

COURTESY TRANSLATION

Québec City, March 30, 2015

Mr. Laurent Lessard
Ministre des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs
5700, 4^e Avenue Ouest, A-301
Québec, QC G1H 6R1

Dear Minister,

On February 4, you invited the CQFB to participate in a public consultation on the draft sustainable forest development regulation (SFDR). On February 20, I responded to your invitation by stating that our comments would be sent following our next Board meeting. This meeting was held in Nemaska on March 11 and 12, 2015.

During our meeting, a representative from your ministry presented the main amendments to the draft regulation as well as new items of specific interest with regards to the Peace of the Braves' Adapted Forestry Regime. In turn, Cree representatives outlined the main items of the Cree Nation Government's position on this draft regulation, which was sent to your Associate Deputy Minister for Forestry on February 12, 2015.

Although certain provisions of the draft regulation present implementation challenges in the context of the Peace of the Braves' Adapted Forestry Regime, in general, the Board recognizes that the proposed changes to the regulation that oversees forestry activities in Quebec represent an evolution.

The consultation on the draft SFDR is held at a time when the Peace of the Braves signatories have still not concluded their discussions on harmonization of forest regimes applicable in the territory of the Agreement. The Board recognizes its mandate to comment on the draft regulations to be applied in the territory. However, considering the political context surrounding the negotiations of the harmonization agreement and the position expressed by

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the Crees, the Board thought it best to refrain from further comment on the draft SFDR presented by your ministry.

Nevertheless, the Board recognizes that the Peace of the Braves' Adapted forestry regime must be respected on the Territory and understands that the various regulations, policies, or programs put forward by your ministry will move in that direction. Finally, it wishes to encourage the parties to make every possible effort to quickly conclude the harmonization agreement.

In closing, Minister, we are available to discuss the content of this position at your convenience.

Sincerely,

[Original signed]

Gilbert Paillé
Chairman

c. c. Matthew Coon Come, Grand Chief, Grand Council of the Crees