

FOLLOW-UP REPORT
ON COMMENTS MADE DURING THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION HELD
FROM JUNE 22 TO JULY 17, 2015
Modifications to 2015-2016 TIFMP

Direction générale du secteur nord-ouest

Produced on 20 July 2015

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Dissemination

This publication, formatted for two-sided printing, is accessible online at the following address only: <http://www.mffp.gouv.qc.ca/forets/consultation/pafi/nord-du-quebec.jsp>

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Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs
Legal deposit – Bibliothèque nationale du Québec, 2014
ISBN : 978-2-550-73929-6

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1. Background

The Sustainable Forest Development Act (CQLR c A-18.1), which was adopted in March 2010, brings major changes to the roles and responsibilities as regards forest planning. The law, among other things, gives the Minister of Forests, Wildlife and Parks (MFFP) the full responsibility of elaborating integrated forest management plans (PAFI) as well as special management plans (PAS).

This law provides that plans must be submitted to public consultation, and that any modification to these plans and their implementation must also be submitted to public consultation. However, modifications to and implementation of operational integrated forest management plans (PAFI-O) are submitted to consultation if, and only if:

- They concern the addition of a new area of activity or a new infrastructure to the plan.
- They concern substantial changes to the area of activity, an infrastructure or a standard of forest management already indicated in the plan.

PAS and modifications thereto are not subject to public consultation if the Minister considers that there is an urgent need for their application, in particular if such plans are considered necessary to avoid any deterioration or loss of timber (section 61 of the law).

At the same time, the Minister of Forest, Wildlife and Parks conducts separate consultations with the Aboriginal communities on PAFI and PAS, for these consultations must undergo a specific process.

2. Public consultation objectives

Public consultation aims at the following objectives:

- Fostering a much deeper understanding by the population of public forest management practices in Quebec, and more precisely of forest management planning.
- Responding to the population's desire to be informed and listened, and have their interests, values and needs taken into consideration in decisions relating to forest management.
- Giving the people the opportunity to express themselves on proposed forest management plans and, where feasible, incorporating interests, values and needs that have been expressed into the said plans.
- Reconciling the diversified interests of the many forest resources and land users.
- Harmonizing forest management with the population's values and needs.
- Giving the Minister all the tools necessary to take the most enlightened decisions according to the circumstances.

3. Principles guiding the conduct of public consultation

Public consultations on integrated forest management plans are guided by the following principles:

- Transparency and objectivity.
- Receptive environment where the population can express comments.
- Ease of access to information, and quality of the publicity surrounding the consultation activity intended for the population.
- Direct and personalized contact with target groups and individuals in order to clearly understand their interests, values and needs, and give them consideration in the plans.

4. Management units concerned by this public consultation

- 2015-2016 PAFI-O: 087-51 and 087-62

5. Conduct of the consultation process

The round of public consultation regarding the integrated operational forest management plans (IOFMP) 2015-2016 took place from June 22 to July 17, 2015.

Individual letters announcing the public consultation were forwarded to the holders of leases located at 500 meters or less from one or several potential areas of silvicultural operations, and to the representatives of Aboriginal communities concerned by the consultation.

A public notice was published in local and regional newspapers inviting the population to take part in the consultation. A press release was also drafted and released on the news wire. Invitations were also sent to target individuals who had shown interest in being informed of such a consultation as well as to local and regional organizations and associations.

The following lists the written media in which the attached public notice (Appendix 1) was published prior to the consultation.

| |
|---------------------------------|
| Written Media |
| Le Citoyen Abitibi-Est et Ouest |

6. Factual data on the public consultation

Region: Nord-du-Québec

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Consultation period | 22 June to 17 July, 2015 |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Information meetings | |
| Date | 22 June, 2015 |
| Place | Lebel-sur-Quévillon |
| Number of participants | 5 |

| | |
|---|----|
| Number of persons who have consulted the plans at the offices of the Direction générale de secteur nord-ouest: | 16 |
|---|----|

| | | |
|---|---------------------|--------------|
| Number of persons or organizations who voiced comments | | |
| Persons | Organization | Total |
| 0 | 2 | 2 |

7. Main comments received

| Comments | Management unit | Changes requested | Department follow-up |
|--|-----------------|--|--|
| <p>Eyou Istchee James Bay Regional Government (EIJBRG)</p> <p>Asks whether the cut blocks planned for the Lac Madeleine sector will be reforested within a maximum period of one year.</p> | <p>087-51</p> | <p>Asks that these blocks be reforested with large size seedlings.</p> | <p>The harmonization accepted and recorded in our databank is to reforest within two years of the harvest of this intervention sector.</p> <p>We have taken note of your comments and of the plantation follow-up report, and we will plant the best seedlings available to ensure rapid regeneration of this intervention sector.</p> |
| <p>Fédération des pourvoyeurs du Québec</p> <p>Cut sites and roads were added near the edge of the Pourvoirie St-Cyr Royal. On the Cherrier site, near the River Chartrand, the blocks are too big and too close to the lake.</p> <p>On the Cherrier site, south of the River Saint-Cyr, two blocks were added. The federation is asking whether these two blocks are cut blocks, non-commercial work or both. It is also asking whether the outfitter's border will be affected.</p> | <p>087-51</p> | | <p>The size of the blocks was planning in compliance with the ecosystem management requirements. An equivalent residual forested area was also planned in the vicinity of the intervention sectors.</p> <p>These are harvest blocks. The outfitter's border will not be affected by these operations.</p> |

| Comments | Management unit | Changes requested | Department follow-up |
|--|-----------------|--|---|
| <p>Fédération des pourvoyeurs du Québec</p> <p>On the Closse site, cutting and road construction are planning very close to Lake Mégiscane and around the Pourvoirie Pavillon Lac Berthelot cottages. This compromises the vocation of this outfitting operation which is accessible by seaplane.</p> | <p>087-51</p> | <p>Asks for cuts to be far from the shores of the lake and to build winter roads only.</p> | <p>The plan was developed in compliance with the laws and bylaws, in order to minimize the impact on the users and also fulfil the forestry strategies. These sectors were presented during the previous consultations.</p> |
| <p>Fédération des pourvoyeurs du Québec</p> <p>In the Barry site, several larges cuts are very close to cottages and lakes that are important for outfitting operations, including the Lac aux Loutres. This compromises the vocation of this outfitting operation which is accessible by seaplane.</p> <p>Likewise, there are eagles' nests in the blocks planned between the Lac aux Loutres and Lake Christin.</p> | <p>087-51</p> | | <p>We held discussions with a representative of the outfitter during the meetings of the GIRT table. It was agreed that a 100-m buffer strip would be left to respond to these specifics.</p> |

5. 1 Appendix 1 – Public Notice

Avis public

Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs
Consultation publique

MODIFICATION DES PLANS D'AMÉNAGEMENT FORESTIER INTÉGRÉ 2015-2016

Du 22 juin au 17 juillet 2015, le ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs organise une consultation publique sur les modifications des plans d'aménagement forestier intégré opérationnels (PAFIO) 2015-2016 pour le territoire public du Nord-du-Québec.

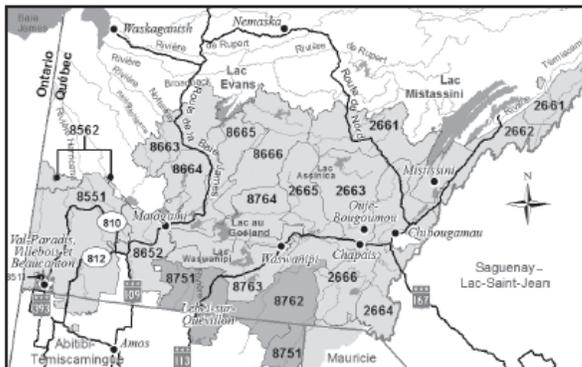
Pendant cette période, la population est invitée à faire part de ses préoccupations à l'égard des activités d'aménagement forestier suivantes :

- coupe commerciale;
- chemins et infrastructures.

Le Ministère invite la population à une rencontre d'information lors de laquelle un représentant présentera les modifications des plans, répondra aux questions et recueillera les commentaires des citoyens. La rencontre d'information aura lieu selon le calendrier ci-dessous.

| CALENDRIER DES RENCONTRES DE CONSULTATION | | |
|---|-----------------------|---|
| UNITÉS D'AMÉNAGEMENT | DATE et HEURE | LIEU |
| 8751, 8762 | 22 juin 2015 dès 19 h | Lebel-sur-Quévillon: salle n° 2 de l'hôtel de ville (500, place Quévillon). |

Vous pouvez également consulter les plans durant toute la durée de la consultation et émettre vos commentaires au mffp.gouv.qc.ca/forets/consultation-amenagement.jsp ou au bureau de l'unité de gestion de Lebel-sur-Quévillon durant les heures d'ouverture.



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IMPORTANT : Pour être informé des prochaines consultations publiques du Ministère pour la région du Nord-du-Québec, faites-en la demande à christine.morin@mffp.gouv.qc.ca, en inscrivant *Demande d'inscription sur la liste de diffusion* dans l'objet de votre courriel.



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