

October 8, 2015

Mr. Gilbert Paillé
Chairman
Mr. Isaac Voyageur
Vice-Chairman
Cree-Québec Forestry Board
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Mr. Chairman,
Mr. Vice-Chairman,

You recently brought certain concerns of the Cree-Québec Forestry Board to my attention, in particular regarding review of the integrated forest management plans affecting Adapted Forestry Regime territory. I am favourable to the comments contained in your August 20, 2015 advice letter. The Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs (MFFP) will take them into account in pursuing the implementation and evolution of the Adapted Forestry Regime of the Paix des Braves Agreement.

The Québec government recognizes that the current situation, in which the Adapted Forestry Regime has found itself in a transitional period for three years now, has generated a number of issues. This is why we are currently working to finalize the negotiations aimed at harmonizing the Adapted Forestry Regime of Chapter 3 of the Paix des Braves with the Sustainable Forest Development Act. The December 1, 2015 deadline for completing this important harmonization work has been written into the recent agreement, signed on July 13, 2015, to settle the Baril-Moses forestry-related dispute between the Cree nation of Eeyou Istchee and the Québec government.

In your advice letter, you also mention issues such as the woodland caribou and riparian buffers. Please rest assured that these files are active and are being processed diligently and that the Cree-Québec Forestry Board's recommendations are taken into consideration in the processes we have undertaken.

Sincerely,

Laurent Lessard

c.c. Matthew Coon Come, Grand Chief, Grand Council of the Crees
Richard Savard, Deputy Minister, Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs
Abel Bosum, Cree-Québec Negotiator, Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)