

TRADUCTION

Québec City, April 23, 2007

Mr. Claude Béchar
Minister
Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune
5700, 4^e avenue ouest
Bureau A-308
Québec (Québec) G1H 6R1

Subject: Mixed Stands Strategy and Timeframe for General Forest Management Plans Submission

Dear Minister:

First, I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate you for your appointment as Minister of Natural Resources and Wildlife and assure you of the full collaboration of the Cree-Quebec Forestry Board members (CQFB) as part of our responsibilities regarding the forest activities agreed upon in the *Agreement concerning a new relationship between le gouvernement du Québec and the Crees of Québec*, also known as "Paix des braves."

At the last Board meeting held April 17 and 18, I was asked by the members to write you a letter to obtain more details on the mixed stands strategy that the Department intends to apply on the territory covered by the Agreement as part of the next General Forest Management Plans (GFMP). As you already know, the Timber Supply Forest Management Agreement (TSFMA) holders must produce and submit their plans by the end of May at the latest and these plans must comply with this strategy. The Board will then have to review these plans and advise you on their compliance and consistency with the Agreement. This is why it is important for us to know more specifically what the strategy will be: the context, the targeted objectives and the means that the TSFMA holders will need to implement in order to comply with strategy.

We also wish to emphasize the particular situation the main actors must deal with in developing the GFMPs, i.e. the TSFMA holders and the Cree tallymen. On one hand, there is very little time left for TSFMA holders to finalize their plans and, on the other hand, the tallymen's contribution is essential to respect the letter and spirit of the Agreement. Now, since time immemorial, the Crees have been practicing goose hunting, which they still do during the first two weeks of May. This hunt is one of the most important traditional activities for them. Consequently, this makes their availability highly problematical during this period. Furthermore, neither the Crees nor the TSFMA holders are responsible for the deadline imposed to them to begin and finalize the GFMPs, so they have to proceed within a very short timeframe that has been postponed a few times. Therefore, we recommend that you extend the deadline for submitting the GFMPs for two weeks in order to ensure that the tallymen will be consulted by the TSFMA holders and thus ensure their full contribution to the planning process.

Please find attached an additional briefing note specifying the issues raised in this letter.

In closing, rest assured of the Board's full collaboration and availability to meet with you at your convenience. The Board members and I wish you good luck in the performance of your new duties.

Yours truly,

Jean- Pierre Gauthier
Chairman of the Board