

**Ministry of Natural
Resources and Forestry**

Operations Branch

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August 21, 2020

Mayor Dan O'Mara
Municipality of Temagami
7 Lakeshore Drive,
P.O. Box 220
Temagami, ON P0H 2H0

Email: dan.omara@temagami.ca

Greetings Mayor O'Mara:

I am writing to provide you with information that may be of interest to your community regarding a proposal under consideration by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) to establish a local forest management corporation (LFMC) for the purpose of managing the Temagami Management Unit (MU).

In 2013, MNRF was approached by a group of local community and forest industry representatives with known business and forestry interests on the Temagami MU. They expressed their interest in working with MNRF to examine forest tenure options for the management unit to resolve long-standing concerns. In 2017, this group was asked by MNRF to prepare a framework document to explore questions around financial viability, governance and transition related to a new forest tenure model.

MNRF is now considering a proposal by this team to establish Ontario's second LFMC, under the *Ontario Forest Tenure Modernization Act, 2011*, to manage the Temagami MU and market and sell Crown forest resources from the unit. MNRF has posted a Voluntary Policy Proposal on the Environmental Registry <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-2148>

LFMCs are Crown agencies governed by a locally based board of directors. The objects of an LFMC as set out by the *Ontario Forest Tenure Modernization Act, 2011* are to:

- Hold the forest resource licence and manage Crown forests in a manner necessary to provide for the sustainability of Crown forests in accordance with the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act, 1994* and to promote the sustainability of Crown forests;
- To provide for economic development opportunities for Aboriginal peoples;
- To manage its affairs to become a self-sustaining business entity and to optimize the value from Crown forest resources while recognizing the importance of local economic development;

- To market, sell and enable access to a predictable and competitively priced supply of Crown forest resources.

The proposed LFMC would seek to carry out the objects of the corporation, operate as a forestry business to encourage new investment and facilitate long-term solutions for sustainable forest management as the sustainable forest licence holder on the Temagami MU.

Pending the outcome of consultation and if the LFMC is approved by government, it is proposed to be established in late 2020 or early 2021.

The approved Forest Management Plan (2019-2029) for the Temagami MU and operations within the Temagami MU would not be immediately impacted by the establishment of an LFMC. The existing wood disposition strategy will continue to be in place until such time that it is updated or replaced. Any proposed changes to wood disposition would be a separate consultation opportunity. Future forest management activities that would be undertaken by the proposed LFMC on the Temagami MU would continue to be governed by the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act, 1994*, and applicable manuals, including the Forest Management Planning Manual. MNRF therefore anticipates that approval of the proposed LFMC has a limited potential to adversely impact Aboriginal and treaty rights.

MNRF is moving forward with consultation on this item at this time because the viability of the project may be compromised if the approval process and establishment are delayed. MNRF understands that engaging in a review of this proposal may be challenging at this time due to the COVID-19 pandemic. If you have concerns about your community's ability or preparedness to engage or if you have any questions, comments or concerns related to the changes being contemplated on the Temagami MU, please contact Gordon King, Indigenous Policy Advisor, Forest Industry Division at gordon.king@ontario.ca or (705) 363-7016. MNRF is seeking your community's input on the proposal by October 5, 2020.

If the LFMC is approved and established, MNRF will provide further information and opportunity to comment prior to making a decision on the issuance of a Sustainable Forest Licence to the LFMC for the Temagami MU.

Sincerely,



David de Geus
Manager
Timber Allocations and Licensing Section

- c. Gordon King, Indigenous Policy Advisor, Forest Tenure Section, MNRF
Mitch Baldwin, District Manager, North Bay District, MNRF

Grant Ritchie, Regional Director, NER, MNRF
John Kenrick