



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

Sainte-Foy, June 16, 2005

Dr Ted Moses, Grand Chief  
Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)  
2, Lakeshore Road  
Nemaska,  
James Bay (Quebec) J0Y 3B0

Subject: Forest fires on the territory of the Paix des Braves Agreement

Dr Moses,

The Cree-Quebec Forestry Board held its last meeting last June 14-15 in Waskaganish during which the members discussed the situation concerning the recent forest fires on the territory of the *Agreement concerning a new relationship between le gouvernement du Québec and the Crees of Québec*. The members reached consensus on the emergency of asking the Québec government and the Grand Council of the Crees to take the necessary decisions in order to implement as soon as possible an acceptable process to manage this emergency situation.

As you know, following the 2002 fires and the need to include in the Agreement the necessary modalities for managing the consequences of natural disasters, the parties have agreed to set up a Working Group on natural disasters and salvage and restoration operations as contemplated in Schedule C-6 of the *Agreement amending the Agreement concerning a new relationship between le gouvernement du Québec and the Crees of Québec*.

Last May 31<sup>st</sup>, the Working Group submitted to the Standing Liaison Committee a report presenting the modalities of a process for managing these emergency situations on the territory in the spirit of the Agreement.

Considering that the Minister of Ressources Naturelles et de la Faune has the responsibility to manage this emergency situation and the measures to be taken, the members of the Cree-Quebec Forestry Board are of the opinion that he should immediately inform all the stakeholders involved on the territory of the Agreement on the following points applying to the consultation process:

- that the stakeholders and the general public be informed that the Paix des Braves applies to the territory and that the salvage plans will be developed with due respect for the spirit of this agreement;

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- that a review and salvage plan development process be put in place based on the May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2005 report of the Working Group on natural disasters and salvage and restoration operations;
- that a specific timeframe of the modalities of the process be released;
- that the stakeholders be quickly made aware of their role in the process and the intervention modalities; and
- that the Minister agree to inform the stakeholders of his decisions at the end of the process.

We recommend Dr Moses that you ensure that both parties' negotiators undertake as soon as possible negotiations that will allow to implement the process governing all the stakeholders who will be taking part in the various emergency plans.

The Board members and I are at your disposal for any additional information and rest assured that we collaborate to the management of this emergency situation.

Please accept, Dr Moses, our kindest regards.

*Original signed by*

Jean-Pierre Gauthier  
Chairman of the Board