

La sous-ministre

[COURTESY TRANSLATION]

Mr. Hervé Deschênes
Chairman
Cree-Québec Forestry Board
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Dear Mr. Deschênes,

At the request of Luc Blanchette, Minister of Forests, Wildlife and Parks, I am writing in response to your letter dated February 26, 2018 concerning the revision of the 2018-2023 tactical plan for integrated forest development (plan d'aménagement forestier intégré tactique, or PAFIT) for management unit 084-62. We agree with the comments made in your letter, and the Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs (MFFP) will take them into account when it finalizes the forest plans and in subsequent amendments to the plans.

You made four main recommendations concerning the implementation of the process used to draw up and finalize the PAFIT. As you point out, management unit 084-62 is not in the same situation as the fourteen other management units in the area covered by the adapted forest regime, in particular as concerns the organization and membership of the local integrated land and resource management panel (TGIRT). Apart from this, however, the processes used to draft and finalize forest management plans apply in an identical way to all fifteen management units covered by the adapted forest regime.

With respect to your recommendations about ongoing work on cooperation and coordination by various MFFP representatives, in particular with respect to consultation and joint action mechanisms with the Crees and the inclusion of their concerns in the PAFIT, please rest assured that you have our support. An effort is made on an everyday basis by employees at the general office for the northwest sector (Direction générale du secteur nord-ouest) based on close cooperation between the two forest management directorates (Abitibi-Témiscamingue and Nord-du-Québec) to coordinate issues of importance for the Crees.

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Some of the work mentioned in your letter, such as the drafting of directives for the management of wildlife habitats and the management strategy for mixed stands, is already under way. Once completed, this work will be included in the PAFITs for the management units covered by the application of the adapted forest regime, including management unit 084-62.

In addition, the areas of increased timber production (aires d'intensification de la production ligneuse, or AIPLs) in management unit 084-62 were covered during the PAFIT consultation process. However, if relevant, we will invite the representatives of the Cree Nation Government to forward their concerns with respect to the AIPLs.

Please rest assured that all of these actions remain active and will be dealt with as soon as possible, and that the recommendations made by the Cree-Québec Forestry Board will be taken into consideration by the MFFP.

Yours sincerely,

Line Drouin, lawyer
Deputy Minister

c. c. Abel Bosum, Grand Chief, Grand Council of the Crees
Pierre Ménard, director general, northwest sector