

**SUBMISSION TO THE SELECT COMMITTEE**

**ON**

**WOOD SUPPLY  
PROVINCE OF NEW BRUNSWICK**

**BY**

**SOUTHWEST NEW BRUNSWICK STAKEHOLDERS COMMITTEE**

**ON**

**DECEMBER 4, 2003**

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY BUILDING  
FREDERICTON, NB**

**APPEARING BEFORE THE HEARING ON BEHALF OF  
THE SOUTHWEST NEW BRUNSWICK STAKEHOLDERS COMMITTEE:**

**FRANK CARROLL  
DONALD DOHERY  
JOHN KILBRIDE**

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

Thank you for making time available for us this morning to present the views of the people of South Western New Brunswick. I am pleased to be joined by John Kilbride and Don Doherty at this hearing, who will share in the delivery of our submission.

- To continue to manage crown forests in New Brunswick as presently being done is UNACCEPTABLE.
- To even consider harvesting more timber from crown land in New Brunswick is EVEN MORE UNACCEPTABLE.
- The many presentations made to you, a select committee on Wood Supply clearly confirms that we in New Brunswick are facing an imminent crisis on crown lands with respect to wood supply and biodiversity.

It's time for change – change in our public forest, change in vision, change in the crown lands policy and a change in legislation.

Let's cut through the chase and do something that will make a difference.

We have a plan, an all-inclusive conceptual management plan that will make a difference and will bring responsible stewardship to crown lands in New Brunswick.

At this time I want to acknowledge the effort given and the expertise made available by Jason Herron to prepare our Community Forest Management Plan. Jason was a forester, an educator, and a friend whose knowledge and ambition motivated a Community Forest Management Plan - a solid plan, a plan that will work.

Jason possessed unlimited knowledge of the forest resources in New Brunswick. For more than 30 years Jason walked the forests, watched the trees grow and produce employment opportunities most especially on the former Georgia-Pacific lands in Southwestern New Brunswick.

Unfortunately Jason lost a battle to cancer just a few months ago.

The St. Croix Forest Management Plan could be implemented on any crown land although originally developed for Southwestern New Brunswick.

Our Forest Management Plan

- 1. has been developed by New Brunswickers to ensure a future for New Brunswickers.
- 2. will give New Brunswick citizens the opportunity they deserve to work within their community and have decision-making that will conserve habitat, ensure sustainability of employment and protect biodiversity, It's knowledge based and offers a future.
- 3. provides an opportunity to enhance recreational opportunities and will allow for tourism expansion and development.
- 4. will stabilize community-based employment, allow for the creation of new employment opportunities not less, and maintain community values.

In addition to providing stable employment

5. Will improve timber growth and value using site/stand specific harvest prescriptions.
6. Will maintain the overall species of a working forest
7. Will maintain and augment the specific fish and wildlife habitat requirements of the area.

8. most of all our plan will increase the provincial tax base, and greatly enhance your governments' return on its investment.

The St. Croix Community Forest Management Plan is very comprehensive and is a visionary approach. . . .

- adaptable to anywhere in New Brunswick
- supported by the municipalities in Southwestern New Brunswick: St. Andrews, St. Stephen, Canterbury, Meductic, Harvey, McAdam and Woodstock and the :LSD's that encompass the region.
- supported by Industry, Business, Environmental Groups, tourist operators and the like, and supported by thousands of citizens in Southwest New Brunswick.

Within the next few minutes, we want to tell you about a plan that will make a difference and ensure the future of Crown Forests in New Brunswick.

The Province of New Brunswick has a unique opportunity to implement community managed forests in this province. The mandate of these community groups would be to manage a large multi-value forest.

The people of Southwest New Brunswick have a plan in place to do this.

Our proposal is in a ready to go format and we recommend the committee seriously look at the St Croix Community Forest Plan as the model for management of all crown lands in New Brunswick.

This format would benefit the entire population of New Brunswick and meet the needs of all interest groups, including those of large industry.

Co-operation of all stakeholders is paramount if we want a viable long-term forest in New Brunswick. Community managed forests are the key to success in the management of this valuable resource.

Community managed forests are not new, and, if we look across Canada we see these have already been established in other places such as British Columbia.

The National Forest Strategy (1998) produced by the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers emphasized throughout their presentation on sustainable forests that local community involvement was essential in forest management. This position was further reinforced in an up date as recent as January 2003.

The Province of New Brunswick must act now to overhaul the crown lands and forests act with the emphasis on community involvement. This would put words into action and confirm that the Government of New Brunswick is seriously committed to the National Forest initiative.

Specifically this means;

Processes for community –based forest management need to be created. Your committee can be the agent in recommending this change

Rural Canadians living in forested regions have the right to participate in forest management planning and monitoring of forest operations.

Community-based forest management must be based on consensus decision-making and effective meaningful communication.

It is time for the Province of New Brunswick to demonstrate their commitment through actions and implement Community Based Forests as proposed by the St. Croix Forest Management Plan.

Implementation of the St Croix Forest Management Plan or any other community based forest plan for that matter can be accomplished very quickly.

The municipalities in the community at large would establish a local board of directors. This would function much like the Regional Landfill Organizations and it is this group that would run the community forest.

Our plan calls for a 10 member Board of Directors who would be representative of:

- Municipal Government and LSD's

- Logging Interests

- Watershed and environmental interests

- Recreation and tourism interests

- Local business interests

- A representative from a Forestry education program of a university or community college.

The Board of Directors would hire a core management team of qualified professionals and technicians residing in the affected communities. This Board would be charged with the overall administration and management of the forest. The management group would ensure the forests are managed for multi value use and that diversity of species and wildlife are maintained. This is in compliance with the National Forest Strategy.

It would be a tragic stake to adopt any plan that would move our forests in the direction of tree farms for single industries. A board mandated Forest Management Plan would also be responsible to ensure the forest is managed to meet all Provincial, National and International Certification Programs.

This approach balances the needs of all stakeholders. It also allows for development of small business in niche areas such as substandard species use or small selective cutting prescriptions which are not attractive economically to larger forestry companies

It also ensures the people of the community benefit from the economic activity generated by crown lands. There would be less pressure to cave into short-term needs over the long-term goal of responsible forest stewardship.

Our plan would enhance revenues to the Province of New Brunswick by ensuring the people of New Brunswick receive full and fair market stumpage value on a monthly basis. Fair market value on crown land would also ensure private woodlot owners receive Fair Market value on their own product.

The St Croix Community Forest Plan proposal also has a provision to pay the Province of New Brunswick a Land Base Rental fee of \$12.50 / HA (this would provide a \$1.25 Million dollar annual increase in return for just 100,000 HA for the people of New Brunswick. Just imagine what the province could do with the revenues if this fee was collected on all crown lands.

The St Croix Community Forest Plan financial projections are based on accurate historical numbers that were available when the plan was prepared. The financial projections are conservative and are

based on the annual allowable cut and fair market value. With this conclusive information the stakeholders group know with certainty the plan will work..

It is time for change.

I've never seen such an attentive gathering of elected officials, especially in this assembly room. Not only are we pleased that you listened. But you have likewise renewed our faith in the ability of government to listen to the people. Thank you for your courtesy and the respect shown to us with our presentation today.

The government of New Brunswick has nothing to lose but much to gain by moving forward with Community Forest Management Plans. The concept has worked successfully elsewhere, it will work here. Take on the challenge of a pilot project, call it a unique opportunity, or a community taking control of its own destiny – it's a sound approach to ensuring economic stability and a future for the citizens and the crown forests of New Brunswick.

Of utmost significance is the suitability of the St. Croix Community Forest Management Plan to Premier Lord's vision of New Brunswick. I believe that if these walls could speak they would echo ..... and I quote the Speech from the Throne November 14, 2000;

I am humbled to be able to speak these words for a second time in N.B.'s legislative assembly and I quote;

- government believes in empowering people and communities
- government will usher in a new era of co-operative, community involvement. (one of the vital areas being economic development).

Government believes that New Brunswickers should have a more direct say in specific decisions of the government that affect them.

- empowering people, listening to people, more public input and greater opportunities for New Brunswickers - that's our vision in New Brunswick.

Unless these are merely words. It's time for a new agenda.

It's time for community-based forest management to be implemented that will truly link forest sustainability with industry sustainability.

It's time for a better approach to crown forests management.

Thank you.