

COURTESY TRANSLATION
(original text in French)

Dear Chairman,

At the request of Ms. Maïté Blanchette Vézina, Minister of Natural Resources and Forests, we are following up on your letter of November 4, 2022, concerning the recommendations of the Cree-Québec Forestry Board regarding the pre-consultations for the 2023-2028 Tactical Integrated Forest Management Plans (PAFIT) of the fifteen management units constituting the territory of application of the Paix des Braves' Adapted Forestry Regime. We welcome the comments provided with your review. The ministère des Ressources naturelles et des Forêts (MRNF) will consider this when finalizing its forest planning.

In your review, you first mention integrating the Adapted Forestry Regime strategic files into the PAFITs, particularly the Wildlife Habitat Management Directives (Directives). The MRNF is working on this matter in close collaboration with the Cree Nation Government. Work to finalize these Directives is currently underway under a work plan reviewed in early 2022 and agreed to by the parties. Representatives from the MRNF are expending considerable energy and will continue to do so to complete this priority matter in accordance with the schedule set for December 31, 2023.

Pending the finalization of the Directives, transitional measures of the Directives could effectively apply to forest planning for the coming year. However, as specified in the Cree section of the PAFITs, the scope of some transitional measures to be applied must first be agreed upon between the parties. The measures currently decided upon could be implemented through the consultation process and the harmonization of forest planning with the Cree tallymen as provided in the Adapted Forestry Regime.

Your letter also includes comments on the consideration of collaborative issues from the regional community. Work continues to combine solutions tailored to concerted issues, including through work on the Directives. The finalization of this matter should, therefore, enable the MRNF to develop and specify adequate solutions for many of the issues expressed by the Cree and Jamesian stakeholders.

Please be assured that the recommendations and comments of the Cree-Québec Forestry Board are taken into consideration in the Ministry's forest planning. The more specific comments to the PAFIT documents made by the Board will be answered through a pre-consultation report prepared by the Direction générale de la gestion des forêts du Nord-Ouest of the MRNF. We will also review with interest any further recommendations you may have for the 2023-2028 PAFITs for the territory of application of the Adapted Forestry Regime.

Sincerely yours,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
Line Drouin