

Montreal, May 8th 2008

Dear customers,

We are writing to you today because an urgent matter has come up in our work to protect the Boreal Forest of Canada. We greatly appreciate that you are becoming engaged around Boreal Forest protection and that you would like to see your suppliers adopt better practices. We believe that your involvement can be a **key for solutions**, this time regarding the new forest policy of the Quebec government.

A social, environmental and economic crisis in the forest products industry recently forced the Quebec government to propose a new vision and new objectives on how to manage its forests¹. The foundations of the new Quebec Forest Policy was subjected to consultation in February 2008, and will soon be translated into law, possibly as early as June 2008.

Greenpeace believes the government is about to make a substantial mistake: it is about to reallocate to development the entire productive forest land of the province, without doing a prior analysis of what needs to be protected.

During the consultations, some of the most important recommendations Greenpeace made include:

1. Applying the principle of «conservation first » and the necessity to put aside large intact forest landscapes before the reallocation of all the productive forest in the province.
2. Defining, with the guidance of independent and credible science, what needs to be protected before defining what can be cut.
3. Respecting the UN's Convention on Biodiversity and defining objectives for the protection of Quebec boreal forest's biodiversity.
4. Creating large and interconnected protected areas in intact forests that allow species to migrate and adapt in the context of climate change.
5. Giving preference to FSC certification

The Quebec government has clearly said that it was looking for the recognition of the international community, but unfortunately refuses to adequately protect one of the last remaining ancient forests left on planet.

Please get involved to let the government know that you, as an economical stakeholder, are sharing the same concerns as Greenpeace.

Call the Minister of Natural Resources, Claude Béchar, at (418) 643-7295 and tell him that your company, when it buys Quebec's wood or paper products, does not want to participate in the degradation and the destruction of one of the last intact forests on earth. Please tell him that you would like to see his government set aside large intact Boreal Forest landscapes for protection before reallocating the entire forest for development.

The government of Quebec needs to be reminded that the international marketplace is watching closely and that companies like yours want to see more protection and better management practices.

If you would like to have more information, please call Mélissa Filion at (514) 581-8216, or Kim Fry at (647) 406-0664, Boreal Forest campaigners in Montreal and Toronto.

Sincerely,



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ⁱ <http://www.consultation-regime-forestier.gouv.qc.ca/aim-forets/accueil.do>