

My name is Matthew Jamieson Sheridan-Jonah and my great, great, grandfather was a pulp cutter in Northern NB. His son ran pulp logs down the Neipisiguit River, and his son worked as a paper maker in the Bathurst Mill. My father started his career as the editor of Bathurst's newspaper, the Northern Light, and I am here to continue in this tradition of interdependence, reliance and respect for the Crown Lands and forests of our province.

For the last 10 years I have been closely observing: the declining health of our forest ecosystems and our forest industries; the march of mechanization that has gutted the jobs from our woods workers; the desperate fight for a few small "protected areas" of ecological value; and the massive liquidation of private forested land to name but a few issues that we are facing in New Brunswick.

I acknowledge that this committee has been given an impossible task of balancing the current and long-term wood supply needs of a voracious industrial forestry machine, along with the needs of maintaining healthy forest ecosystems and access to our Crown Lands. However, I want to thank you for being here today and in so doing, taking the first steps towards finding a resolution which is both reasonable and rooted in respecting the democratic process.

I guess I could have sent a secret memo to DNR with my list of demands and then found a consultant to write up a report that would reflect a need for these demands, but who would do such a thing...

We are blessed with an incredible and complex forest ecosystem in both our boreal and Acadian forests of New Brunswick. These forests have served us well. They have employed 4 generations of my family and powered our economy, but I believe that they will not be able to continue doing so, at their current levels – whether we follow the recommendations of the Jakko Poyry report - or not. The writing is on the wall and it isn't pretty.

By taking a quick look at the Jakko Poyry website under the forecasts for wood supply demand and future mill investment, it is clear that New Brunswick's model of industrial forestry economic development is not sustainable. Our pulp & paper markets are mature and lack growth opportunities. New investments that are needed to keep our large mills competitive are instead being made in countries such as China and Brazil. This force of Globalization is real, it is a juggernaut and it won't be stopped, much less delayed by the recommendations within the Jakko Poyry report.

To illustrate this point, last week I had a brief conversation with Dr. R. A. Lautenschlager, Executive Director of the Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre, he stated that **Southern Eucalyptus forests can produce as much as 70 cubic metres of pulp per hectare**. He believed that even by following the Jaakko Poyry recommendations, **we could, at best, harvest 8 to 10 cubic metres of pulp per hectare**. How are we supposed to compete with these fast growing, southern forests – **70 cubic metres per hectare, as opposed to 8-10 cubic metres in our forests?**

We simply cannot compete... We should not... Instead, we should change. We should focus on our strengths. We should be working with the rich and diverse Acadian forests, rather than trying to further turn them into pulp and fibre farms.

I believe that we need to do everything we can to maintain a diverse and healthy forest industry that is focussed on restoration forestry, value-added production, low-impact and community forestry, rather

than producing low quality and low value pulp and fibre. A pulp & fibre focused industry, such as the one that we increasingly have now, only benefits the corporate shareholders of the mills and their multinational owners.

Rather than making it easier for them to profit from our Crown Lands –as the Jakko Poyry report recommends, - we should be ending their corporate welfare and re-investing in our forests and forest communities. We should change...

The days of the multinational pulp & paper mills powering our economy are fading. Due to mechanization and globalization, we aren't getting the benefits from our Crown Lands that we deserve and the big mills have the gall to say that they need more or they will leave. They need more fibre, they need more access, they need more subsidies, more buffer zones to cut in, they need to harvest in "protected areas...where will it end?

We need to call their bluff. We need to stop subsidizing them, we need to stop building their roads, planting their trees, thinning their trees and begging them to stay. We would be better off without them.

There was a time when no one could see past their reliance on fishing Cod in Newfoundland. There was a time when no one could see past their reliance on building tall ships in Moncton and Sackville. There was a time when no one could see past their reliance on the CN shops in Moncton.

We need to see past the 6 big multinational companies that are always trying to bully our province and exploit our forests. **We would be better off without them.**

Wood supply isn't a problem. Pulp mills that are too big, corporate greed, mechanization and globalisation are the problem. We have solutions and the Jakko Poyry report is the farthest thing from a solution we should contemplate.

Our solutions are based in small scale harvesting operations that employ people, not machines. Our solutions are based in community forestry, our solutions don't need more of the wood supply, they need political courage, they need ecological integrity, they need you to listen to the people of the province and ensure that our voices are heard and represented.

I stand here today to ask of you to make the change. My family and their reliance on the forests of New Brunswick have had to change. It wasn't easy, but we are the better for it. We have struggled, we have sacrificed and we have diversified. As a province, we need to do the same.

Good luck in your deliberations and travels.
Thank you.