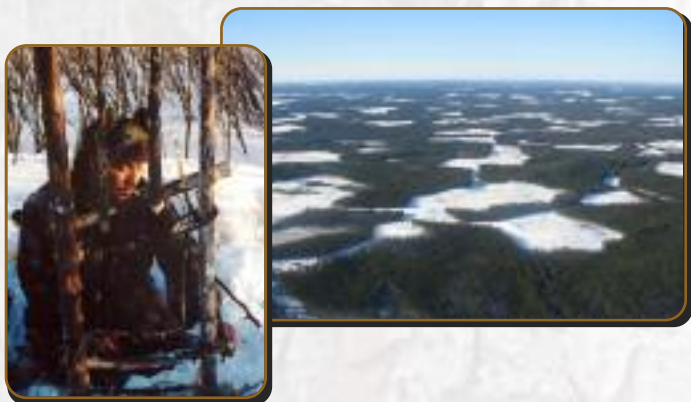


Agreement Concerning a New Relationship Between the Gouvernement du Québec and the Crees of Québec

Status Report on the Implementation of Forestry-Related Provisions

2002-2008

Summary Document



Conseil Cris-Québec sur la foresterie
Cree-Québec Forestry Board

The Peace of the Braves

On February 7, 2002, the Gouvernement du Québec and the Crees signed the “Paix des braves”, a nation-to-nation Agreement which strengthens the political, economic and social relations between them, and which is characterized by cooperation, partnership and mutual respect.

Both the Cree Nation and the Québec Nation agree to place emphasis on the aspects that unite them as well as on their common desire to continue the development of Northern Québec and the self-fulfilment of the Cree Nation. The Cree Nation must continue to benefit from its rich cultural heritage, its language and its traditional way of life in a context of growing modernization”.

The Adapted Forestry Regime

The Agreement Concerning a New Relationship Between the Gouvernement du Québec and the Crees of Québec (ANRQC) contains a whole chapter on forestry, whose provisions are designed to implement an adapted forestry regime.

This regime defines specific rules and procedures, applicable to the Territory governed by the Agreement, to better reflect the Cree traditional way of life, increasingly incorporate sustainable development concerns and ensure that the Cree can participate in forest management planning and development activities.

A Mandate of the Cree-Québec Forestry Board

The ANRQC created two implementation mechanisms: the Cree-Québec Forestry Board (CQFB), designed to permit close consultation of the Crees at various stages of forest planning and management activities in order to implement the adapted forestry regime, and Joint Working Groups (JWG) for the different Cree communities to incorporate and implement the Agreement's specific modalities.

To fulfil its mandate, the CQFB monitors, reports on and assesses the implementation of Chapter 3 of *The Agreement Concerning a New Relationship Between the Gouvernement du Québec and the Crees of Québec*. In keeping with its mandate, the Board produced the status report of the first six years of the implementation of the Agreement's forestry-related provisions from its signing on February 7, 2002, to March 31, 2008.



Methodology of the Status Report

The approach Board members adopted to produce the assessment is based on a two-tiered analysis:

- on one hand, initiating workshops with the representatives of the Gouvernement du Québec and of the Crees to proceed to the detailed analysis of the implementation of each of the forestry-related provisions of the Agreement;
- on the other hand, conducting a tour of the frontline stakeholders engaged in the implementation of Chapter 3 of the Agreement (Cree tallymen, forestry company representatives as well as JWG members and coordinators) to seek out their views and identify potential avenues for improvement.



Analysis of the Implementation

The results of the detailed analysis show that the large majority of forestry-related provisions have been implemented. Modalities of the adapted forestry regime have been gradually integrated into annual planning in the framework of the transitory measures provided for in the Agreement. The tallymen of the five Cree communities of the Territory were especially called upon to map sites of special interest and participate in implementing the elaboration, consultation and monitoring processes of the forest management plans set out in the Agreement. Representatives appointed by the Cree party and the Gouvernement du Québec learnt to share different views and outlooks by sitting on the CQFB and on the JWG.

Even if the detailed analysis shows commitments requiring further development, it is nevertheless important to note that, throughout the first six years of implementation, the parties have shown flexibility and initiative. They have worked to implement a new forestry regime and make it operational by adapting its modalities when necessary, in keeping with the spirit of the Agreement.

The Stakeholders' Opinion

The tour of the stakeholders constitutes the second dimension of the assessment. Generally speaking, stakeholders were mostly satisfied with all the efforts made and noted the parties' goodwill. They perceived this common will as a positive aspect making it possible to gradually build a relationship of trust and, ultimately, a viable partnership. However, stakeholders voiced a certain amount of lack of understanding and some dissatisfaction in response to more specific issues regarding some of the adapted forestry regime modalities, which they hope will improve.

For example, many tallymen appreciate their increased involvement in the forest planning process but said they do not observe differences yet in the way operations are carried out in the Territory. JWG members consider they have a positive contribution in the implementation of the Agreement but some deplore their lack of training, of resources and of support. Finally, forestry company representatives emphasize the advantage of operating in a clear regime but deplore the very rigid normative framework, which makes planning more complex and leaves little room for initiatives aiming at harmonizing silvicultural practices.

Among the main findings of the assessment

- Implementation of a large majority of forestry-related provisions
- Increased contribution of the Crees, especially the tallymen, to the different forest planning processes
- Significant efforts to take into consideration the Cree land use and way of life during forest planning
- Development of field expertise for the integration of different stakeholders' needs
- Significant amount of time dedicated to the development of a common understanding of the Agreement and to build a relationship among the "new partners"
- Creation of active forums for discussion
- Continuous collaborative learning experience

“ All in all, it seems that stakeholders in no way question the Agreement as a whole. However, they hope for improvement in its ongoing application. Criticism also points to the fact that stakeholders want to be part of the solution, which certainly bodes well. ”



Priority Issues

In order to guide the parties in future actions pertaining to the implementation of the adapted forestry regime, integration of the findings of the detailed analysis and of the tour enables to draw a list of priority issues to target from an ongoing improvement standpoint.

First and foremost, the assessment suggests that JWG accountability should be clarified and that JWG members need more training, supervision, support, resources and funding in order to fulfill their important mandate.

Then, the assessment highlights how important it is to provide stakeholders with clear and timely direction and input in order to optimize forest management plan development, consultation and approval.

It is also of the utmost importance to ensure that tallymen are better informed on the mechanisms of the Agreement and on the role they are called upon to play in the implementation of the adapted forestry regime.

The assessment also indicates the need to contemplate adding impetus to the initiatives related to the monitoring of the modalities and objectives of the Agreement.

Finally, the report conveys the wish of several stakeholders for improved sharing of the information and databases required to implement the adapted forestry regime.

Photos: WCMF and CQFB

Summary of the Recommendations

Regarding the priority issues, the Board submits the following general recommendations:

- Mandate a joint task force to assess the different aspects of JWG governance and, if the parties agree, propose adjustments in this regard
- Ensure that the Agreement development, consultation and approval process for forest management plans is clearly interpreted, better timed and consistently implemented
- Strengthen tallymen's contribution to the forest management planning process
- Strengthen JWG members' intervention capability so they can contribute, within their mandate, to the monitoring of the modalities of the adapted forestry regime
- Jointly establish the monitoring systems required to measure attainment of the objectives of Chapter 3 of the Agreement
- Ensure that Agreement stakeholders have permanent access to a common, updated data bank
- Set up a parties' task force mandated to follow up on the priority issues and recommendations as soon as possible

The complete report "Status Report on the Implementation of Forestry-Related Provisions 2002-2008" is available on the Board's web site.



Conseil Cris-Québec sur la foresterie
Cree-Québec Forestry Board

2875, Laurier boulevard, Édifice Le Delta
11th Floor, Suite 1180
Québec (Québec) G1V 2M2

Waswanipi (Québec) J0Y 3C0

www.cqfb-cqfb.ca Tel.: 418-528-0002 Fax: 418-528-0005