



PUBLIC CONSULTATION FOLLOW- UP REPORT PAFIO 2016-2017 AND MODIFICATIONS PAFIO 2013-2018

Direction générale du secteur nord-ouest
February 19th, 2016

Québec 

PUBLIC CONSULTATION FOLLOW-UP REPORT
PAFIO 2016-2017 and modifications PAFIO 2013-2018

Produced February 19th, 2016

Development

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Distribution

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1. Context

The Sustainable Forest Development Act (LADTF) (L.R.Q., c. A-18.1) that has been in force since April 1st, 2013, gives the ministre des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs (MFFP) the responsibility of developing operational and tactical integrated forest management plans (PAFIO and PAFIT) and special management plans (PAS). It also requires that these plans, including development based on the principle of ecosystem management, be subject to a public consultation.

2. Objectives of the Public Consultation

Public consultation on the PAFIO was held from January 25th to February 19th, 2016. The public was invited during this period to comment on the management unit plan managed by the Directorate General of the Northwest sector, Units 026-61, 026-62, 026-63, 026-64, 026-65, 026-66, 085-51, 086-52, 086-63, 086-64, 086-65, 086-66, 087-51, 087-62, 087-63 and 087-64.

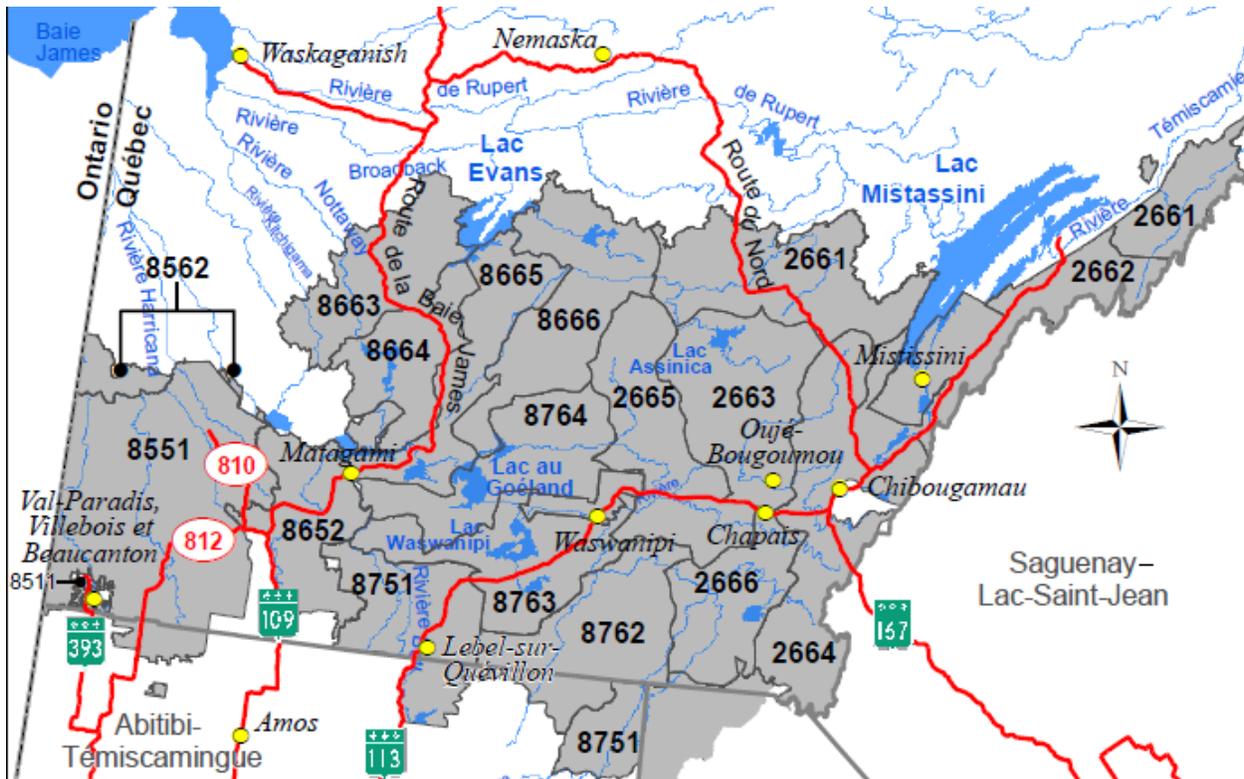
The plan that was submitted for public consultation revealed the operational planning of the region's forestry resource development. More specifically, the plan includes changed or added potential intervention sectors and the potential location of roads and other infrastructures to be built or to be improved.

Public consultation on forest management plans aims to:

- Promote a better understanding on the part of the public of the management of Quebec's public forests, and more specifically, forest management planning; allow the public to comment on the proposed forest management plans and where possible, to incorporate the expressed interests, values and needs;
- Respond to the public's desire to be informed and heard and to see its interests, values and needs taken into account in forest management decisions;
- Reconcile the divergent interests of the many forest land and resource users;
- Harmonize forest management with the public's values and needs;
- Enable the Ministry to make the best decisions possible under the circumstances.

3. Management Units Included in the Public Consultation

The Directorate General of the Northwest sector is responsible for the forest planning of management units illustrated below.



4. Consultation Process and Main Comments Received

Public consultation on changes to the 2016-2017 integrated forest management plans (PAFIO) and changes 2013-2018 (PAFIO) was held from January 25th to February 19th, 2016

Personalized letters relating to this consultation were sent to leaseholders located 500 meters or less from one or several potential intervention sectors for forestry work, as well as to representatives of indigenous communities involved in the consultation.

A Public Notice was published in some local and regional media to invite the public to participate in the consultation. A press release was also written and sent out on the newswire. Targeted invitations were also sent to certain individuals who expressed an interest in being informed of the consultations, as well as some associations and local and regional organizations.

Here is the list of media in which Public Notice (Appendix 1) was issued before the consultation period:

Media
La Sentinelle
Le Citoyen Abitibi-Est et Ouest

4.1. Number of Organizations and People Who Commented

Comments were made on behalf of various organizations or staff members within the context of the PAFIO public consultation. **Table 1** below indicates the type and number of respondents for the management unit subject to the consultation.

Table 1– Number of Organizations and People Who Commented

Information Meetings				
Date	February 1, 2016	February 8th, 2016	February 9th, 2016	February 10th, 2016
Place	Lebel-sur-Quévillon	Beaucanton	Matagami	Chibougamau
Number of Participants	12	17	10	12
Number of people who have consulted the plans at Directorate General offices in the Northwest sector				39

Number of People or Organizations That Have Made Comments		
Number of Individuals (Staff Members)	Number of Organizations	Total
11	11	22

4.2 Main Comments Received

Given the number of comments received and in order to facilitate follow-up, the MFFP has chosen to reveal the comments received in table form. This facilitates the retrieval of information, while allowing one to see the overall main concerns expressed by those who participated in the public consultation. This also allows for an understanding of some of the MFFP's answers through its comments and to therefore have an overview of the follow-up that will be conducted.

Hence, **Table 2** indicates the comments received and summarizes the analysis conducted by the Ministry.

Table 2 – Main Comments Received

Comments	Management Units	Modification Requests	Follow-up by MFFP
<p>A snowmobilers club expressed concern about a sector where logging operations will be carried out, along forest road L208 to Mistissini, and the fact that these operations would have an impact on the access of snowmobiles to the trails if carried out in the wintertime.</p>	<p>026-62</p>	<p>Requests to modify the plan to prevent snowmobile trails from being used to transport timber between December and April.</p>	<p>Arrangements for a meeting between the holder of the guaranty of timber supplies (HGTS) responsible for carrying out these operations, the snowmobilers club and the Chibougamau MU to agree on desirable terms to issue, to the HGTS, permits for this area.</p>
<p>A cross-country ski club expressed concern regarding partial logging operations.</p>	<p>086-65</p>	<p>Requests to fully restore trail no. 7.</p> <p>Requests to ensure that vehicles enter via the trail no. 5 (<i>La Familiale</i>).</p> <p>Requests to carry out partial felling near trail no. 3.</p>	<p>The planning will be modified to ensure that trail no. 7 is restored.</p> <p>The planning will be modified to ensure that vehicles enter via trail no. 5 rather than the snowshoe trail.</p> <p>MFFP to evaluate the possibility start partial felling in this area in 2018.</p>

Comments	Management Units	Modification Requests	Follow-up by MFFP
<p>A hiking/snowshoeing club expressed concern about the impact that future felling operations in the lac Blondeau area would have on a snowshoe trail.</p>	<p>026-64</p>	<p>Requests to modify the plan in such a way as to keep felling operations along the trail to a minimum, and to make sure that the snowshoe trail is not used to skid timber.</p> <p>Asks if it is possible to widen the road so that people can park their vehicle where they cannot hinder timber operations.</p>	<p>The harvest area will be deleted from the planning to keep the snowshoe trail intact. Steps will be initiated to give this area a particular status.</p> <p>Since the harvest area will be deleted from the planning, there will be no road construction work carried out.</p>
<p>A trapper expressed concern about planned operations, more specifically the types of treatment to be used and the size of the areas covered. The operations cover an area that is too large, which will have an effect on the harvest of marten in his trapline.</p>	<p>087-51 (non-commercial operations)</p>	<p>Requests to make the felling area smaller; the area as planned is too large and will end up have an adverse impact on his trapping activities.</p>	<p>The MU is engaged in discussions with the trapper to find ways of limiting consequences on his trapping activities.</p>

Comments	Management Units	Modification Requests	Follow-up by MFFP
Residents expressed concern about timber transport west of lac Imbeau.	085-51	Asks if the bearing capacity of the bridge can withstand timber transport.	The responsibility of transporting timber belongs to holders of guarantee of timber supplies (HGTS). Before crossing any bridges, they are required to check that they meet standards. The bridge of which the bearing capacity is being questioned here falls under the responsibility of MTQ (Ministère des Transports du Québec).
The manager of an outfitter with exclusive rights is concerned that the close proximity of the proposed operations to his property will have a negative impact on client traffic.	026-61 West	Asks that the operations be carried outside the fishing season (September to late May).	A meeting between the HGTS and the outfitter will be scheduled to clearly understand the problem and to agree on measures to address the concern.
SÉPAQ expressed concern about the types of treatment to be used.	026-61 (East and West), 026-62, 026-63, 026-64, 026-65 & 086-66	Asks that particular attention be paid to certain areas along the roads and the lake regularly used by anglers.	Steps will be initiated to minimize potential impacts of harvesting operations. It was agreed to carry out partial logging where forest composition allows it. Re MU 086-66: harvesting areas are quite a distance from Assinica Park and will not be visible from afar. There is not access to the park via MU 086-66.

Comments	Management Units	Modification Requests	Follow-up by MFFP
<p>SÉPAQ expressed concern about the types of treatment to be used. (Cont'd)</p>	<p>026-61 (East and West), 026-62, 026-63, 026-64, 026-65 & 086-66</p>	<p>Asks to minimize potential impacts of planned work and harvesting operations: (e.g.: apply variable-retention treatments in visible areas; keep the width of new entrances along target roads to a minimum; ensure compliance with the objective to build road corridors.</p>	
<p>A group of people expressed concern about operations to be carried out in the Perron Township (lac Bill area): their location, planned infrastructures, the types of treatment, the period at which the work will be carried, and the surface area covered.</p> <p>The area covered by the felling blocks at the foot of the Abitibi Hills, at the very southeast end of the management unit, is too large.</p>	<p>085-51</p>	<p>Requests to reduce the size of the felling blocks mentioned in the proposed modifications.</p>	<p>All eco-systemic management principles and criteria stemming directly from the Sustainable Forest Management Strategy (SADF) have been respected and applied. The area concerned is located in a managed-type spatial organization compartment (COS) where 70% of the forest land must be at least 7 m high at all times.</p>

Comments	Management Units	Modification Requests	Follow-up by MFFP
<p>A group of people expressed concern about operations to be carried out in the Perron Township (lac Bill area): their location, planned infrastructures, the types of treatment, the period at which the work will be carried, and the surface area covered.</p> <p>The area covered by the felling blocks at the foot of the Abitibi Hills, at the very southeast end of the management unit, is too large. (Cont'd)</p>	<p>085-51</p>	<p>Requests to cease felling and timber transport operations during the bear hunting season (May15 - June 30) and moose hunting season (September 3 – October 16).</p> <p>Asks to be notified a year in advance of any work in his trapline (operations, construction, modification or consultation).</p> <p>Asks to spare an access trail and a portion of the block skirting the southwest block.</p> <p>Asks to widen riparian strips to reduce the number of trees blown down by the wind.</p>	<p>The period at which harvesting and timber transport operations are carried out falls under the responsibility of holders of guarantee of timber supplies (HGTS). There will be a meeting with the HGTS concerned to discuss this matter.</p> <p>The period at which harvesting and timber transport operations are carried out falls under the responsibility of holders of guarantee of timber supplies (HGTS). There will be a meeting with the HGTS concerned to discuss this matter.</p> <p>It is necessary to schedule a meeting with the MFFP to position accurately the block and the trail in question and to satisfy the request.</p> <p>A 20-m strip is maintained along the rivers, as specified in the Regulation respecting standards of forest management for forests in the domain of the State (RNI). The width (20 m) was fixed on the basis of several studies revealing that this distance was effective to protect aquatic environments.</p>

Comments	Management Units	Modification Requests	Follow-up by MFFP
		Requests to protect the Abitibi Hills and watersheds.	It is necessary to schedule a meeting with the MFFP to position the area concerned and to satisfy the request.
A snowmobilers club expressed concern regarding the right-of-way of a former railroad track, between Chapais and Desmaraisville, for which a request was filed to make it a 4-season recreational and tourist connection.	026-65, 026-66 & 087-63 (commercial operations)	Asks to take into account that this right-of-way has for many winters served as Trans-Quebec trail segment connecting the Abitibi region and Chibougamau.	In the wintertime, this right-of-way will be considered (and thus protected) as a snowmobile trail between Chapais and Desmaraisville.
A resident expressed concern about the operations to be carried out in the lac Bill area (Perron Township).	085-51	<p>Asks to meet a MFFP representative.</p> <p>Requests to build only winter roads in the future.</p>	<p>A meeting with MFFP has been scheduled.</p> <p>Roadwork planning falls under the responsibility of holders of guarantee of timber supplies (HGTS) and is an item of discussion on the agenda of the MFFP-HGTS operations committee. A meeting will be scheduled with the holder concerned to discuss this matter.</p>

Comments	Management Units	Modification Requests	Follow-up by MFFP
		Asks to make the riparian strip wider.	A 20-m strip is maintained along the rivers, as specified in the Regulation respecting standards of forest management for forests in the domain of the State (RNI). The width (20 m) was fixed on the basis of several studies revealing that this distance was effective to protect aquatic environments.
A resident expressed concern about the operations to be carried out in the lac Bill area (Perron Township). (Cont'd)	085-51	<p>Asks to protect the access trail and part of the block (southwest) where operations are planned.</p> <p>Asks to protect the Abitibi Hills and watersheds.</p> <p>Requests to reduce the division and size of the felling blocks.</p>	<p>It is necessary to schedule a meeting with the MFFP to position accurately the block and the trail in question and to satisfy the request.</p> <p>It is necessary to schedule a meeting with the MFFP to position the area concerned and to satisfy the request.</p> <p>All eco-systemic management principles and criteria stemming directly from the Sustainable Forest Management Strategy (SADF) have been respected and applied. The area concerned is located in a managed-type spatial organization compartment (COS) where 70% of the forested land must be at least 7 m high at all times.</p>

Comments	Management Units	Modification Requests	Follow-up by MFFP
		<p>Requests to cease felling and timber transport operations during the bear hunting season (May15 - June 30) and moose hunting season (September 3 – Octobe</p> <p>Requests to be notified one year in advance of any work in this area.</p>	<p>The period at which harvesting and timber transport operations are carried out falls under the responsibility of holders of guarantee of timber supplies (HGTS). There will be a meeting with the HGTS concerned to discuss this matter.</p>
<p>A resident expressed concern about the operations to be carried out in the lac Bill area (Perron Township).</p>	<p>085-51</p>	<p>Requests to build only winter roads in the future.</p> <p>Asks to cease all operations during the bear and moose hunting seasons.</p>	<p>Roadwork planning falls under the responsibility of holders of guarantee of timber supplies (HGTS) and is an item of discussion on the agenda of the MFFP-HGTS operations committee.</p> <p>The period at which harvesting and timber transport operations are carried out falls under the responsibility of holders of guarantee of timber supplies (HGTS).</p>

Comments	Management Units	Modification Requests	Follow-up by MFFP
		<p>Asks to leave a strip of trees on the east side of his rough shelter.</p> <p>Asks to protect the Abitibi Hills and designated a biological refuge.</p>	<p>Applicable laws and regulations are respected.</p> <p>This request is not in keeping with the procedures of identifying biological refuges. However a meeting between the applicant and MFFP could be scheduled to provide clear explanations on those procedures.</p>
<p>A resident disagrees with the proposal to close the road running along a former railway track connecting Chapais with Lebel-sur-Quévillon, 5 km before getting to the access trail to his rough shelter.</p>	<p>026-63</p>	<p>Asks that the road be kept open.</p> <p>Requests to be contacted.</p>	<p>Other roads to the resort lease do exist. The resident and the MFFP met to discuss about the request.</p>
<p>A federation of outfitters expressed concern about areas where commercial and non-commercial operations are to be carried out in or near outfitters with exclusive rights or near accommodations/reception office of outfitters with non-exclusive rights.</p>	<p>026-61 West, 085-51, 086-65, 087-51 & 087-64</p>	<p>Requests to indicate on the maps what areas he has been consulted on and have been harmonized.</p> <p>Requests to specify on the map the years during which planned operations are to be carried out.</p>	<p>Discussions are underway with the outfitters and the federation of outfitters in order to harmonize operations carried out within the limits of the outfitters.</p> <p>The maps will be improved to include, as requested, the information on the management units in question.</p>

Comments	Management Units	Modification Requests	Follow-up by MFFP
		<p>Asks that outfitters be notified in advance of the realization of any commercial and non-commercial operations. Asks to harmonize fieldwork dates with the outfitters.</p>	<p>MFFP will propose, to the outfitters, that their email address be communicated to the companies in order to be notified of the period during which commercial and non-commercial operations are to be carried out.</p> <p>MU 086-65: No harmonization work completed by outfitters with non-exclusive rights.</p>
<p>A federation of outfitters expressed concern about areas where commercial and non-commercial operations are to be carried out in or near outfitters with exclusive rights or near accommodations/reception office of outfitters with non-exclusive rights. (Cont'd)</p>	<p>026-61 West, 085-51, 086-65, 087-51 & 087-64</p>	<p>Requests to preserve the visual appearance and tranquility of the clientele when operations are carried near outfitting facilities.</p> <p>Felling and road construction operations are planned within and near the limits of Pourvoirie St-Cyr Royal. The outfitter operator and the MFFP have discussed this matter, but the operations are included in the planning.</p>	<p>Discussions are underway with the outfitters and the federation of outfitters in order to clearly understand the modifications being asked and to harmonize operations carried out within the limits of the outfitters.</p> <p>Discussions are underway with the outfitters.</p>

Comments	Management Units	Modification Requests	Follow-up by MFFP
<p>A federation of outfitters expressed concern about commercial operations to be carried out in the east portion of an outfitter, west and north of lac Alphonse and lac à l'Ours.</p>	<p>087-51</p>	<p>Request not to carry out felling operations in the areas situated within the limits of the MU, for they would result in increasing the number of access roads to the outfitter.</p>	<p>Discussions are underway with the outfitters and the federation of outfitters in order to harmonize operations carried out within the limits of the outfitters.</p>
<p>A federation of outfitters expressed concern about non-commercial operations to be carried out in the area of lac Mégiscane, lac Limpide and lac aux Loutres.</p>	<p>087-51</p>	<p>Request that operations be carried out early (May) in the summer or later (late August – early September).</p> <p>Ask to be notified in advance of commencement of operations.</p> <p>Request to be contacted by a MFFP representative.</p>	<p>MFFP will propose, to the outfitters, that their email address be communicated to the companies in order to be notified of the period during which commercial and non-commercial operations are to be carried out.</p>
<p>A hunting and fishing association expressed concern about operations to be carried out in the Perron and Boivin Townships, north of La Sarre: their location, planned infrastructures, the types of treatment, the period at which</p>	<p>085-51</p>	<p>Requests to avoid carrying out major work and timber transport operations during the bear and moose hunting seasons.</p>	<p>The period at which harvesting and timber transport operations are carried out falls under the responsibility of holders of guarantee of timber supplies (HGTS). There will be a meeting with the HGTS concerned to discuss this matter.</p>

Comments	Management Units	Modification Requests	Follow-up by MFFP
<p>the work will be carried, and the surface area covered.</p>		<p>Asks to be notified of fieldwork dates and nature of work to be carried out in the area concerned.</p> <p>Requests to make riparian strips larger.</p>	<p>The period at which harvesting and timber transport operations are carried out falls under the responsibility of holders of guarantee of timber supplies (HGTS). There will be a meeting with the HGTS concerned to discuss this matter.</p> <p>A 20-m strip is maintained along the rivers, as specified in the Regulation respecting standards of forest management for forests in the domain of the State (RNI). The width (20 m) was fixed on the basis of several studies revealing that this distance was effective to protect aquatic environments.</p>

5. Conclusion

Public consultations on operational integrated forest management plans are organized annually to receive comments and feedback from organizations and individuals during the validity period of the plans.

To examine the operational forest plan, you can contact one of our management units listed below.

Unité de gestion Chibougamau

624, 3^e Rue
Chibougamau (Québec) G8P 1P1
Téléphone : 418 748-2647

Unité de gestion Harricana-Nord

1122, Route 111 Est
Amos (Québec) J9T 1N1
Téléphone : 819 444-5238

Unité de gestion Quévillon

1121, boulevard Industriel, C. P. 159
Lebel-sur-Quévillon (Québec) J0Y 1X0
Téléphone : 819 755-4838

Unité de gestion Mont-Plamondon

645, 1^{re} Rue Est
La Sarre (Québec) J9Z 3P3
Téléphone : 819 339-7623

Annex 1 – Public Notice

Public Notice

The Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs (MFFP) is organizing a public consultation on the 2016-2017 integrated operational forest management plans (PAFIOs) and on the amendments to the 2013-2018 plans.

The consultation will be held from January 25 to February 19, 2016.

During this period, the general public is invited to submit its concerns regarding the following forest management activities:

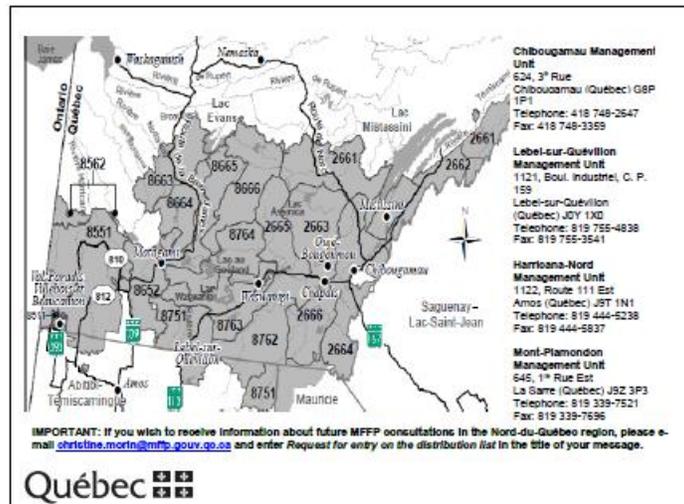
- Land preparation
- Reforestation
- Precommercial thinning, stand cleaning and release
- Commercial logging
- Roads and infrastructures

The MFFP invites the general public to attend one of the information meetings listed below, at which a representative will present the plans, answer questions and gather comments from citizens. The information meetings will take place as follows:

SCHEDULE OF CONSULTATION MEETINGS		
MANAGEMENT UNITS	DATE and TIME	PLACE
8761*, 8762, 8763 and 8764	February 1, 2016, at 5:30 p.m.	Lebel-sur-Quévillon: Room 2, Town Hall (500, Place Quévillon).
8661*	February 8, 2016, at 7:00 p.m.	Beauport: Conference Room, 3 rd floor of the Municipal Building (2709, Boulevard du Curé-McDuff).
8662*, 8663, 8664, 8665, 8666	February 9, 2016, at 7:00 p.m.	Matagami: Xstrata Room, Hôtel-Motel Matagami (99, Boulevard Matagami).
2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666	February 10, 2016, at 7:00 p.m.	Chibougamau: Town Hall room (650, 3 ^e Rue).

* These management units (MUs) are affected by the 2013-2018 plans, and the other units are affected by the 2016-2017 plans.

The plans are available for consultation throughout the consultation period at: <http://www.mfp.gouv.qc.ca/forets/consultation-amenagement.jsp>. You may submit your comments via this website, or at an MFFP office during office hours.



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