



Québec, December 19, 2018

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

**Subject : Pre-consultation on the modified tactical integrated forest management plans (PAFIT)
2018-2023 for 14 management units (MU) in the Nord-du-Québec region – Comments of
the Cree-Québec Forestry Board**

Dear Minister,

In accordance with the processes defined in the Adapted Forestry Regime (AFR) of the *Paix des braves* (*Agreement*) and in response to the request sent to us by the Ministry, the Board has proceeded with the analysis of the 2018-2023 modified PAFITs for the management units concerned located in the Nord-du Québec region.

In keeping with its mandate, the Board focused mainly on how these plans integrate certain elements of interest related to the implementation of the AFR and on the participation of the regional community.

It should be noted here that in July 2017, the MFFP extended the deadline for the development of the 2018-2023 PAFITs in the *Harmonized Agreement* (amendment #6 of the *Paix des Braves Agreement*) territory in order to provide an additional opportunity for Cree and Jamésien stakeholders to contribute to the integration of values and objectives reflecting local issues into these plans. This extension also aimed to give the signatory parties to the *Agreement* additional time to ensure the integration in these plans of key strategic AFR files, particularly the Wildlife Habitat Development Directives and the Mixed Stand Development Strategy. It was then planned that forest plans would be tabled for pre-consultation, integrating the conclusions reached relating to community concerted objectives and the strategic files of the Adapted Forestry Regime.

The Board's analysis made it possible to highlight the efforts of the MFFP to ensure Cree involvement upstream in the development of forest planning and to align the concerns and issues expressed by them with the objectives and management strategies that already exist at the national and regional levels.

Although the Board is aware of the commitment of the MFFP and the Cree party to complete the development of the strategic tactical files, it is clear that their integration into the PAFITs submitted for pre-consultation has not been completed.

The analysis confirmed that the concerns and concerted objectives of the local community stakeholders were included in the Values and Objectives 'VOs' coming from the regional tables



(TGIRTs). These VO's are presented in the plans; however, for the majority of them, their status is yet to be confirmed and the criteria and indicators that allow their applicability to be measured remain to be clarified. Table 1 of the Cree section of the PAFITs summarizes the approach taken by the MFFP in relation to the issues raised by the Crees, a supplement to this Table is still however required.

With respect to the Wildlife Habitat Development Directives and the Mixed Stand Development Strategy coming from the *Harmonized Agreement*, it is noted in the plans that their development will continue in collaboration with the Cree party and will eventually be integrated into forest planning

As a result, the modified 2018-2023 PAFITs tabled for pre-consultation do not present the means for the Board to determine whether these tactical plans will effectively address the concerted issues presented by the Crees and other regional stakeholders. Similarly, the Board is unable to make an informed judgment on the integration of the AFR Wildlife Habitat Development Directives and Mixed Stand Development Strategy into the plans.

The Board therefore recommends that the MFFP redouble its efforts to complete the work on these major strategic files to be included in the modified 2018-2023 PAFITs and, if needed, reconsider the deadline of August 2019 for the entry into force of modified PAFITs.

Rest assured that the Board will continue to monitor the finalization of these first tactical plans developed as part of the harmonization of the Adapted Forestry Regime. If necessary, we will send new comments or recommendations to you. It should be noted here that a copy of this letter will also be sent for information to the Grand Chief of the Cree Nation, Mr Abel Bosum.

In closing, allow me to congratulate you on your appointment as Minister of Forests, Wildlife and Parks. Please be assured of my full availability to communicate with you, if you so wish, on the subject of the harmonized Adapted Forestry Regime in effect on the Paix des braves territory.

Yours sincerely,

Hervé Deschênes
Board Chairman