



June 9, 2017

Mr. Luc Blanchette
Minister of Forests, Wildlife and Parks

Subject: Interlinkage between forest planning and the woodland caribou recovery strategy

Dear Mr. Blanchette:

Under the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement, the James Bay Advisory Committee on the Environment (JBACE) studies the forest management plans affecting the territory covered by Section 22 before they are to receive ministerial approval. Generally speaking, the JBACE studies plans of a strategic nature, such as the tactical plans for integrated forest management (PAFITs, in French).

In this regard, on February 20, 2017, we sent to your attention the parameters that will guide the JBACE's review of the PAFITs for 2018-2023. The parameters are based on the guiding principles of the environmental and social protection regime under Section 22 and consider the context associated with the adapted forest regime under the Agreement Concerning a New Relationship between Québec and the Crees, as well as the agreement concerning the harmonized forest regime, which is expected to be approved in the very near future.

In addition, your department is currently developing the woodland caribou long-term recovery strategy in accordance with the orientations of the action plan for woodland caribou habitat management, tabled in April 2016. The plan includes measures such as protection of 90% of the intact forest and creation of a large protected area in the Broadback River Valley. As you know, the JBACE has on several occasions expressed its concerns about the cumulative effects of forest roads on woodland caribou habitat.

The JBACE would like to ensure effective interlinkages between forest planning and the woodland caribou recovery strategy. It therefore recommends that the measures in the woodland caribou long-term recovery strategy be integrated into the development of the PAFITs applicable to the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Territory. Such coordinated work would make it possible to avoid situations in which recovery measures are not implemented because they are incompatible with the forest planning approved by your department.

Mr. Luc Blanchette

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Saganash', is placed on a light blue rectangular background.

Melissa Saganash
Chairperson

c.c.: Mr. Matthew Coon Come, Chair, Cree Nation Government and Eeyou Istchee
James Bay Regional Government
Ms. Julie Grignon, Associate Deputy Minister of Wildlife and Parks, MFFP
Mr. Ronald Brizard, Associate Deputy Minister of Forests, MFFP
Mr. Marco Trudel, Director, Forest Management, Nord-du-Québec, MFFP
Mr. Hugo Jacqmain, Director, Relations with First Nations, MFFP
Mr. Hervé Deschênes, Chairman, Cree-Québec Forestry Board