

COURTESY TRANSLATION

April 7, 2008

Mr. Jean-Pierre Gauthier, Chairman
Cree-Québec Forestry Board
Édifice Le Delta
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Mr. Chairman:

In response to your correspondence addressed to the Minister of Natural Resources and Wildlife, we wish to inform you about our position pertaining to the advice of the Cree-Québec Forestry Board. Your approach and the quality of your analysis transmitted to us will allow us, ultimately, to give an enlightened opinion on the general forest management plans (GFMPs) of the “La Paix des Braves” territory.

Each of these GFMPs, entirely drafted according to the principles of the Agreement on New Relationships between the gouvernement du Québec and the Crees of Québec (ANRQC) represent a social and technical achievement in which the actors involved were put to good use. We take this opportunity to congratulate the Board and its Secretariat for the support it has offered to both the Crees and the MRNF.

We also emphasize that the acceptance of the 15 plans by the Board has greatly satisfied us and proves that this Agreement from Nation to Nation was able to find its place in the strategic planning of the forestry companies.

Although we are greatly enthusiastic by your positive recommendation, we remain sensitive to comments you have conveyed our way and we express our first thoughts:

- 1- Revision of the annual allowable cut calculation of the 15 Forestry Management Units (FMU) of the ANRQC:** Actually, the spreading of data linked to these new calculations has begun. The Ministère will make its decision public in April 2008 as for the levels of annual allowable cut.

- 2- Validation of the respect of the ANRQC on an annual basis:** The MRNF, through its process of approval of annual plans, must inform the Joint Working Groups and the Cree-Québec Forestry Board (CQFB) about the admissibility and conformity given to the plans, but mostly validate the respect of the ANRQC. You may rest assured that you will receive a notice as soon as the annual plans are considered as conform.
- 3- Knowledge of the Forest Resource Protection and Development Objective (FPDO) on the part of Stakeholders:** In order to optimize the synergies in the identification of new areas, we recommend that the Joint Working Groups (Québec and the Crees) plan a working session centred on reviewing the FPDO's implementation guidelines. The results could be brought to the attention of our Environmental and Forest Protection Direction which will follow up on it, if need be.
- 4- Conciliation W-17A:** We received the request for conciliation co-signed by Ms. Solaine Prince, Forest Engineer, and Mr. Allan Saganash jr., and we will follow up on this within a short period, unless otherwise indicated by the parties.
- 5- Absence of a tallyman in certain traplines:** This is a situation well known by the Cree Authorities, notably the Cree Trappers Association (CTA) who is responsible for the official appointment of the tallymen. Even if the MRNF has no responsibility in this regard, it nevertheless wishes that this process be conclusive.

We hope that this information will satisfy the expectations that you and the Crees had towards the MRNF and the GFMPs. Please accept, Mr. Chairman, our best regards.

The Associate Deputy Minister

Gilles Desaulniers, Eng., M.Sc.

GD/SST-G/lg

c.c. Mr. Pierre Grenier, SMAOR