



Québec, June 19th, 2006

Mr. Matthew Mukash, Grand Chief
Grand Council of the Cree (Eeyou Istchee)
2, Lakeshore Road
Nemaska, James Bay (Québec) JOY 3B0

Subject : JWG Coordinators mandate

Dear Grand Chief,

The Cree-Québec Forestry Board has comprehensively reviewed the operations of the Joint Working Groups (JWG) over the last year, which led to an analysis report containing several recommendations. The Board members ratified the conclusions of this analysis and advice from the Board supporting these recommendations was transmitted in November 2005 to both parties signatories to the Agreement.

In the wake of this exercise, we have set up a Parties Task Force (PTF) made up of representatives designated to follow up on the recommendations that were submitted to you. One in particular concerned the necessity of explicitly describing the coordinators' mandate of each party. As you know, these people's main functions are to coordinate the work and the efficient operations of the JWG in order to ensure an effective application of the Agreement.

I am enclosing the coordinators' mandate as accepted by the parties' representatives and unanimously ratified by the Board members during their meeting of last March 22 and 23. In addition, the Board recommends that the parties ensure that the coordinators' role and mandate be officially recognized and, in this regard, registered as such within the Agreement.

Sincerely yours,

Jean-Pierre Gauthier
Chairman of the Board

encl.

JOINT WORKING GROUPS COORDINATORS' MANDATE

The coordinators are appointed by both parties and their main task is to ensure JWG consistency in implementing the forestry component of the *Agreement concerning a new relationship between le gouvernement du Québec and the Crees of Québec*, and to report back to the parties and the Cree-Québec Forestry Board (CQFB).

ACCOUNTABILITY

The coordinators are accountable for their mandate to the authorities that have respectively appointed them, i.e. the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) (GCC-EI) and the Cree Regional Authority (CRA), and the Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune (MRNF).

DETAILED MANDATE:

JWG SUPERVISION

- Ensure consistency of JWG's operating methods and procedures;
- Ensure consistency of the participation and consultation processes adopted by each JWG;
- Ensure that the coordinators develop jointly an annual work plan and make it available to the parties and the Board at the beginning of each fiscal year;
- Ensure that each JWG develops an annual work plan and makes it available at the beginning of each fiscal year;
- Ensure the monitoring of and compliance with the annual work plan; in case of major changes in the work plan or significant variances with respect to anticipated results, advise the parties and CQFB;
- Ensure liaison between the parties and the JWGs;
- Ensure liaison between the JWGs;
- Ensure the sharing of a common understanding of the Agreement's articles and keep an updated register of the common interpretations;
- Ensure necessary support to JWGs in executing their mandate, as defined in the Agreement;
- Ensure a close follow-up of the problematical operational issues related to the implementation of the Agreement;
- Inform the Board and the respective parties on the amendments or modifications required under the Agreement to ensure the implementation of an adapted forestry regime;
- Ensure the development and updating of a comprehensive land data base for the territory;
- Support and coordinate the implementation of a process for tallymen's participation in the development of the General Forest Management Plans (GFMP), in each community;
- Ensure reporting to the parties on human and financial resources allocated for JWG operations,;
- Each year, report to the parties on JWG operations and advise CQFB;
- Ensure good preparation and follow-up of actions and meetings.

CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

- Support the identification of a resolution process for conflicts between members of a same JWG;
- Support and supervise JWG members in processing conflicting issues.

INFORMATION - COMMUNICATION

- Ensure that the statutory meetings between the JWGs are held;
- Ensure the transfer of knowledge and experience between JWG members;
- Ensure the sharing of information between JWGs;
- Inform JWGs on the progress of the Agreement related dossiers that can impact on their activities;
- Keep JWGs updated on CQFB activities;
- Ensure the dissemination of information to the territory's stakeholders;
- Feed the CQFB's Reference Centre with reference documents and official documents related to the Agreement.

TRAINING

- Ensure the assessment of JWG's training needs and periodically report to the parties and CQFB;
- Ensure the availability of the necessary training tools and activities for fulfilling the mandates.

OBLIGATIONS

The parties agree to appoint without delay a person to replace their coordinator who must be absent from duty for a period exceeding 15 working days. This person shall have the powers and obligations of the coordinators he/she is replacing.

OTHER POINTS TO CONSIDER IN THE APPROACH TO DELIVER THE MANDATE

- *The nature of the position and the specific work conditions are to be determined according to the respective organisational structures of the parties.*
- *The coordinators' mandate should be matched with the minimum level of influence to support advancement of the Agreement with the JWGs.*
- *The nature of the involvement could vary over time to better reflect future needs and emerging issues.*