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December 23, 2015

Mr. Kim Carstensen
Executive Director, FSC International
FSC International Centre, Gemeinnützige Gesellschaft mbH
Charles-de-Gaulle-Straße 5
53113 Bonn
Deutschland / Germany

Sent by email: k.carstensen@fsc.org

Dear Mr. Carstensen,

On December 18, 2015, we sent a letter in response to your call for a mediation process to resolve issues with FSC certification in Quebec and Ontario. Three days later, we have yet to receive a response or any answer to the good-faith questions we posed about the process. The particular issues at play are complex, but one thing remains abundantly clear: any mediation process involving forest management must be led by the provincial governments concerned. The process you announced on December 17, 2015, although apparently reviewed in advance by ENGOs such as Greenpeace and WWF, failed to take into account this vital consideration.

Now, Pekuakamiulnuatsh Takuhikan First Nation have announced their intention to participate in the mediation, provided that their "ancestral rights, including aboriginal title" are respected throughout the process. Resolute is committed to promoting meaningful collaboration with Pekuakamiulnuatsh Takuhikan and all of our other First Nations partners, and shares their desire for constructive dialogue. We also understand their concern, and we must reiterate that the legal responsibility to consult with First Nations, oversee issues of ancestral rights and aboriginal title, and harmonize forest management practices with traditional aboriginal land uses lies with federal and provincial governments. These issues cannot be resolved by Resolute, by any other forest products company, by environmental groups, or by FSC. The announcement made by Pekuakamiulnuatsh Takuhikan is a clear reminder of the need to recognize the government's jurisdiction over these matters.



resolute

Forest Products

Resolute has a long history of respectful interaction and commercial partnerships with First Nations, as well as active engagement and consultation with governments, local communities and credible environmental groups. And we work in good faith with these groups under Canada's robust laws and regulations, to which Resolute and all other companies operating in the boreal must comply. We know from decades of experience why it is essential to consult with all appropriate parties before, during, and after any activity we propose. When questions are asked, we answer. When concerns are expressed, we address them. And when disagreements arise, we believe they must be resolved in concert with each of the appropriate parties, under government leadership, with complete transparency and accountability for all those impacted. These are the core values outlined in our letter to you on December 18, 2015. We eagerly await your response.

Sincerely,

Richard Garneau
President and Chief Executive Officer
Resolute Forest Products

c.c.:

François Dufresne, President, FSC Canada
Hon. Philippe Couillard, Premier of Quebec
Hon. Laurent Lessard, Minister of Forests, Wildlife and Parks, Government of Quebec
Hon. Bill Mauro, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, Government of Ontario
André Tremblay, President, Quebec Forest Industry Council
Jamie Lim, President, Ontario Forest Industry Association
First Nations leaders, Mayors and chambers of commerce of various communities affected by the issues addressed in this letter