



ALBERTA
PACIFIC
FOREST INDUSTRIES INC.



CANADIAN
BOREAL
INITIATIVE



INITIATIVE
BORÉALE
CANADIENNE

October 31, 2006

Hon. Gary Doer
Premier of Manitoba

Hon. Stan Struthers
Minister of Conservation

Dear Premier Doer and Minister Struthers,

As you are well aware, environmental, social and economic interests are inextricably linked. Integrated partnerships are vital to bridging across diverse sectors to find sustainable solutions. This is why the Canadian Boreal Initiative (CBI) has formed and is moving forward on a collaborative agenda for conservation and sustainable development.

Canada's Boreal forests and wetlands span over half of the country, and are home to over 500 Aboriginal communities. With 25% of the Earth's remaining intact forests, the world looks to Canada to be a leader on forest stewardship. Manitoba and its northern Aboriginal communities are at the heart of this region.

CBI is supported by a broad cross-section of interests across industry (Al-Pac, Domtar, Tembec), finance (Ethical Funds) First Nations (the Kaska Nation, the Dehcho First Nations, Innu Nation, Poplar River First Nation) and conservation groups (Ducks Unlimited, World Wildlife Fund, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Forest Ethics, and The Nature Conservancy) who form our Boreal Leadership Council. Together, we have developed a Boreal Forest Conservation Framework, which sets forth a vision for equal treatment of conservation and sustainable development across Canada's Boreal region, in a manner that respects Aboriginal rights.

We are actively advancing the Framework through projects with partners in Manitoba and other jurisdictions. In particular, we see comprehensive land use planning as a key mechanism for balancing ecological, cultural and development objectives.

The Province, in partnership with First Nations, has taken welcome steps to balance development with community-driven conservation in this region. We also welcome the province's support for the goals of CBI and to work with us as you move forward. From our perspective, however, momentum is slowing and we urge you to continue on with the conservation goals set out by the Province. In this regard we ask that you

formally adopt the Asatiwesipe Aki Management Plan advanced by Poplar River First Nation including their request for full protection of their traditional territory.

The community of Poplar River First Nation has developed the Asatiwesipe Aki Management Plan over the past ten years to protect the land they consider to be their Traditional Territory. This plan outlines the community's collective wishes to conserve the cultural, sustainable economic and natural values of the Ojibway and the region. Interim protection was provided under the Manitoba Parks Act in 1999 and renewed in 2004 for another five years. They are now seeking permanent protection under the Parks Act.

Our Framework clearly acknowledges the primacy of Aboriginal rights and title as a starting point for sustainability, and explicitly recognizes the need to develop protected areas and mechanisms for sustainable development in a way that respects these rights. We understand that the relationship between your government and Aboriginal communities in this region continues to grow. We will continue to work as a third party to respectfully support progress in this region.

Thank you for your consideration. We would certainly welcome an opportunity to meet with you to explore these opportunities and issues further.

Yours sincerely,



Larry Innes
Acting Executive Director
Canadian Boreal Initiative



Michael Martel
Senior Vice-President Tembec and
Chair, Boreal Leadership Council

c.c. Paul Vogt, Clerk of Executive Council
Don Cook, A/Deputy Minister, Conservation
Jane Gray, Exec Dir, Green Strategy Initiatives