

June 6, 2018

Mr. Hervé Deschênes
Chairman
Cree-Québec Forestry Board
11e étage, bureau 1180
2875, boulevard Laurier, Édifice Le Delta
Québec (Québec) G1V 2M2

Dear Sir,

At the request of the Minister of Forests, Wildlife and Parks, Mr. Luc Blanchette, we are responding to your letter of April 10, 2018, regarding the analysis of the 2018-2023 operational integrated forest management plans (PAFIO) of the fifteen management units (MU) of the territory of application of the Paix des Braves' Adapted Forestry Regime.

We welcome the comments contained in your letter of advice. The Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs (MFFP) will take them into account in the finalization of its forest planning and in their subsequent modifications.

Rest assured that the consultation process and the resulting harmonization uses are taken into consideration by the MFFP. The authorized annual selection (PRAN 100%) of the territory of application of the Adapted Forestry Regime includes only sectors that have been the subject of consultation and that are harmonized with the Cree tallymen. In addition, all the agreed harmonization measures are incorporated into the 2018-2023 PAFIOs.

Furthermore, the 2018-2019 annual selection (PRAN 200%), which have been the subject of a consultation on this territory with the Cree tallymen, implement the proposals made by the MFFP to the Cree Nation Government with respect to the management of mixed stands, particularly in the sites of special interest to the Crees (25%).

These proposals, discussed between November 2017 and March 2018, are applied pending the finalization of the directives on management of Wildlife Habitat and the Mixed Stand Management Strategy. This work is coordinated by the Nord-du-Québec region in close collaboration with the Cree Nation Government. These files will be integrated to the forest plans of the fifteen MUs located in the territory of application of the Adapted Forestry Regime.

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You also recommend that all the stakeholders involved in the Adapted Forestry regime, including MFFP, implement the mechanisms provided for. It is a priority for the MFFP and it is the reason why many employees of the Direction de la gestion des forêts du Nord-du-Québec collaborate to the important exercise that you are currently conducting, which consists of analyzing the planning and consultation processes described in the Adapted Forestry Regime. We will continue our collaboration on this project in order to implement any possible improvements that may result from it.

With regard to the issues raised in your letter of advice, the MFFP is making numerous efforts to ensure that they are resolved quickly, in compliance with its obligations and responsibilities. First, I would refer to the close cooperation between the MFFP and the Cree Nation Government on wildlife habitat management and mixed stands and, more recently, on woodland caribou with the formation of a small technical committee, the last meeting of which took place on May 23, 2018.

As for the Mishigamish/Broadback protected area projects and the construction of roads H and I, although monitored with interest by the MFFP, these files are the responsibility of the ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques and, in the case of roads H and I, the beneficiaries of supply guarantees.

In summary, rest assured that all these files are active, treated with diligence and that the recommendations of the Cree-Québec Forestry Board are taken into consideration in the steps we take.

Sincerely,

[Original signed]

Line Drouin, lawyer
Deputy Minister

c.c. Mr. Abel Bosum, Grand Chief, Grand Council of the Crees
Mr. Daniel Richard, Associate Deputy Minister, Regional Operations
Mr. Pierre Ménard, Director general, Northwest sector