

21 DEC. 2018

The Deputy Minister

TRANSLATION

14 December 2018

Mr. Hervé Deschênes
Chairman
Cree-Québec Forestry Board
Le Delta 1 Building
11th Floor, Room 1180
2875, Boulevard Laurier
Québec (Québec) G1V 2M2

Dear Sir,

At the request of Pierre Dufour, Québec's Minister of Forests, Wildlife and Parks, we are writing to follow up on your letter of October 3, 2018, regarding the analysis of changes to the 2018-2023 integrated operational forest management plan for management unit 084-62.

You recommend that the process to officialize the areas of special interest to the Cree (1 % and 25 %) be continued in the six traplines that make up management unit 084-62. In three of the six traplines (lots 14, 15 and 16), the areas of special interest could be officialized in the short term, with the collaboration of the Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs (MFFP) and the Cree Nation Government. The MFFP's Direction générale du secteur nord-ouest (Northwest Sector Directorate) is prepared to collaborate with the Cree Nation Government in this matter.

With regard to the other three traplines (lots 3, 4 and 18), the MFFP is awaiting the Cree Nation Government's reaction to the letter sent by the Secrétariat des Affaires autochtones on November 15, 2017. The Québec Government suggested that the Crees should start discussions with the Algonquins of Lac Simon for lot 18, and with the Atikamekw of Obedjiwan for lots 3 and 4, in accordance with the context set out in Schedule C – Part 1 (C-1) of the Paix des Braves. The MFFP has not, as yet, received any information on these discussions.

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You also made two observations that the MFFP has noted. Although your first observation concerning the appointment of Cree tallymen in the territory of management 084-62 does not fall within the MFFP's purview, we nevertheless support the approach you propose. It will be beneficial to the smooth operation of the consultation process.

With regard to your second observation concerning the second wave of block cutting in the area covered by the adapted forest regime, the MFFP acknowledges that it is an aspect for which the parties must develop a shared understanding. We will keep you informed of developments.

Please be assured that the recommendations and comments of the Cree-Québec Forestry Board are taken into consideration in our processes.

Yours sincerely,

Line Drouin, Counsel
Deputy Minister

c. c. Abel Bosum, Grand Chief, Grand Council of the Crees