



***Courtesy translation***

Québec, April 10, 2018

**The Honourable Luc Blanchette**  
**Minister of Forests, Wildlife and Parks**  
**Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs**  
**5700, 4<sup>e</sup> Avenue Ouest, Bureau A-413**  
**Québec (Québec) G1H 6R1**

**Subject: Cree-Québec Forestry Board comments on the 2018-2023 PAFIO for the 15 management units of the Adapted Forestry Regime implementation territory.**

Dear Mr. Minister,

On December 20, 2017, the Cree-Québec Forestry Board (CQFB) received the 2018-2023 operational integrated forest management plans (PAFIO) developed for each management unit located in the territory covered by the *Agreement concerning a New Relationship Between the Gouvernement du Québec and the Crees of Québec's Adapted Forestry Regime* for analysis.

Pursuant to its mandate, the Board analyzed these plans and related documents supplied by the MFFP. Since the 2018-2023 PAFIOs and the associated 2018-2019 annual programs (PRAN) are scheduled to come into force on April 1, 2018, at their last Board meeting (March 21, 2018), the Board members agreed to forward the following comments to you, despite the fact that the majority of the analysis reports for these plans, to be produced by the Joint Working Groups, are not yet available and could not be taken into consideration.

In recent months, the Board has observed that, despite the efforts and collaboration of the main stakeholders concerned, the consultation and finalization processes for this first generation of 5-year PAFIOs (2018-2023) could not be fully implemented in accordance with the processes of the *Agreement*.

The analysis showed that some of the harmonization measures agreed on with the tallymen could not be integrated into the 2018-2023 PAFIOs within the prescribed timeframes and that many specific concerns expressed during the consultations cannot be resolved at the tallyman level or

the level of the *Agreement* implementation mechanisms (Joint Working Groups, coordinators and Board). This situation has hindered the smooth workings of the forest plan consultation and finalization process. The concerns expressed target wildlife habitat directives and mixed stands management, the Mishigamish protected area project, the roads H and I construction projects, subject to the environmental and social

impact assessment and review procedure provided for in Section 22 of the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement and the Woodland Caribou recovery plan.

The Board hereby recommends the following:

1. For the operational plans scheduled to come into force on April 1, 2018:
  - That the Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs (MFFP) ensures that the 2018-2019 authorized programs (PRAN 100%) associated with the 2018-2023 PAFIOs contain only sectors that have undergone consultation and been harmonized with the tallymen.
  - That, all over a trapline, the harvesting sectors identified in the mixed stands be planned in accordance with the discussions with the Cree Nation Government representatives aimed at minimizing harvesting in this type of stand.
2. For future rounds of PAFIO modifications:
  - That the MFFP ensures that the modified 2018-2023 PAFIOs integrate all of the harmonization measures agreed on with the tallymen.
  - That all concerned AFR stakeholders, particularly the MFFP, the Cree Nation Government and the local Cree community representatives, cooperate to plan and implement the consultation processes within the Adapted Forestry Regime so that everyone can play his role fully, as provided for in the Agreement.
3. That, once the parties have finalized the wildlife habitat management directives and mixed stands management strategy agreed on in the *Agreement*, the operational plans be modified accordingly.
4. That the MFFP continues its efforts in collaboration with the Cree Nation Government and the authorities concerned in order to resolve the above-mentioned special concerns as soon as possible.

Implementation of the Adapted Forestry Regime is part of a process of continuous improvement, in which all of the stakeholders involved play a key role. The Board is currently conducting an exercise involving analysis of the operational plan development and finalization processes and the monitoring of the measures to harmonize forestry planning with the interests of Cree land users. The Board is confident that this exercise will identify potential improvements that will allow the work of the stakeholders involved in these crucial forest management steps to be improved and facilitated.

In concluding, we would like to inform you that a copy of this advice has also been forwarded to the Grand Chief of the Crees Mr. Abel Bosum for information and consideration purposes.

Sincerely,



Hervé Deschênes  
Chairman of the Board