

Hi,

I'm Sharon Flatt from Rothesay, New Brunswick. I am involved with the issue that is being addressed personally as my family owns woodlots; socially, as a member of various NGOs that work to protect human rights and the environment and as one of the founders of the Saint John Centre for Peace, social justice and the environment. Then spiritually, I am here because I believe that everything we do is interconnected and our actions today will reach far into the next seven generations. The forests will not be liquidated in my name or the many others that I know of whose voices will not all be heard due to lack of access or funds.

I feel uncomfortable with the possibility that the government may pursue a course of action based on a single study done by the timber industry. I am concerned that the decisions being made today are far too biased, lacking in thorough, well-rounded research. We need to look at the whole picture. We should not set aside good judgement in our pursuit of the quick buck.

The document before you supports a view of reality, but not the only view. So I would like to submit two alternative studies done, fairly recently for the World Wildlife Federation and the University of Maine. They paint a vastly different picture than the Jaakko Poyry Report.

*-give CD and cover pages.*

The justification for the Jaakko Poyry report and these hearings is that the timber industry is running out of wood so I checked the internet to see if this was true. I found a report from CIBC World Markets published in April of this year that states clearly there is no global shortage of wood fibre and we could "meaningfully decrease the need for harvests from natural forests". So if these multi-national corporations don't really need to double their wood supply to stay in business and they don't really need to cut a majority of our forests, then what is going on here? We are not getting a whole picture.

*-give page*

Now, I'd like to show you a video that in my opinion reflects the views and a wide range of citizens across New Brunswick. The video was produced through the Conservation Council of New Brunswick by Kevin Mathews from Fredericton.

*-Play video*

I am submitting a copy of this video for you to copy and share.

*-give video*

Now, I'd like to take a moment to examine the experience of our friends and neighbours to the south with this issue, seeing that the state of Maine has the same forests as ours. I did some research on the topic of forest management and made a "snap shot" of "What's going on in Maine" for these hearings. I will submit this to you as a sort of indicator of the climate the forest industry is working in America.

*-give snap shot*

Finally, I would like to end my presentation with a list of nine issues of concern I have regarding the management of our forests.

**- Here are the 9 issues of concerns:**

1. Priority must be given to maintaining the ecological integrity of our forests, wetlands, rivers, streams and lakes found on Crown land. It is more important than the quick-buck to be made from the sale of the wood on Crown Lands.
2. Viable populations of native New Brunswick species must be maintained in their natural patterns of distribution and abundance. Replanting is necessary on previously cut and mismanaged lands.
3. It is essential that management practices are consistent with protecting the integrity of forest soils.
4. Forests on Crown land should be managed to promote biodiversity.
5. Local communities must benefit directly from their local resources managed on an ecologically sound basis.
6. Forest dependent communities should have the rights to access the resources on adjacent areas of Crown land, without infringing on aboriginal and treaty rights in the case of non-native communities. It is not fair to the New Brunswick citizens to license only the multinational corporations that own "timber processing facilities" in the province. Additional types of licenses must be established to create greater economic fairness for all New Brunswickers.
7. Management of forest resources should be situated in public hands at the local level in collaboration with the Department of Natural Resources and energy, and not privatized to individual or business interests.
8. The government should uphold and enforce the environmental laws already on the books and create new laws where needed to protect our forests. Voluntary conservation by private corporations and individuals does not work.
9. All licences should be subject to a built-in review process that is open and transparent and provides for public involvement prior to their renewal or reassignment.

On the back are pictures of unsatisfactory forest management where brooks and streams are being destroyed because trucks are crossing inappropriately and illegally.

Thank you for hearing my presentation and thank you for taking the time to read and view my submitted materials.