



16 December 2015

Mr. Richard Garneau, President

Resolute FP Canada Inc.

5000-111 Duke Street

Montréal, QC H3C 2M1

Dear Mr. Garneau,

Thank you for your immediate response to my letter of November 27<sup>th</sup>. I appreciate your personal engagement in this matter.

In the interest of finding a mutually agreeable outcome related to responsible forest management in the Canadian boreal forest and consent from First Nations, I would like to request a dialogue between the parties and stakeholders that need to be involved in finding long-term solutions to these issues.

In the spirit of collaboration that characterizes FSC, we are launching an initiative tomorrow, December 17<sup>th</sup>, convening a mediation between the key stakeholders involved, including the Quebec Government, First Nations, unions and ENGOs (including Greenpeace). The Provincial Government must have a leadership role in such an initiative related to among other things, the caribou strategy, and we would hope to see a leadership role being taken by the First Nations as well.

The scope of the proposed mediation process is to find common ground on resolving issues related to aboriginal consent and the woodland caribou habitat recovery plan, with a primary focus on the suspended Lac St-Jean Forest Management Unit (FMU) and the terminated Mistassini FSC FMU. We believe this mediation could also help other FMUs impacted by similar issues in the area.

We are asking Resolute FP to engage constructively in this mediation process, and I will be in Montreal the third week of January 2016 to meet with you in person should you respond favourably to this effort of mutual collaboration.

At the same time, however, I remain disappointed with the approach Resolute FP has taken to date. Having concerns with new developments is perfectly legitimate, but frankly, I would expect a company with the capacities and experience of Resolute FP to focus on constructive engagement in resolving the issues in dialogue with other stakeholders in FSC, rather than using your concerns as the basis for a global push to spread doubts and discriminatory comments about FSC among your customers.

As you know, FSC has 54 million hectares of certified forests in Canada right now, with a recent gain from re-certification of suspended certificates representing 3 to 4 million hectares. So there is a con-



stant, solid base of certified land in Canada. In a sense, suspensions are a sign of the rigor and credibility of the FSC scheme, which is something we haven't witnessed from competing schemes in Canada, especially where dual certification exists. Credible, clear standards and their stringent verification are crucial for us, and they are something we are confident that we deliver – and will continue to deliver – to more certified companies all over the world than any other forest certification scheme.

Many of the concerns you mention are really about the need to secure good will and mutual trust amongst stakeholders to find viable solutions. This is especially true of the relations with First Nations. Aboriginal community consent is paramount within the FSC system, and the lack of consent is in fact the basis for most suspensions of certificates on the list you sent me. Suspensions are unfortunate and painful, but given recent legal and political developments in Canada, we see this as an area where our standards are increasingly in line with overall development trends. We are confident that the FSC system is the best existing platform for actually dealing with these issues in practical forest management consultations and decisions. We actually see our real engagement with Free Prior and Informed Consent as a major strength of our system.

I look forward to hearing from you regarding your participation in the upcoming mediation.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kim Carstensen".

Kim Carstensen

*FSC Director General*

Cc. Laurent Lessard, Minister of Forests, Wildlife and Parks, Quebec  
Bradley Martin, Board Chair, Resolute FP  
Francois Dufresne, President, FSC Canada