagami*	1,526
Waswanipi	1,777	Municipalité de Baie-James*	1,303

Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 2011.

Forest Resource and Wood Processing

Forest Resources	Chapter 3	Québec	Proportion
Allowable Cut* in cubic meters (m³)	3,019,900	31,712,100	9.5 %
Allocation* in cubic meters (m³)	2,764,982	27,431,469	10.1 %

MRNF data, March 31, 2012

Chapter 3 Agreement Holders

Timber Supply and Forest Management Agreement (TSFMA)	
Panel Mills	2
Pulp and Paper Mill	1
Post Mill	1
Sawmills	10
Forest Management Agreement (FMA)	2

^{*} Chief Forester and MRNF data (2012)

^{*} Outside Chapter 3 Territory

CHAPTER





The Cree-Québec Forestry Board

Mission

In the perspective of sustainable development, while better taking into account the Cree traditional way of life and ensuring Cree participation in the various processes of forest planning and management activities, the mission of the Board is to analyze, oversee, and evaluate the implementation of the forestry objectives set out in the Agreement concerning a new relationship between le Gouvernement du Québec and the Crees of Québec, and to make the necessary recommendations to concerned parties in order to ensure that the measures and spirit of this agreement are respected.

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The Board's Mandate

The Cree-Québec Forestry Board (CQFB) was created in September 2003 under Chapter 3 of the Agreement concerning a new relation between le Gouvernement du Québec and the Crees of Québec, which discusses the adapted forestry regime. The parties agreed to its creation to promote close consultation with the Crees during the different forest activity planning and management stages in order to implement the adapted forestry regime.

The Board's main responsibilities consist of analyzing, overseeing and evaluating implementation of the forestry objectives set out in the *Agreement* and making recommendations to the parties regarding changes or adaptations to the forestry regime to ensure that the spirit of the *Agreement* is respected. The Board's mandate requires it to be involved in various forest management planning processes affecting the territory and to participate in the different phases of managing forest management activities, including review of forest management plans. The Board is responsible for advising the Minister of Natural Resources and Wildlife on forest management plans and for sharing its proposals, concerns and comments on any aspect related to forest management plan preparation.

The Joint Working Groups (JWGs) are independent from the Board and central to the *Agreement's* implementation. The Board is responsible for monitoring the processes that these entities implement for development, consultation and monitoring of the forest management plans applicable in the territory. Where need be, the Board can advise the parties to ensure that the JWGs are able to fulfil their mandate more effectively.

The Board's Strategic Directions

The Cree-Québec Forestry Board's strategic plan, adopted a few years ago, is founded on four major strategic directions, which guided the organization's activities throughout the year. The directions pursued and results expected are as follows:

Strategic Direction 1

The Board fulfills its mandate under the terms of the *Agreement*, whose main objective is to oversee the implementation of an adapted forestry regime. It sees to the implementation of means for problem resolution and conflict management.

Strategic Direction 2

The Board gives itself the means and tools needed to oversee and evaluate compliance with the *Agreement* and the implementation of an adapted forestry regime. It also sets up ways to monitor the evolution of the forest.

Strategic Direction 3

The Board sees to evaluate the needs and relevant information required in order to fulfill its responsibilities and those of JWG members, and to take action accordingly.

Strategic Direction 4

The Board meets with the stakeholders, explains its mandate, communicates information, and intervenes, if required, by building consensus with the stakeholders that the *Agreement* concerns.

Results/Five-year Indicator

The *Agreement* is complied with, the adapted forestry regime has been implemented, and the contribution of the Board is appreciated.

Results/Five-year Indicator

The Board has shown stringency in monitoring the Agreement and in its implementation.

Results/Five-year Indicator

The basic knowledge is available and accessible and the JWG members have received the required training.

Results/Five-year Indicator

The Board, as well as its actions and accomplishments, are known. It actively supports consensus building between participants.

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The Board's Composition and Administrative Organization

The Board is an independent body made up of eleven members: five designated by the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee), five by the Québec government, and a Chairman appointed by the Québec government after consultation with the Cree party.

In fall 2010, a process designed to diversify Board composition was initiated by the Board Chairman, working with the leaders of the parties to the *Agreement*. After agreeing to review the Board's composition, the parties contributed to support the achievement of the Board's vision by promoting a wide range of fields of interest and skills among its members.

In October 2011, the new Board composition was confirmed. The representatives designated by the Québec government now comprise two Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune (MRNF) officers and three other members representing regional communities, research and education and the forest industry respectively.

For the Cree party, four Cree members from communities in *Agreement* territory and one non-Native representative from the Grand Council of the Crees complete the Board's ranks.

The following list presents the members that sat on the CQFB during the 2011-2012 operating year (from April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012).



CHAIRMAN Albin Tremblay

QUÉBEC PARTY MEMBERS

Réal Dubé

Regional Representative Conférence régionale des élus de la Baie-James

Réjean Gagnon

Research and Education Representative Replacing Daniel Richard (MRNF)

Mario Gibeault

Director General, Bureau de mise en marché des bois (Timber Marketing Board) Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune

Guv Hétu

Director General, Nord-du-Québec Region Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune

Jacques Robitaille

Forestry Industry Representative Replacing Denis Vandal (MRNF)

CREE PARTY MEMBERS

Steven Blacksmith

Cree Regional Authority Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)

Bert Moar

Cree Regional Authority Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) Replacing Roméo Saganash (CRA)

Geoff Quaile

Cree Regional Authority Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)

Isaac Voyageur (Vice-Chairman)

Cree Regional Authority
Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)

Norman A. Wapachee

Cree Regional Authority
Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)



Photo: CQF

Administratively speaking, each party to the *Agreement* covers the costs of its designated members' participation on the Board and half the organization's operating budget. The Chairman's wages are paid by the Québec government.

The Agreement defines the Board's main operating terms and conditions, stipulates very specific duties concerning implementation of the adapted forestry regime and requires production of an annual report that must be submitted to the parties.

In carrying out their mandates, the members of the Cree-Québec Forestry Board and its Chairman can count on the support of a small team, headed by an executive director, who oversees the organization's human, financial, material and informational resources. The Secretariat is in charge of preparing Board meetings, producing minutes, and following up on decisions and measures that have been formally approved by Board members. With the support of consultants and other collaborators, depending on the nature of the file involved, the Secretariat develops and analyzes the problems and issues submitted for the Board's consideration, drafts the CQFB's official documents (letters of advice, comments, reports), including preparation of the annual report for Board members' review and approval. The Secretariat is also responsible for document management and archiving. In addition, it supports the Board members' communication activities and provides outreach and liaison with various bodies and organizations.

At March 31, 2012, three employees made up the Secretariat team: Marie Gosselin, Executive Director, Martin Pelletier, Analyst/Advisor, and Sylvie Dolbec, Administrative Assistant.

Board Operations

The 2011-2012 operating year began in a context in which official Board meetings were suspended while awaiting new appointments to the Board. Nevertheless, Management ensured that operations continued in keeping with the Board's mandate and responsibilities, while giving precedence to continuity and to monitoring 2010-2011 operating year activities and files.

When its regular activities started again in October 2011, development of new strategic directions and files presenting specific issues were central to Board activities. Throughout the year, the organization's activities and financial operations were managed strictly.

The action priorities for the operating year were as follows:

- **1.** Support the parties in their discussions addressing the harmonization of the reform of the forest regime and the adapted forestry regime;
- **2.** Produce advice to the parties on the different components of the reform of the Québec Forest Regime and of the modifications to the *Agreement*, if needed;
- **3.** Ensure consideration of, and follow-up on, the issues identified in the 2002-2008 assessment of the adapted forestry regime;
- **4.** Ensure dissemination of the results of the 2002-2008 assessment of the adapted forestry regime;
- **5.** Review the Board's five-year strategic and financial plans, in the context of the assessment and of the reform of the Québec Forest Regime;
- **6.** Ensure implementation of the Board's sustainable development action plan.

CHAPTER



The 2011-2012 CQFB Context

Review of Board Activities

uring the 2011-2012 operating year, the ninth since the Board's creation, the activities of the Board and its Secretariat were marked by evolution and change within the Board itself and with respect to harmonizing the current adapted forestry regime and the new Québec Forest Regime scheduled to take effect in April 2013.

The transition context that prevailed late in the previous operating year continued in the first half of 2011-2012. Board meetings were suspended to give one party time to renew some of its members in order to optimize the Board's work and consider the new directions and approaches proposed by the Chairman appointed in September 2010.

Based on an approach targeting ongoing improvement, the vision proposed is designed to pursue implementation and evolution of the adapted forestry regime while recommending changes making it possible to adapt to the developments and issues linked to implementation of both the current adapted forestry regime and the new Québec Forest Regime.

While official Board meetings were suspended, the Board pursued its activities and fulfilled its obligations related to reviewing modifications to 2008-2013 general forest management plans (GFMP). Using the simplified procedure for adopting Board advice on GFMP modifications implemented as of October 2010, the Secretariat worked with party representatives to analyze some modification requests submitted and prepare draft letters of advice. These letters and resolutions were proposed to members for approval and then forwarded to the Minister by the Chairman.

The Board was able to meet again as of October 2011 and held three meetings in the second part of the operating year. When Board activities started up again, harmonization of the new Québec Forest Regime and the adapted forestry regime and consideration of the new strategic issues that had emerged in the past year became part and parcel of the Board's work. Precedence was given to providing information to new members so that Board discussions would be effective.

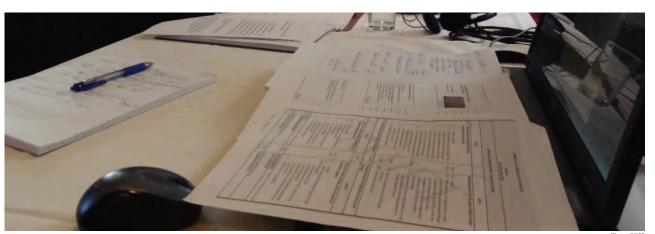


Photo: CQFB

Strategic Direction 1

The Board carries out its mandate as stipulated in the Agreement. Problems and conflicts are managed.



Photo: Tember

Board activities and achievements over the year are presented by strategic direction.

Board Meetings

Three Board meetings were held in 2011-2012: October (Quebec City), December and February (Montreal). The *Agreement* provides for six Board meetings a year unless members agree otherwise. Given the above-mentioned context, 12 months lapsed between the last meeting of the 2010-2011 operating year (October 2010) and the first meeting of the 2011-2012 operating year (October 2011).

Advice to the Parties

One of the Board's responsibilities is to participate in various phases of managing forest management activities, including reviewing GFMP modifications. All 2008-2013 GFMP modifications are subject to the approval process defined in the *Agreement*, which requires the Board to forward its comments and recommendations to the Minister of Natural Resources and Wildlife in the form of advice adopted by its members by resolution. The *Agreement* stipulates that the Board has 90 days to forward its comments before the modifications proposed to the GFMP are approved. During the year, the Board supplied its advice on four requests for modification of GFMPs in effect.

Advice on general forest management plan modifications for forest management unit 084-62

The Board recommended approval of modifications presented to the 2008-2013 GFMP for FMU 084-62 stressing the necessity, in keeping with the provisions of the *Agreement*, of performing monitoring when preparing annual plans to ensure that harvesting thresholds are not exceeded. The Minister approved the modifications and intends to follow up on the Board's recommendations.

Advice on general forest management plan modifications for forest management unit 026-63

In December 2011, the Board forwarded advice to the Minister in which it recommended approving the modifications presented to the 2008-2013 GFMP for FMU 026-63, which requested permission to improve a road (section A) and update the layout of a road subject to the environmental and social assessment procedure (section B), provided that certain conditions are met.

For section A, compliance with the final agreement concluded in December 2010 by the Québec government, Grand Council of the Crees, Cree Regional Authority and Oujé-Bougoumou Crees will have to be ensured for forestry activities to be carried out in the area under consideration for Assinica National Park expansion. For section B, the Board based itself on the JWG recommendation that tallymen be

consulted to agree on harmonization measures for the final road layout when Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs (MDDEP) authorization is issued. The parties must also agree on mitigation measures to apply in woodland caribou zones of intensive use before the permit is issued.

The Minister approved the modifications and intends to follow up on all Board recommendations.

Advice on general forest management plan modifications for forest management units 086-64 and 086-65

In the 2010-2011 operating year, two major issues emerged during the GFMP modifications analysis process for the northern portion of FMU 086-65: the presence of woodland caribou, a vulnerable species, and the addition of new road infrastructures and cut blocks in sectors in which road projects are currently subject to the environmental and social impact assessment procedure. At the time, the Board had recommended that the Minister approve the modifications proposed in the sectors that were not affected by these issues and give it more time to consider all of the information needed on the two issues raised. In February 2011, the Minister granted the extension requested.

On June 10, 2011, before regular Board activities had started up again, the Board received a new request for advice on GFMP modifications for FMU 086-64, adjacent to FMU 086-65. During the analysis, the potential presence of woodland caribou in a portion of the territory affected by the modifications was also raised. Since certain documents of key importance for the modification analysis had become available shortly before the end of the Board's analysis period and members were to begin meeting again in the short term, the Chairman asked for an extension to allow the Board to deal with the file at its next meeting.

When Board activities started up again in October 2011, follow-up to the requests for advice on GFMP modifications for FMUs 086-65 and 086-64 was given precedence. The

background to, and developments observed in these files were presented. The members were informed that the parties to the *Agreement* had recently agreed to mandate an expert committee to produce a summary of the woodland caribou's status on *Agreement* territory and make appropriate recommendations to the parties. A mid-mandate report was expected for late January and the final report was scheduled to be submitted in late March 2012.

The members agreed to inform the Minister that, to shed as much light as possible on the strategically important woodland caribou issue, they wished to wait for the findings of the experts' study in order to produce advice on the proposed GFMP modifications for FMUs 086-65 and 086-64 based on the most recent data available.

To solve an operational problem resulting from past advice produced on the GFMP for FMU 086-65, Board members recommended approving construction of a 1.5-km segment of road permitting access from the north to authorized intervention sectors of trapline W-04A.

In January 2012, the Deputy Minister confirmed his agreement with the position presented, but invited the Board to supply advice on the two modifications in question before March 1, 2012, after receiving the mid-mandate report of the experts on woodland caribou status on *Agreement* territory.

At the February Board meeting, discussions on the requests for advice on GFMP modifications for FMUs 086-65 and 086-64 were planned. So that Board members had recent data on the woodland caribou habitat and population on the area concerned, the Board invited the expert group to present its preliminary findings. Board members took the opportunity offered by this presentation to invite members and representatives of the James Bay Advistory Committee on the Environment (JBACE), Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Coordinating Committee (HFTCC) and Review Committee (COMEX) to join them to facilitate dissemination of the progress report's findings, promote coordinated action by the different organizations concerned (each according to its own specific mandate) by the woodland caribou on Agreement territory issue and, finally, encourage discussions



Photo: CQFB

between the experts and members of these different committees. Many appreciated the initiative and found it productive.

Based on the discussions that followed presentation of the preliminary findings of the expert committee mandated to study the status of woodland caribou on *Agreement* territory, the Board fowarded advice to the Minister on March 1, 2012, in which it indicated that it could not recommend approving all of the modifications proposed to these two FMUs.

For FMU 086-65, the Board recommended not approving the modifications and not granting a permit for intervention on the traplines affected by the modifications. For FMU 086-64, it recommended approving the modifications on all traplines except for trapline W-06A, for which it recommended not granting an intervention permit.



Photo: CQFB

The Board pointed out that the woodland caribou experts had not delivered their final report and that their preliminary findings confirmed the species' vulnerability, the importance of its habitat in the northern portion of the two FMUs and of the connectivity between the Lac Evans sector herds. Further, the special caribou committee had not yet assessed the precautionary approach to be proposed for the sector. The Board recommended not approving all modifications as presented, pointing out that the Review Committee (COMEX) had not yet ruled on the road infrastructure project and that the MDDEP was in the process of assessing the protected area projects presented by the Cree communities of Waswanipi and Nemaska.

In this advice, the Board advocated a precautionary approach respecting a reasonable balance between economic, social and environmental considerations, thereby favouring increased integration of sustainable development as stipulated in section 3.1 of the *Agreement*. It recommended that Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune (MRNF) authorities evaluate alternative scenarios to ensure timber supplies for forest companies unable to access certain harvesting sectors due to implementation of the precautionary approach recommended. The advice was approved by a resolution, even though some members did not agree with it.

On April 18, 2012, the MRNF Associate Deputy Minister for the regions informed the Board that the modifications proposed for these two FMUs would soon be approved. He estimated that by the time the parties resumed their discussions on the woodland caribou, agreed on the measures to adopt and the MDDEP reserved the lands the Crees had proposed for protected area status, the MRNF would have had to meet its legal obligations to forest industry players and its obligations under the *Agreement*.

For the considerations presented by the Board on the problems raised concerning infrastructures subject to impact assessment, the MRNF reiterated its commitment to delay authorization of these infrastructures until the MDDEP had issued the certificates of authorization.



Photo: MRNI

Advice on general forest management plan modifications for forest management unit 087-64

Since the Board was supposed to resume its regular activities in early fall 2011 and analysis of the modifications received in late spring 2011 highlighted the need for the members to treat the proposed modifications in the context of a formal discussion, the Board Chairman advised the Minister that he requested that the Board have the time needed to allow him to submit the file to the members.

In beginning its analysis in May, the Board Secretariat revealed that the file was incomplete and that, where siting of an important bridge was concerned, a major point of disagreement persisted between the tallymen and the forest company. Biological analyses had been conducted on the lake sturgeon populations potentially affected by the road infrastructure's construction and participation sessions regarding the implementation of harmonization measures were held between the stakeholders until early August 2011. Analysis of the Waswanipi JWG analysis report, received on August 12, 2011 and the MRNF's relevant documentation received up until August 25, 2011, also caused delays in the Board's analysis. The discrepancy raised and subsequent discussions caused analysis delays for both the Waswanipi JWG and the Board itself, finally placing all of the stakeholders (MRNF, Crees, agreement holders, JWG and Board) in an urgent situation regarding issuing this advice.

On September 2, 2011, the MRNF approved the plan modification before the Board was able to forward its advice to the Minister. The MRNF considered that the disagreement had been harmonized in late April 2011 at a meeting between JWG coordinators, and that the Board's 90-day analysis deadline had lapsed. The MRNF indicated that it was prepared to participate in discussions with the Board to reassess the plan approval procedure in order to propose improvements to it.

Unabridged versions of the advice (6 briefs) forwarded to the Minister concerning the modifications proposed to the GFMPs, as well as the replies received, can be consulted on the Board's website

(http://www.ccqf-cqfb.ca/eng/0303_advices.php).

The New Québec Forest Regime and the Adapted Forestry Regime

In the context of the coming into effect of the *Sustainable Forest Development Act* (SFDA) in April 2013, the parties to the *Agreement* pursued their discussions on harmonizing the existing adapted forestry regime and the new forest regime defined by this new legislation. Throughout the time the Board could not meet, the Board Chairman and Secretariat monitored this file closely.

When Board meetings started up again, the parties' authorities responsible for discussing these harmonization measures were invited to meet with Board members to provide information and discuss the main elements, issues, phases and deadlines linked to the harmonization targeted and to the Board's potential role in this file.

It was pointed out that, in the context surrounding management of Agreement territory (Eeyou Istchee), the Québec government and the Crees of Québec signed an important framework agreement on the territory's governance in May 2011 and planned to reach a final agreement in April 2012. Since the new forestry regime introduces a number of elements linked to the territory's governance, the parties agreed to address forestry by creating a Sectorial Roundtable on Forestry in which the Board Chairman would participate as an observer. The potential impact of governance discussions on forest management of Agreement territory was stressed. In fact, from the viewpoint of harmonization of the new regime and the adapted forestry regime, the recent agreement in principle on governance introduced new considerations that could have a direct and significant impact on the harmonization mechanisms to implement.

Given the Board's mandate, once its activities had restarted, the measures to be considered to harmonize the new forest regime and the adapted forestry regime were central to Board discussions.



Photo: Norboro

Preparation of 2013-2018 Forest Management Plans

Because a new generation of forest management plans is scheduled to take effect on April 1, 2013, in October, the Board began working on the file so that its members could discuss the directions to take to contribute constructively and effectively to their development in keeping with the *Agreement's* principles and objectives by taking into account the harmonization challenges posed by the *Sustainable Forest Development Act*.

In order to fuel the parties' deliberations and discussions at the Sectorial Roundtable on Forestry meeting, then announced for December, the members created a working group composed of representatives designated by the parties, stakeholders concerned by plan preparation and the Board Secretariat, which was in charge of creating the group and coordinating its activities.

In this emergency context, the Board working group's mandate consisted of further studying the elements of the MRNF Nord-du-Québec's proposal, identifying the issues and making recommendations so that the process for preparing the next forest management plans would be as effective as possible in keeping with the *Agreement's* principles and objectives, all by the next Board meeting scheduled for December. This working group held three meetings: on November 7, 8 and 23, 2011.

For its part, the Sectorial Roundtable, which met on November 9, decided to create a task force mandated to discuss an overall integrated planning process prioritizing discussions on planning measures for a transition year so as to give the parties more time to negotiate the overall planning process. The Board Secretariat was invited to play an active role on this committee, which eventually translated into a merger of the two groups, which is commonly referred to as the "Task Force".

The Task Force focussed on exploring these interim planning measures, studied an interim consultation process for 2013-2014 and listed its recommendations and concerns.

Based on the work done by the working group in its three workshop-meetings, Board discussions at the December 2011 meeting dealt with the elements on which the members were to make recommendations to those responsible for the Sectorial Roundtable on Forestry. Based on these elements, in January 2012, the Board drafted and submitted to those responsible for the roundtable the *Analysis Report and Recommendations on Parties' Discussions of the 2013-2014 Interim Planning Process*. At the time, it was in fact urgent that the parties agree in the short term on an interim planning process for 2013-2014 providing the measures required to harmonize the new forest regime and the adapted forestry regime so that there be no interruption in forestry activity on *Agreement* territory on April 1, 2013.

Analysis Report and Recommendations on Parties' Discussions of the 2013-2014 Interim Planning Process

The document the Board presented to Sectorial Roundtable on Forestry members highlights problems emerging from various discussions within the Board and its working group on the interim forest planning process, namely: the distinction between the concepts of harmonization and compensation (based on the parties' interpretations); strategic use of backlogs (accumulation of unused volumes); the participation process start-up date; monitoring processes and technical concerns.

In response to these problems, Board members issued four recommendations to the attention of Sectorial Roundtable on Forestry members, stressing the need for the parties to continue, as soon as possible, their discussions on the harmonization measures required to implement an interim year.

Roundtable members appreciated the Board's work and recommendations and agreed to continue their discussions on an ongoing basis in the context of the Task Force mandated to explore the different aspects of harmonizing the adapted forestry regime and the new forest regime in which the Board Secretariat will continue to participate actively.

Local Forests

Under the Sustainable Forest Development Act, the Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune introduced the new land management concept of "local forests". The Board was invited to comment on MRNF guidelines for selecting, establishing and operating local forests in the context of information meetings and public consultation on this project.

At the October 2011 Board meeting, the project concept and goals were presented to members along with a timetable of the different phases directed at activities beginning in April 2013.

Following the presentation, questions were formulated in an effort to better understand certain aspects of the project, more specifically in keeping with the Paix des Braves in effect on *Agreement* territory. It was noted that the project, in its current form, does little to take into account the agreements and accords between the Cree Nation and the Québec government and many elements will surely be discussed at the parties' governance roundtable. Given this context, Board members deemed preparing advice for the MRNF's public consultation somewhat premature.

For the next operating year, the Board will continue its activities designed to contribute to the parties' discussions concerning evolution of the *Agreement*'s adapted forestry regime. The file on potential measures required to harmonize the adapted forestry regime and the new Québec Forest Regime will remain a priority.

Woodland Caribou Recovery

In the 2010-2011 operating year, the woodland caribou recovery issue gained importance and it was agreed that the species' presence on *Agreement* territory had to be taken into account within the different responsibilities of the Board. The woodland caribou, which was designated vulnerable in 2005, is targeted by a recovery plan that the Québec government released in 2009. For *Agreement*

territory, the parties agreed to set up a special committee responsible for analyzing this file, which needed to be documented, and making recommendations. The Secretariat sat on this committee, as an observer, in order to clearly understand the nature of its discussions and reflect the issue's relevance in the framework of the Board's work.

In October 2011, in keeping with the objective that the parties and stakeholders concerned might benefit from the best available knowledge designed to promote woodland caribou maintenance and recovery on *Agreement* territory, the parties mandated a group of woodland caribou experts to analyze MRNF Nord-du-Québec region telemetric and survey data and to produce scientific opinions on the woodland caribou habitat and population located in the territory governed by Chapter 3 of the Paix des Braves.

Woodland caribou recovery in the territory became a priority strategic issue for the Board in the 2011-2012 operating year and played a significant role at Board meetings and activities. The species' presence in the northern portion of the territory was taken into consideration in issuing letters of advice on the modifications proposed when reviewing the 2008-2013 GFMPs for FMUs 086-64, 086-65 and 026-63.

A major summary document produced by the Secretariat was forwarded to Board members and participants in preparation for upcoming meetings. The October 2011 Board meeting sought to inform members and participants about woodland caribou status on Paix des Braves territory so that all would have the same information before making a decision.

The experts invited to present the preliminary findings of their mid-mandate analysis report at the February 2012 Board meeting shed initial light on some of the questions addressed in their report. Their final report final is scheduled for May 2012.

For the next operating year, woodland caribou recovery on *Agreement* territory will, no doubt, remain a priority strategic issue figuring on upcoming Board meeting agendas. The Board will monitor this file closely.



Photo: MRNF

Cree Community Protected Area Projects

In 2010-2011, the two Cree communities of Nemaska and Waswanipi submitted separate projects to create protected areas on *Agreement* territory to the MDDEP and began discussions with government authorities to bring these projects to fruition.

Through their proposed protected areas, both Cree communities seek to preserve intact forests, essential wildlife habitats and their traditional way to life. They also stress that the protected area sites constitute an important woodland caribou habitat, whose protection could be included in Québec's recovery strategy for the species.

The Board's mandate requires it to provide advice on forest plans whose activities occur in the areas of interest proposed for protected area status by the Cree communities. The Board Secretariat produced a summary document on protected areas to inform the members so that they could participate actively in discussions on this issue at the February 2012 meeting.

From a sustainable development viewpoint, the Board felt it was important to take a strategic look at the territory's development and the synergies that could be created when designating new protected areas, among other things by taking land of special interest for the Cree and for woodland caribou recovery into account. So that members could consider and discuss the different considerations related to proposed protected areas, the Board invited MDDEP and Cree Nation representatives to discuss their respective viewpoints with the members.

The Board took these two projects into account for requests for advice on the GFMP modifications for FMUs 086-65 and 086-64 and will follow up on these files.

The Board's New Strategic Directions

While acknowledging the importance of continuing to assume its responsibilities linked to more technical aspects of the adapted forestry regime's implementation, one of the goals of reviewing Board composition was to enable the Board to incorporate more strategic considerations and aspects into its discussions.

As soon as regular activities resumed in October 2011, the members discussed the new strategic directions that would guide Board activities for the next five years. At the December meeting, the members unanimously approved the following six strategic directions for the 2012-2017 action plan:

- The Board will accord great importance to harmonizing the Agreement's adapted forestry regime and the new Sustainable Forest Development Act effectively.
- The Board will accord greater importance to strategic issues in its analyses and in drafting its letters of advice and recommendations for the parties.
- **3.** The Board will rigorously and objectively evaluate the implementation of the *Agreement's* forestry section in a context of ongoing improvement.
- **4.** The Board will act on the "joint working group governance and operations" issues identified in the five-year assessment of the implementation of the adapted forestry regime.
- The Board will ensure that Agreement stakeholders have ongoing access to a common, up-to-date adapted forestry regime data bank.
- **6.** Board communications will be aimed at promoting a better understanding of the *Agreement*, its results and its benefits.

Members' discussions continued and, in February 2012, the action priorities and annual objectives for the 2012-2013 operating year defined by these new strategic directions were adopted.

Strategic Direction 2

The Board monitors implementation of the Agreement and changes in the state of the forest.

Report Concerning the Verification and Monitoring of the Application of the Standards and Measures Provided in the *Agreement*

In keeping with section 61 of Schedule C-4 of the *Agreement*, the MRNF must produce a report concerning the verification and monitoring of the application of the standards and measures provided in the *Agreement*. Since the adapted forestry regime had been fully implemented when the new generation of forest management plans came into effect in April 2008, the parties agreed that this first report should cover the 2002-2008 period.

In 2010-2011, the Board Secretariat thoroughly analyzed the preliminary version of the report covering the 2002-2006 period. It forwarded its constructive observations and comments to the MRNF, where they were well received.

The MRNF was supposed to produce the final, corrected version of the first report concerning the verification and monitoring of the application of the standards and measures provided in the *Agreement* covering the 2002-2008 period for spring 2012.

The Board will monitor the report's production and availability.

Modification of GFMPs in Keeping With the Chief Forester's Conditions

In 2009 the Chief Forester reviewed the calculations of allowable cuts in the territory of the Paix des Braves. As a consequence, agreement holders had to revise all 2008-2013 GFMPs that had come into effect on April 1, 2008 to ensure compliance with the reviewed conditions and the new calculations. Of the territory's fifteen plans, only one—that of FMU 026-61—has not yet been modified.

At the Board's invitation, the MRNF assured it that, between now and the time the plan is modified, annual plans would be authorized in keeping with the Chief Forester's new results. The Board was told that the review deadline was linked primarily to the fact that the presence of woodland caribou had been documented on FMU 026-61 territory and that, because the company concerned was in the process of obtaining FSC certification, it wished to modify the forest management plan by incorporating a woodland caribou-based management approach. However, since many of the Agreement's provisions are difficult to combine with such a management approach, and since the parties had not yet agreed on exemptions promoting woodland caribou recovery in the territory covered by the Agreement, the agreement holder was unable to submit modifications to the GFMP for FMU 026-61 during the 2011-2012 operating year.

Strategic Direction 3
Basic information and training needs of the Board and the JWGs are met.

Joint Access to Basic Information

With the arrival of new Board members during the 2011-2012 operating year, the Board considered sharing significant amounts of official information with all members a priority. The Secretariat produced summary and introductory documents on problems linked to issues of strategic importance on *Agreement* territory and forwarded them to members so that they could prepare for Board meetings and participate actively in Board discussions and decisions.

The Reference Centre

This section of the Board's website, reserved for Board and Joint Working Group members allows them to share information on implementation of the adapted forestry regime. The reference centre is kept updated and an overhaul of this website is planned in the coming year to make it more user-friendly.

Strategic Direction 4

The Board conducts communication and consultation activities and devotes efforts to building consensus.



Communication Activities

With the arrival of its new Chairman in fall 2010, the Board seized many opportunities to communicate with target groups concerned by implementation of the Agreement's forestry component. Through its Chairman, the Board continued contacting and meeting with different players involved in the adapted forestry regime's implementation (Chief Forester, Joint Working Groups, forest-sector industries) present on Agreement territory.

These meetings offered an opportunity to present the Board and its mandate, the adapted forestry regime's mechanisms and the 2002-2008 assessment of the implementation of forestry-related provisions. The Chairman was present when the Québec government launched the Northern Plan, attended the reception organized by the Crees to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Paix des Braves and participated in a cultural visit in the Waswanipi community.

For the Carrefour Forêt Innovations 2011, which took place October 4-6 in Quebec City, the Board and its collaborators ran an information stand on the adapted forestry regime. An information brochure on the forestry regime on Paix des Braves territory, entitled *Adaptive Forestry in a Native Environment* was designed, published and widely distributed. A map illustrating the adapted forestry regime's forest-related planning concepts was presented.

At the *Premières Nations et ingénieurs forestiers* conference on November 29, 2011 in Quebec City, the Board Secretariat made a presentation on the adapted forestry regime, its assessment, as well as on the Board and its mandate.

The Board's Website

The website was kept up to date. The advice (6 briefs) and comments the Board sent the parties during the 2011-2012 operating year can be consulted along with recent publications. The general public can access a wide range of information on the *Agreement* and its adapted forestry regime.

CQFB Annual Report

The Board's eighth annual report, for the previous operating year, was forwarded to the parties and distributed to partners and stakeholders concerned by application of the *Agreement's* forestry component. The report can be downloaded on the Board's website.

CHAPTER



Sustainable Development

The Cree-Québec Forestry Board's 2008-2013 Sustainable Development Action Plan



In the spring of 2009, the Cree-Québec Forestry Board adopted its first Sustainable Development Action Plan (SDAP). Through its action plan, the Board defined its organizational goals and its actions in accordance with the four following directions:

- Inform, make aware, educate, innovate
- Produce and consume responsibly
- Manage and develop the territory in a sustainable and integrated way
- Save and share our collective heritage

This section aims, in accordance with its obligations, to report on the implementation of the actions and measures set out in the SDAP of the Board.

Organizational Objective

Introduce the bases of sustainable development and its implication in the implementation of the adapted forestry regime to members and employees of the Board and to contributors linked to the Agreement.

Gestures	Indicators	Targets	2011-2012 Action
Action 1 Raise awareness and give information members, secretariat staff and contributions			e development to Board
 Develop and offer training and awareness sessions on sustainable development for stakeholders in the adapted forestry regime. Inform members of the Board on the Sustainable Development Act and the obligations stemming from it. Create and maintain a "Sustainable Development" section on the Board's webpage and reference centre. 	 Number of members of the Secretariat, the Board and the Joint Working Groups (JWG) reached by the sustainable development awareness activities. Number of sustainable development activities offered to stakeholders. 	■ 100% of the members of the Board and of its secretariat and 50% of JWG members. ■ At least one specific activity per year.	■ All Secretariat members participated in sustainable development training and awareness-raising meetings.

	Gestures	Indicator	Target	2011-2012 Action
Action 2	Implement activities contributing t government administration personn		overnmental awareness a	nd training plan for th
developme coordination Organize p	in training sessions on a sustainable nt approach offered by the <i>Bureau de on du développement durable</i> . resentations and theme sessions on a development approach.	■ Rate of Board members and personnel reached by the sustainable development awareness activities and rate of Board members and personnel who have adequate knowledge of the approach to take it into consideration during regular activities.	■ 100% of Board members and staff by 2010.	■ All Secretariat members participated in sustainable development training and awareness-raising meetings.
	Gestures	Indicator	Target	2011-2012 Action
the evolution regard to s	Collaborate, at the best level possible consider the application of new praction of the adapted forestry regime with ustainable development.		■ Participate in at least three projects by 2013.	■ There were no action: this year
	in and support research projects that are and prioritized by the Board.			
		Indicators	Targets	2011-2012 Actions
	and prioritized by the Board.	1		2011-2012 Actions for an Eco-responsib

Organizational Objective Promote the application of environmental management

Organizational Objective

Support research and new practices and technologies to help reach the objectives of the adapted forestry regime

of the Agreement.

when possible.

■ Choose to hold teleconferences /videoconferences

measures and an eco-responsible procurement policy within the Cree-Quebec Forestry Board.

eco-responsible activities

and procurement practices.

eco-responsible events

■ Percentage of

■ Percentage of

in relation to all

organized events.

practices by 2010.

■ 80% of eco-responsible

activities and procurement

approach guided the

management framework was adopted in

Secretariat and the

Board's activities.

■ An environmental

October 2011.

Organizational Objective

Ensure the application and evolution of the adapted forestry regime to favour increased integration of sustainable development issues.

(cont'd)			
Gestures	Indicator	Target	2011-2012 Actions

Action 5 Favour increased integration of sustainable management principles in the implementation and evolution of the forestry regime on the territory of the *Agreement*.

forestry regime on the territory of the Agreement. ■ Draw up a portrait of the adapted forestry regime ■ Number of initiatives ■ A minimum of one ■ Sustainable development based on the principles of sustainable development conducted by the Board. specific initiative principles were taken in identified annually in the and, eventually, report to the parties. account when producing Board's Strategic Plan. Board advice, especially ■ Participate in the reform of the Québec Forest Regime, through the attention in the context of the adapted forestry regime in the given to the woodland territory of the Agreement, while taking into account caribou recovery and sustainable development concerns. protected areas files. ■ Contribute to the instructions for the elaboration of ■ An interim forest the future forest plans to favor greater integration planning process of sustainable development concerns. to harmonize the ■ Develop a revision framework of forest plans taking Sustainable Forest into account sustainable development concerns. Management Act and the adapted forestry regime was analyzed and proposed.

Gestures	Indicators	Targets	2011-2012 Action
Gestures	HILLICATOLS	rargets	2011-2012 ACHOIL

Action 6 Integrate sustainable development principles in the Board's activities and in the advice given to the parties.

- Develop a tool aimed at giving more consideration to the principles of sustainable development in the Board's activities and advice.
- When responding to advice requests, produce analyses that take sustainable development principles into consideration.
- When possible, integrate sustainable developmentrelated considerations in the Board's advice.
- Number of tools developed.
- Percentage of advice lettrers whose underlying analysis took sustainable development principles into consideration.
- Design of a tool.
- 80% by 2010.
- 100% by 2013.
- ■100% of the analyses conducted and letters of advice drafted specifically integrated some of the sustainable development principles.

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Organizational Objective

Strengthen the viability and resilience of local, regional and native communities on the territory of the Agreement.

Organizational Objective

Strengthen conservation and development of the cultural heritage and local traditional knowledge in the territory of the Agreement.

Organizational Objective

Ensure the protection and development of heritage and natural resources with respect to the support capacity of the ecosystems in the territory of the Agreement.

(cont'd)			
Gestures	Indicator	Target	2011-2012 Action

Maintain and reinforce, if needed, the General Forest Management Plans (GFMPs) analysis approach, according **Action 7** to the Agreement's underlying sustainable development vision.

- Ensure monitoring and revision of the GFMPs according to the four principles adopted by the Board in February 2007.
- Rate of monitoring and revision of the GFMPs.
- 100% of the plans are monitored and revised.
- 100% of the modified plans were analyzed in accordance with the principles adopted by the Board.

Gestures	Indicator	Target	2011-2012 Action

Action 8 Favour shared information and knowledge concerning Cree use of the territory of the Agreement.

- Promote availability and use of forest planning tools (planning-support maps and guide) and monitor their use.
- Availability of the maps and the guide.
- Used for 75% of the traplines.
- Planning-support maps were made available under the modifications to the 2008-2013 GFMPs and they are used by the forest planners.

Gestures	Indicators	Targets	2011-2012 Actions
Gestures	maicutors	ruisets	ZOIT ZOIZ / (ctions

Action 9 Reinforce the monitoring and implementation objectives of the adapted forestry regime.

- Help disseminate the results of the monitoring of the state of the forest in the territory of the Agreement.
- Help develop monitoring and assessment guidelines for the wildlife objectives of the Agreement.
- Availability of the reports | 100% of the reports on the state of the forest.
- A monitoring guideline for wildlife habitats by 2011.
- available.
- The monitoring guideline is available by 2011.
- Achieved
- Development of a monitoring framework underway

May 29, 2012

REVIEW ENGAGEMENT REPORT ON SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

To the members of Cree-Québec Forestry Board

We have reviewed the summarized financial statements of Cree-Québec Forestry Board, which comprise the summarized balance sheet as at March 31, 2012 and the summarized statement of operations for the year ended. These summarized financial statements are derived from the financial statements as at March 31, 2012 and for the year then ended on which we delivered a review engagement report dated May 29, 2012. Our review was made in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements and accordingly consisted primarily of enquiry, analytical procedures and discussion related to information supplied to us by Management.

A review does not constitute an audit and consequently, we do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

Based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that these financial statements are not, in all material respects, in accordance with complete financial statements as at March 31, 2012.

The financial information given for comparison was reviewed by other chartered accountants.

Roy, Labrecque, Busque,

Comptables agréés inc.1

¹ Chantal Blanchet, CPA auditor, CA

Summarized financial statements

CREE-QUÉBEC FORESTRY BOARD

SUMMARIZED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS (UNAUDITED) YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2012

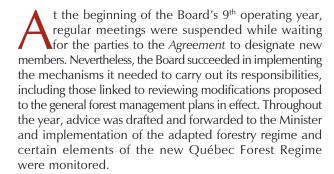
	2012	2011
	\$	\$
REVENUE		
Partners' contribution -		
Québec Government	200,000	200,000
Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)	200,000	200,000
Interests	4,226	3,376
	404,226	403,376
EXPENSES		
Salaries Internal management Board activities Services contracts	262,719 85,294 28,165 33,238	269,923 80,644 13,304 25,510
NET RESULT (DEFICIT)	(5,190)	13,995

SUMMARIZED BALANCE SHEET (UNAUDITED) AS AT MARCH 31, 2012

AS AT MARCH 31, 2012			
	2012	2011	
	\$	\$	
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash Accounts receivable	92,635 8,711	65,767 6,540	
Prepaid expenses	1,505	3,313	
	102,851	75,620	
INVESTMENTS	475,388	521,168	
FIXED ASSETS	16,394	12,566	
	594,633	609,354	
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Accounts payable	9,781	19,312	
FUND BALANCES			
Invested in fixed assets	16,394	12,566	
Internally restricted	145,000	145,000	
Unrestricted	423,458	432,476	
	584,852	590,042	
	594,633	609,354	

The complete version of the financial statement can be consulted on the Board's website. www.ccqf-cqfb.ca





In fall 2011, after the new members had been appointed, the Board's regular activities started up again. While continuing to fulfil its responsibilities of a more technical nature, the Board renewed its strategic directions and agreed on action priorities for 2012-2017.

The key element of the strategic directions agreed upon is implementation of the tools and mechanisms needed to allow the Board to better monitor, review and evaluate implementation of the *Agreement's* forestry-related provisions. In the months and years to come, the work of the Board and its members will focus more and more on this important responsibility, which targets ongoing improvement of the adapted forestry regime in effect on *Agreement* territory.

With less than two years to go before the coming into effect of a new generation of forest management plans that must be prepared in keeping with the principles and objectives of the adapted forestry regime, the importance of giving precedence to actions designed to facilitate the parties' discussions on harmonizing the different components of the adapted forestry regime and the new *Sustainable Forest Development Act* that will take effect in spring 2013 was identified. Consequently, in keeping with the parties' expectations and its mandate, the Board worked to support, facilitate and coordinate discussions designed to effectively harmonize the two regimes. The parties appreciate the Board's contribution, which will continue throughout the coming year.

Armed with new information on the woodland caribou population and its habitat on *Agreement* territory, this vulnerable species' recovery has proven to be a file of interest to which the Board will definitely continue to devote time and attention.

At the end of this next operating year, an adapted forestry regime, harmonized according to the Sustainable Forest Development Act, should have been implemented on Agreement territory. Many of the challenges involved are considerable. Enriched by the new diversity in its members' experience and expertise, the Board will use this knowledge in its discussions and in drafting advice to the parties. It will continue implementing its new strategic directions, monitoring the adapted forestry regime and working with the parties to the Agreement to promote its evolution.



Photo: Luc Du



CODE OF ETHICS AND PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT OF THE CREE-QUÉBEC FORESTRY BOARD

CHAPTER I

PURPOSE AND FIELD OF APPLICATION

- 1. The present code of ethics and professional conduct has the purpose of preserving and strengthening the citizens' trust link in the Board's integrity and impartiality, promote transparency within the Board and building up accountability with its members.
- The present code of ethics and professional conduct applies to the Board members that are named by the Gouvernement du Québec, including the chairperson, in addition to the members named by the Cree Regional Authority.
- 3. Concerning the Board staff, it must comply with the ethics and professional conduct standards that apply to it.

CHAPTER II

PRINCIPLES OF ETHICS AND BYLAWS OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

- 4. The contribution of Board members to the realization of its mandate must be made in respect of the law, with honour, loyalty, rigour, caution, diligence, efficiency, assiduity and fairness.
- 5. The Board member is required, in the performance of his duties, to respect the principles of ethics and professional conduct set out in the present code of ethics and professional conduct. A Board member who is also governed by other standards of ethics and professional conduct is also subject to the present code of ethics and professional conduct. In the event of divergence, the most demanding principles and rules apply.
 - The Board member must, if in doubt, act according to the spirit of these principles and rules. He must also organize his personal affairs so that they cannot hinder the performance of his duties.
- 6. The Board member is required to exercise discretion concerning what he knows in or during the performance of his duties and is required to respect the confidential nature of the information received in this manner at all times.
- 7. The Board chairperson must show reserve in the public expression of his political opinions.

- 8. The Board member must avoid placing himself in a situation of conflict between his personal interest and his official duties.
 - He must reveal in writing to the Board chairperson any direct or indirect interest he has in an organization, enterprise or association liable to place him in a situation of conflict of interest, in addition to the rights he can present against the Board, by indicating, if applicable, their nature and their value. An indirect conflict of interest can occur in cases where a member can receive some sort of benefit in a roundabout way, such as through his children or an enterprise in which he holds shares.
 - The organizations, enterprises or associations referred to in the preceding paragraph do not include the organizations or associations which represent the Cree Nation (Eeyou Istchee).
 - In the case of the chairperson, he must reveal this information in writing to the executive director of the Board, who is in charge of gathering and conserving declarations from all the Board members.
 - In the case of a member named by the Cree Regional Authority, the former must also reveal this information to the Cree Regional Authority.

- 9. The Board member must inform the Board chairperson in writing of any contracts or research projects he is participating in and declare the subsidies obtained from any organization, enterprise or association. In the case of the chairperson, he must give this information in
 - In the case of the chairperson, he must give this information in writing to the Board executive director, who is in charge of gathering and conserving declarations from all the Board members.
 - In the case of a member named by the Cree Regional Authority, the former must also reveal this information to the Cree Regional Authority.
- 10. The Board member must abstain from participating in any deliberation or decision involving any organization, enterprise or association in which he has an interest as set out in Articles 8 and 9. Furthermore, he must withdraw from the meeting during the length of the deliberations and vote on this question.
- 11. The Board chairperson ensures that the minutes of Board meetings mention any abstention of one of its members from the decisions concerning any organization, enterprise or association in which he has an interest, for the purpose of transparency.
- 12. The Board member must not mistake Board property for his own and cannot use it to the advantage of himself or a third party.
- 13. The Board member cannot use any information obtained in or during the performance of his duties to the advantage of himself or a third party.
- 14. The duties set out in Articles 5, 6 and 13 do not have the effect of preventing a Cree Regional Authority representative to consult nor report to the Cree Regional Authority, nor does it prevent to consult nor report to the members of the Cree Nation (Eeyou Istchee) or the organizations or associations which represent it, unless the information is confidential under the law and that such confidentiality is in accordance with the James Bay and Northern Québec *Agreement*

- or the Agreement concerning a New Relationship between the Crees of Québec and the Government of Québec.
- 15. A Board member is allowed to accept and keep a gift, or accept a token of hospitality or other benefit as long as the present is of modest use and value and is offered during an event attended by the receiving member.
 - Any other gift, token of hospitality or benefit received must be returned to the donor or government.
- 16. The Board member cannot, either directly or indirectly, grant, solicit or accept an undue favour or benefit for himself or a third party.
- 17. The Board member must not allow himself to be influenced in his decision-making by outside considerations such as the possibility of an appointment or job openings and offers.
- 18. The Board member who has ceased to hold office must behave in a manner in which he does not gain any undue benefits from his previous Board duties.
- 19. The Board member who has ceased to hold office must not disclose confidential information he has received nor give anyone advice based on information unavailable to the public concerning the Board or another organization or enterprise with which it had important and direct relations during the year preceding the end of his mandate.
 - The Board member who has ceased to hold office but remains with the appointing party, in the context of his dealings with this party or associations which represent it, will have the right to inform it, in order to ensure a good governance.
- 20. The Board chairperson must ensure the respect of the principles of ethics and rules of professional conduct by the Board members.

CHAPTER III

POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

- 21. The Board chairperson intending to run for an elected public function must inform the general secretary of the Executive Board of the Gouvernement du Québec.
- 22. The Board chairperson intending to run for an elected public function must leave office.

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REMUNERATION

23. Each party shall assume the remuneration and the travel costs of its own members, in compliance with Article 3.48 of the Agreement concerning a new relationship between the Gouvernement du Québec and the Crees of Québec and, in the case of a member named by the Gouvernement du Québec, in compliance with the order in force, if the case may be.

The Board member can receive other remuneration for the performance of duties other than those lined to the Board.

CHAPTER V

CERTIFICATION

24. The Board member must observe the rules and principles set out in this code. At the time of his appointment, the member must sign the certification document produced in the appendix confirming that he has read and understood the present code and that he agrees to respect it. The signing of the certification by the member already in office must be done within 60 days following the effective date of the present code.

CHAPTER VI

EFFECTIVE DATE

25. The present code of ethics and professional conduct of the Board members along with the here-attached certification form were adopted during the meeting of June 15th, 2004 and are rendered effective as of August 3rd, 2004.

CERTIFICATION

WHEREAS the Cree-Québec Forestry Board adopted on June 15th, 2004, a Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct for its members;

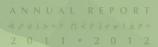
WHEREAS article 24 of this Code makes provision that the Board members must certify that they acknowledged the document mentioned above and that they commit themselves to follow the rules enacted in it;

Member of the Board:	
certify to have acknowledged the C Conduct of the Cree-Québec Forestr follow the rules provided for in this c integrity of the Board.	y Board; and commit myself to

Signed at

the day of 20.

I the undersigned



MEMBERS OF THE JOINT WORKING GROUPS

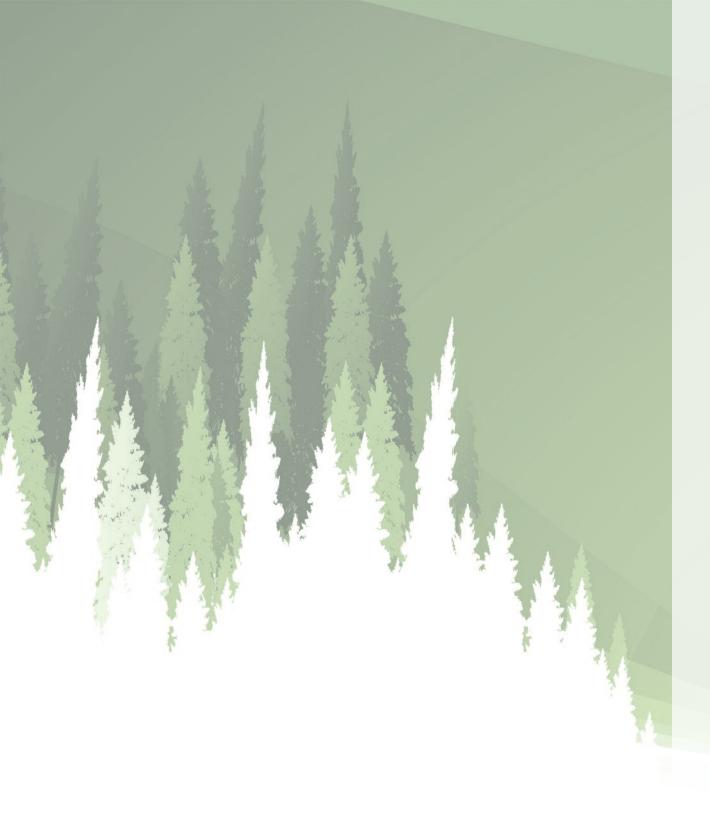
The Joint Working Groups (JWGs) and the Cree-Québec Forestry Board are the two main implementation mechanisms prescribed under the provisions of Chapter 3 of the *Agreement* on forestry. The JWG members are a cornerstone of efforts to implement the *Agreement*.

The JWGs are mandated to:

- Integrate and implement the specific rules agreed upon in respect of the adapted forestry regime;
- When required, develop harmonization measures;
- Review conflicting uses in order to find acceptable solutions;
- Ensure implementation of the processes in relation to the preparation, consultation and monitoring of forest management plans;
- Adopt internal operating rules;
- Ensure that each party places all relevant and available forestry-related information at the disposal of the other party;
- Discuss any technical issues.

At March 31, 2012, the members of the Joint Working Groups were

Communities	Representatives – MRNF	Representatives – Cree
Waskaganish	Sébastien Crosnier-Pichette Local Coordinator	Wayne Cheezo Local Coordinator Clark Shecapio
Waswanipi	Sébastien Crosnier-Pichette Local Coordinator	Allan Saganash Jr. Local Coordinator
	Jacynthe Barrette Carolann Tremblay	Georgette Blacksmith
Oujé-Bougoumou	Valérie Guindon Local Coordinator	Tommy Rabbitskin Local Coordinator
	Carolann Tremblay	Arthur Bosum
Mistissini	Valérie Guindon Local Coordinator	Blazo Voyageur Local Coordinator
	Carolann Tremblay	Dion Michel
Nemaska	Sébastien Crosnier Pichette Local Coordinator	Matthew Tanoush Local Coordinator Pose Wanashee
Forestry Coordinators	Simon St-Georges	Rose Wapachee Christopher Beck



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