

COURTESY TRANSLATION

Quebec City, April 22nd, 2004

Mr. Sam Hamad and Mr. Pierre Corbeil
600-0118 Cabinet du ministre délégué à la Forêt, à la Faune et des parcs
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Mr. Ministers,

As you had requested of the Cree-Quebec Forestry Board, it is our pleasure to offer our opinion concerning the Proposed Forest Protection and Development Objectives under the *Agreement Concerning a new Relationship Between the Government of Quebec and the Cree Nation*, which you intend to forward to members of the forest industry in order that they complete their general management plans.

Lets us first point out that the joint working groups (JWG) worked very well together in preparing their recommendations in the respect of the positions of all concerned. The Board members appreciated the positive working climate that prevailed during the analysis of the proposed objectives that were sent to you. This experience portends well for any future questions that the joint working groups may handle.

The Board closely followed the development of the comments made by the joint working groups (JWG) and during its January meeting, members had the occasion to comment on the presentation which was made to them. We also revised the final proposal that the JWG forwarded to you on April 8th, 2004. Board members were unanimous in their approval of the recommendations that were made subject to the use in the French version, on page 4 and under the heading "Objectifs spécifiques aux Cris", the word "assurer" in place of "garantir" for objectives 2 and 3. This terminology is more in keeping with the use of the word "ensure" in the English version. We therefore recommend to you that you forward to forest industry members the seven objectives proposed by the Ministère des Ressources Naturelles de la Faune et des Parcs, as well as the four objectives which deal specifically with the concerns of the Cree as described in the document "*Consultation on the Forest Protection and Development Objectives a joint project of the Waswanipi Cree Model Forest (WCMF) and the Cree Regional Authority (CRA)*"

The members of the Board wish to assure you of their entire cooperation in translating these objectives into concrete results for the environment and for all members of the forest industry. We believe that these objectives will contribute to the sustainable forestry development.

Rest assured, Mr. Ministers, of the full cooperation of all members of the Cree-Quebec Forestry Board.

Board Chairman

Jean-Pierre Gauthier

Attach.

**Proposed Forest
Protection
and Development
Objectives
for the 2006-2011
General Forest
Management Plans**

**Comments by Joint
Forestry Working Groups
Established Under the
Québec-Cree New
Relationship Agreement**

February 2004

Background

The Québec-Cree New Relationship Agreement (QCNRA) signed in February 2002 specifies as follows:

“In taking steps to clarify forest protection and development objectives, the minister of natural resources shall receive proposals emanating from the working groups concerned. The minister shall consult the Cree-Québec Forestry Board concerning the objectives to be pursued and shall then forward to the agreement holders those elements to be taken into account in the preparation of forestry management plans.” (Section 2, Part IV [C-4], QCNRA)

First of all, members of the Cree-Québec joint working groups (JWG) see this exercise as particular in that objectives were determined at the same time as QCNRA negotiation and implementation. Consequently, the level of participation in the joint working groups was not as high as expected and did not reflect the spirit of the Paix des Braves.

This being the case, JWG members believe that as regards forest protection and development objectives of 2011–2016 general plans, the joint working groups shall contribute directly to developing the consultation paper before it is distributed to the public, as was the case with the regional discussion groups in 2001 and 2002.

Process

On July 10, 2003, a meeting was held in Chibougamau at the invitation of MNRWP in order to present the process under way for determining forest protection and development objectives to joint working group members.

Working separately, the Crees developed comments on the seven (7) objectives put forward by MNRWP in its consultation paper and identified four (4) specific objectives.

This exercise was first conducted locally in Waswanipi and then extended to all Cree communities concerned.

The outcome of this work was a 10 page document entitled

“Consultation on Forest Protection and Development Objectives
A Joint Project of the Waswanipi Cree Model Forest (WCMF)
and the Cree Regional Authority (CRA)
Coordination by Martin Pelletier and Robert Beaulieu
January 2004
Proposed Set of Cree Forest Protection and Development Objectives”

It was presented to the Cree-Québec Forestry Board for information on January 21, 2004.

JWG Position

Objectives put forward by MNRWP

As indicated above, comments were developed on the seven (7) objectives put forward by MNRWP.

Overall, joint working group members recognize the potential of the proposed objectives to “better integrate sustainable development concerns.”

They also see the proposed objectives as a good example of a tool arising from the Québec forest regime and compatible with QCNRA forestry policies.

Specific comments explaining the Cree perspective on each objective may be useful to analysts in developing the final objectives to be sent to agreement holders.

Objectives specific to the Crees

The following four (4) specific objectives were developed in addition to those put forward by MNRWP:

1. Establish opportunities for long term economic benefits from forest management jointly with the Cree
2. Ensure sustained yield/potential for Cree land use
3. Ensure sustained yield for suitable wildlife habitats based on species important/guaranteed to the Cree
4. Continue to improve Cree participation in forest management

These four (4) objectives reflect the spirit and in some respects the very wording of the QCNRA. Consequently, JWG members believe that these objectives should be included in the guidelines that MNRWP will give agreement holders for preparing their general plans.

The signatories' desire to “work together” and the need to involve private partners in QCNRA implementation have been key factors in the determination of these specific objectives.

Balancing the increased responsibility of the Cree nation with its economic development from forestry, together with greater consideration of the Cree lifestyle, is also another key factor.

Development strategy and practical measures

Subsequently, agreement holders must work with JWG members to identify in the strategies of the next general forest management plans (GFMP) the specific actions and measures necessary to achieve the protection and development objectives for the Chapter 3 Territory of the Paix des Braves.

Conclusion

JWG members are submitting these general comments as an ongoing contribution to the exercise, given the implementation stage for the forestry mechanisms specified in the QCNRA.

The complete document (WCMF and CRA) mentioned above is appended to allow the most thorough and discerning analysis possible by those who will be responsible for collecting the comments received during consultations.