

TRANSLATION

Québec City, May 14, 2014

Mr. Laurent Lessard
Minister
Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs
5700, 4^e Avenue Ouest
Québec, QC G1H 6R1

Subject: Request to analyze the 2014-2018 integrated forest management plan – tactical (IFMP-T) for forest management unit (MU) 084-62

Dear Mr. Minister,

Let me begin by congratulating you on your appointment as minister of Forests, Wildlife and Parks and wish you success in setting up your new department.

On February 19, the Cree-Québec Forestry Board received a request to analyze the 2014-2018 integrated forest management plan – tactical (IFMP-T) for forest management unit (MU) 084-62.

This IFMP-T was tabled under Chapter 3 of the *Agreement concerning a new relation between the Gouvernement du Québec and the Crees of Québec*, and more specifically in the context of an interim agreement (Schedule C-4) entered into by the Crees and Québec on July 12, 2013 to allow 2014-2015 forest activity planning with certain adaptations. Schedule C-4 describes the steps involved in preparing IFMP-Ts within the context of the Agreement on Governance in the Eeyou Istchee James Bay territory between the Crees of Eeyou Istchee and the Gouvernement du Québec and provides for transitional measures until the various governance and collaborative mechanisms are actually operational.

With regard to the present request for analysis, the Board takes into consideration that the tabling of the IFMP-T for MU 084-62 falls into a transitional period resulting in a situation where all the mechanisms included in the interim agreement are not fully operational yet. The Board points out, however, that the plan stipulates that the Paix des Braves' Adapted Forestry Regime applies to MU 084-62 territory and that the content elements are linked to the Sustainable Forest Development Act.

Furthermore, since the Paix des Braves' Adapted Forestry Regime is still not harmonized with the new legislation, the Board is unable to determine its criteria to analyse forest plan within the new context.

Given all of these considerations, resulting notably from the temporary, transitional context in which the plan was prepared and tabled, the Board deems the IFMP-T for MU 084-62 to be in keeping with the spirit and provisions of the rules governing its preparation and approval. At this stage, it is difficult for the Board to issue a more detailed judgment on this plan.

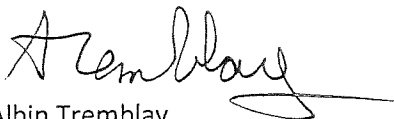
However, the Board would like to point out a very specific situation about MU 084-62. On one hand, the texts of Schedule C-4 (interim agreement) are based primarily on implementation of the mechanisms and processes resulting from the new Agreement on Governance in the Eeyou Istchee James Bay territory. On the other hand, MU 084-62 is located outside the territory governed by this agreement and, as a result, is not affected by the related governance mechanisms.

To enable the Board to fulfil its plan review mandate effectively for this MU once the current transitional period is finished, we suggest that those in charge of the sectorial roundtable develop a solution to the unique situation affecting MU 084-62.

In closing, allow me to remind you that in accordance with Section 3.31 of the Agreement, the minister shall provide information about his position on the Board's comments and advice. Similarly, I take this opportunity to point out that the Board is still awaiting a response to the letters of advice that have been sent concerning governance of the Joint Working Groups (October 15, 2012), follow up to an experts report on woodland caribou on Agreement territory (October 15, 2012) and a conciliation request on trapline W21A (December 17, 2012).

Please be assured, Mr. Minister, of our full cooperation and my willingness to have a discussion at your convenience on these files and the Cree-Québec Forestry Board.

Sincerely,



Albin Tremblay
Board Chairman

C.c. Richard Savard, Head of the sectorial table on forestry
Abel Bosum, Head of the sectorial table on forestry