

**COURTESY TRANSLATION**

Québec City, December 14, 2007

Mr. Claude Béchar, d,  
Minister  
Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune  
5700, 4<sup>e</sup> Avenue Ouest, A 308  
Québec (Québec) G1H 6R1

**Subject: Proposed amendments to the Forest Act (Bill 39)**

On November 8, 2007, by the hand of Mrs Paule Têtu, Associate Deputy Minister of Forêt Québec, you asked for comments from the Cree-Québec Forestry Board concerning the proposed modifications to the Forest Act and other legislative provisions.

The Board members met last Thursday, December 13, and the representatives of the Cree party and of the government were not able to agree on a text informing you about the proposed modification to the Forest Act. We thus agreed that I would inform you about the situation and on what the parties disagree in their discussions, mainly the element concerning the amendment regarding increased flexibility in the annual planning and the permits attached to it.

For that purpose, the views of the parties are divergent. The aimed objective of this amendment is seen as acceptable by the parties as long as it has no impact on the provisions of the *Agreement concerning the new relationship between le gouvernement du Québec and the Crees of Québec*. On this aspect, all Board members are unanimous. There where the opinions are divergent, is on the fact that no application modality is drawn up and available, it is difficult to verify if this amendment could have undesirable effects on the *Agreement*. Although the governmental party upload that the *Agreement* will be respected, the Cree party considers unacceptable to ratify such amendment before the parties agree on the framework of the application on the territory of the *Agreement*.

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In this context, Mr the Minister, I consider the position of the Cree party legitimate and I recommend you that both parties should collaborate to define, as soon as possible, the application's modalities of this amendment before its implementation on the Agreements territory. I can assure you the Board's and Secretariat's complete collaboration to realize this objective.

By ending, considering the importance of the present consultation and the information available, we want to repeat that the delay which was imposed on us to analyze the modifications of the Forest Act and to inform you is too short. Be assured that we diligently address the request of comments and advice that we receive from you. Nevertheless, we would like to dispose a reasonable delay to do so in conformity to our mandate.

Yours truly,

Jean-Pierre Gauthier  
Chairman of the Board