



Québec, 3 October, 2018

COURTESY TRANSLATION

The Minister
Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs
5700, 4e Avenue Ouest, Bureau A-413
Québec (Québec) G1H 6R1

Subject: Comments of the Cree-Québec Forestry Board on the modified PAFIO 2018-2023 for management unit 084-62 in the Abitibi-Témiscamingue region

Dear Minister,

On 20th July, 2018, the Chief of the Mégiscane management unit forwarded to the Board, for purposes of analysis, the modifications made to the operational integrated forest management plans (PAFIO) 2018-2023 for the management unit (MU) 084-62. In accordance with its mandate, the Board has reviewed the modifications and related documents. It should be noted here that the following recommendation and comments are derived primarily from the analysis of the information provided by the Ministry and verbal exchanges with members of the Waswanipi Joint Working Group, which has not drafted its analysis report.

As part of its review, the Board noted that, in spite of the efforts over recent years to identify and formalize territories of special interest for Cree users of this MU, none of the six traplines in this MU has territories of interest officially recognized by the Ministry. Moreover, the identification of areas of special interest for the Crees is complete for three traplines in the MU. With respect to the other three, as set out and illustrated in Schedule C-1 of the Paix des braves Agreement, which focuses on the AFR territory of application, discussions among the affected Aboriginal entities are still ongoing.

In order to promote the development of forestry plans that allow for the optimal application of specific modalities designed to ensure that the Cree traditional way of life is better taken into account, the Board makes the following recommendation:

That the representatives of the parties concerned continue their efforts to formalize, as soon as possible, the territories of special interest for the Crees (1% and 25%) on all the management unit's traplines in accordance with the context set out in Schedule C-1 of the Paix des braves Adapted Forestry Regime.



It should be noted here that the Board appreciates the efforts made by the Ministry to respect the areas of special interest identified on a provisional basis.

The analysis of the information also allowed two specific issues to be identified. The first observation relates to the designation of Cree representatives for given traplines in this MU, while they make more use of another trapline in the MU. This situation created some difficulties during consultation meetings. The Board intends to follow up with the Cree representatives concerned so that local representatives of the Cree Trappers Association are informed of the situation regarding the designation of Cree representatives.

Secondly, the analysis of this modification revealed, for the first time since the application of the Adapted Forestry Regime provisions, questions related to the implementation of the second pass of mosaic cuttings, particularly regarding the objectives relating to the protection of forests adjacent to watercourses. After fifteen years of applying mosaic cuttings, the harvesting of residual blocks created during this period presents new challenges that will require special attention in various ways. It is with interest and in keeping with its mandate that the Board intends to follow up on this observation.

The Board is aware that the recommendations and comments made above are not the sole responsibility of the Ministry. Hence, we inform you that a copy of this letter will also be sent, for information and consideration, to the Grand Chief of the Cree Nation, Mr Abel Bosum.

In closing, please note that a document presenting the main points raised in the context of the Board's analysis is available on demand.

Yours sincerely,

Hervé Deschênes
Board Chairman