

FOLLOW-UP REPORT
ON COMMENTS MADE DURING THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION HELD
FROM MAY 26 TO JUNE 19, 2014
Amendments to
2013-2018 and 2014-2015 PAFIOs

Direction générale du Nord-du-Québec

Produced on 7 July 2014

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List of acronyms used in this document

BGA:	Holders of timber supply guarantee (<i>Bénéficiaires de garanties d'approvisionnement</i>)
CPRS:	Cutting with protection of regeneration and soils
DGR-10:	Direction générale du Nord-du-Québec
FSC:	Forest Stewardship Council
MFFP:	Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs
PAFI:	Integrated forest management plan (<i>Plan d'aménagement forestier intégré</i>)
RNI:	Regulation respecting standards of forest management for forests in the domain of the State
SFI:	Sustainable Forestry Initiative
TGIRT:	Integrated land and resource management panel
VOIC:	Values, objectives, indicators and targets

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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.
- Serve the public's interest.

4. Management units concerned by this public consultation

- 2013-2018 PAFI-O: 8551 & 8751

- 2014-2015 PAFI-O: 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 8762, 8763 & 8764

5. Conduct of the consultation process

The public consultation on amendments to the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 integrated forest management plans took place from May 26 to June 19, 2014.

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. 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
La Sentinelle
Abitibi Express de Rouyn-Noranda
Abitibi Express de la Vallée-de-l'Or

6. Factual data on the public consultation

Region: Nord-du-Québec

Consultation period	26 May to 19 June, 2014
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Information meetings				
Date	27 May 2014	27 May 2014	28 May 2014	3 June 2014
Place	Taschereau	Chibougamau	Lebel-sur-Quévillon	Beaucanton
Number of participants	7	7	6	7

Number of persons that consulted the plans at the MFFP office in Lebel-sur-Quévillon (Direction générale du Nord-du-Québec)	1
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Number of persons or organizations who voiced comments		
Persons	Organization	Total
9	1	10

7. Main comments received

Comments	Management units concerned	Requested modifications	Follow-up by the MFFP
<p>Citizens</p> <p>In the opinion of six citizens who attended the information evenings, a riparian strip width of 20 metres is insufficient in some sectors.</p> <p>They also pointed out that the trees in some riparian strips have been overturned by windfall or landslides, and have fallen into the watercourses.</p> <p>Some citizens also wondered if the 20-metre strip is sufficient for terrestrial wildlife.</p>	<p>All management units in which it is applicable.</p>	<p>A more adaptive form of management for riparian strips.</p> <p>That DGR-10 should plan more carefully in areas alongside watercourses, especially where there are slopes, clay soils or surface deposits at risk for erosion, landslides or windfall, and depending on the size of logging sites, etc.</p>	<p>The width of riparian strips is currently dictated by the Regulation respecting standards of forest management for forests in the domain of the State (RNI).</p> <p>The 20-metre width was chosen on the basis of several studies showing that this distance provides adequate protection for the aquatic environment.</p> <p>A general broadening of riparian strips would have a significant impact on the allowable cut and the volume of timber that can be harvested each year by the forest companies. Widening of all riparian strips could therefore generate some major socio-economic effects. While the use of wider riparian strips to address specific issues has not been excluded as a potential solution, the MFFP would like regional communities to express their views on this possibility, via the TGIRTs, the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Regional Government or the Cree Nation Government, before proceeding in this direction.</p> <p>Regional consultations on the tactical forest management plans will be an ideal opportunity to address various issues.</p>

Comments	Management units concerned	Requested modifications	Follow-up by the MFFP
<p>Citizen</p> <p>It was suggested that in addition to sending letters to leaseholders situated within the 500-metre radius, DRG-10 should also send letters to all leaseholders with exclusive trapping rights, since they are also concerned by forestry work but do not necessarily have camps.</p>	<p>All management units</p>	<p>Send letters to leaseholders with exclusive trapping rights concerned by commercial and non-commercial silvicultural work, where the work will take place in their traplines.</p>	<p>DGR-10 agrees with this request and will send letters to leaseholders with exclusive trapping rights where the commercial or non-commercial silvicultural work to which a public consultation refers will take place in their traplines.</p>
<p>Citizens</p> <p>Concerns were raised regarding reforestation, and more specifically regarding the ratio of jack pine, black spruce and white spruce trees planted.</p> <p>Users felt there are too many jack pine trees, and that less of this species should be planted.</p>	<p>8751, 8762, 8763 and 8764</p>	<p>Plant fewer jack pine trees during reforestation.</p> <p>Monitor the ratio of jack pine, black spruce and white spruce trees planted.</p>	<p>The last order for plants from DGR-10 for the Quévillon management unit took this request into account.</p> <p>Currently, the ratio of plants ordered is roughly 79% black spruce, 18% jack pine and 3% white spruce.</p> <p>In the last five years, the average ratio has been 71.5% black spruce, 28% jack pine and 0.5% white spruce.</p>
<p>Citizen</p> <p>A request was made to cease work in the sector of the citizen’s camp for roughly two weeks, during the hunting season.</p> <p>The period in question would start at Thanksgiving and end two weeks later.</p>	<p>8751</p>	<p>Cease work in the sector of the citizen’s camp, located at Lac Cuvillier, for roughly two weeks during the hunting season.</p>	<p>This request will be included in the harmonization measures for the Quévillon management unit.</p>

Comments	Management units concerned	Requested modifications	Follow-up by the MFFP
<p>Citizen</p> <p>Appreciated the willingness of the Ministère des Ressources naturelles to listen to his requests regarding construction of the westernmost road in the sector which, according to the last consultation report, should have been a winter road.</p> <p>However, the citizen felt that the roads still to be built in the sector for the remaining mature harvestable wood could all be winter roads, despite the Ministère’s opinion regarding the distance to be travelled for silvicultural work.</p>	<p>2665</p>	<p>Requested that all remaining roads to be built in the sector should be winter roads.</p>	<p>DGR-10 understands the citizen’s desire for for reduced access to a sector used for hunting.</p> <p>The possibility of building winter roads in this case is an interesting one. As agreed in previous consultations, the westernmost road will be a winter road over a distance of roughly 3 km.</p> <p>However, DGR-10 cannot authorize longer segments in winter, since machinery will have to be moved when the logging sectors are restored to production.</p>
<p>Outfitter</p> <p>The Pétrée, Pericard and Troilus sectors, in particular maintenance of visual quality (opaque riparian strip) and outfitter’s presence.</p>	<p>2661</p>	<p>During operational harmonization, it is important to know when the work will take place (peace and quiet for customers) in the Lac Pétrée and Lac Péricard sectors.</p>	<p>Requests relating to Lac Pétrée and Lac Péricard cannot be granted because the logging sectors were authorized on April 1 last. Work is already underway. These sectors were discussed during the public consultations held last February.</p> <p>The request concerning peace and quiet during SÉPAQ activity periods at Lac Troilus and Lac Frotet relate to operational harmonization and was therefore forwarded to Barrette Chapais Ltd., which is current responsible for work in these sectors. We invite representatives of the SÉPAQ and the forestry company to harmonize their activities and submit the agreed-upon harmonization measures to the Ministère so that they can be included in the harvest agreements.</p>

Comments	Management units concerned	Requested modifications	Follow-up by the MFFP
<p>Lac Pétrée is a strategic lake for fishing in the reserve.</p> <p>Lac Troilus is important for the wildlife sanctuary and the outfitter.</p>	<p>2665</p>	<p>Road construction and logging should not affect aquatic habitat quality.</p> <p>Maintain an opaque riparian strip for cutting blocks adjacent to the lake.</p> <p>Maintain an opaque riparian strip to maintain visual quality and/or adjust the treatment of portions visible from the lake.</p>	<p>Requests relating to Lac Pétrée and Lac Péricard cannot be granted because the logging sectors were authorized on April 1 last. Work is already underway. These sectors were discussed during the public consultations held last February.</p> <p>Harmonization work arising from requests relating to the Lac Troilus and Lac Frotet sectors made at the last public consultation is still in progress, to respond to the concerns expressed by the SÉPAQ.</p> <p>Prescriptions are still being prepared to limit the visual impacts of logging on the lakes in question. Partial cuts and block cutting with protection of regeneration and soils are being targeted in order to respond to this need, with due regard for the current management strategy.</p> <p>At the present time, lack of access to certain cutting blocks has prevented the prescriptions from being completed. It is to be expected, in some cases, that access roads will be built or repaired (including the Troilus bridge) to finalize the prescriptions. As already agreed, the prescriptions, once completed, will be sent to the SÉPAQ.</p>

5. 1 Appendix 1 – Public Notice

Avis public

Consultation publique

Modifications des plans d'aménagement forestier intégré 2013-2018 et 2014-2015

Le ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs (MFFP) organise une consultation publique sur les modifications de plans d'aménagement forestier intégré opérationnels (PAFIO).

La consultation se tiendra du 26 mai au 19 juin 2014.

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

- préparation de terrain;
- reboisement;
- éclaircie précommerciale, nettoyage et dégagement des peuplements;
- coupe commerciale;
- chemins et infrastructures.

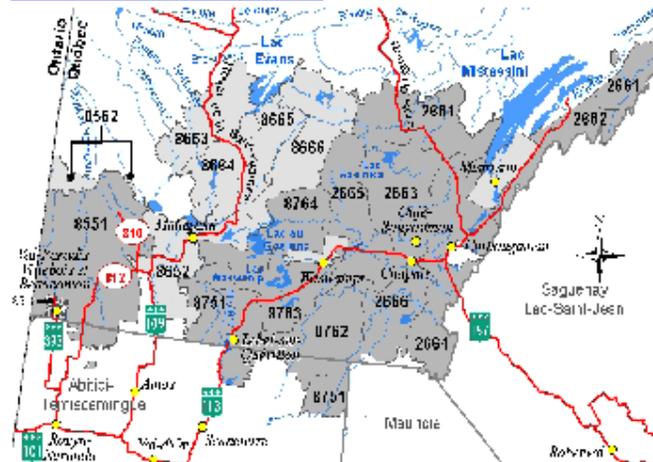
Au début du processus de consultation, le Ministère tiendra des séances d'information lors desquelles un représentant présentera les PAFIO et répondra aux questions.

CALENDRIER DES RENCONTRES DE CONSULTATION

UNITÉS D'AMÉNAGEMENT	DATE et HEURE	LIEU
8551*	3 juin 2014 dès 19 h	Beaucanton : Salle de conférence, 2 ^e étage de l'édifice municipal (2709, boulevard du Curé-McDuff).
8551*	27 mai 2014 dès 19 h	Taschereau : Salle du conseil de la municipalité de Taschereau (52, rue Morin).
2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666	27 mai 2014 dès 19 h	Chibougamau : Salle de l'Hôtel de ville (650, 3 ^e Rue).
8751*, 8762, 8763 et 8764	28 mai 2014 dès 19 h	Lebel-sur-Quévillon : Bar la prolongation, salle 11 de l'Hôtel de ville (500, place Quévillon).

* Ces unités d'aménagement (UA) sont touchées par les plans d'aménagement forestier intégré 2013-2018 et les autres unités sont touchées par les plans d'aménagement forestier intégré 2014-2015.

Vous pouvez consulter les PAFIO durant toute la durée de la consultation et émettre vos commentaires au www.mm.gouv.qc.ca/nord-du-quebec ou dans les bureaux du Ministère 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 chantal.plante@mm.gouv.qc.ca, en inscrivant *Demande d'inscription sur la liste de diffusion* dans l'objet de votre courriel.



*Forêts, Faune
et Parcs*

Québec 