

June 30th, 2017
Mrs. Susan Squires
Director
Environmental Assessment Division
Department of Environment and Conservation

RE: 5 Year Operating Plan for Crown Managed Lands, Forest Management District 19a for the period January 1, 2018-December 31, 2022

Pursuant to Section 49 of the *Environmental Protection Act* (2002), the Department of Fisheries and Land Resources is pleased to submit for registration as an undertaking, the 5 Year Operating Plan for Crown managed lands in Forest Management District 19a for the period of January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2022. Twelve copies of the Plan (2 paper and 10 digital- CDs) have been forwarded to you under separate cover.

The Plan represents the culmination of many months of preparation by the Planners, District Manager, forestry staff and a number of the public open house meetings. It outlines in considerable detail the forestry activities that are to be carried out over the coming five year period and provides a comprehensive description of the biological, physical and social environment in which these activities are to occur. The Plan is compliant with the *Forestry Act* (1990) and the draft *Sustainable Forest Management Planning Regulations*.

If you have any questions regarding this registration, please contact Mr. Bryan Oke or myself. Details specific to the Plan are best discussed with Dave Poole, the Planner and Craig Coady, District Manager for District 19a.


Francis Skeard
Director – Forest Ecosystem Management
Forestry Branch

Attach.
cc. B. Oke D. Poole
S. Balsom C. Coady

**REGISTRATION FORM
PURSUANT TO SECTION 49 OF
THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT**

- Name of Undertaking:** Forest Management Districts 19a
Five Year Operating Plan 2018-2022
- Proponent:**
- (i) **Department of Fisheries and Land Resources**
P.O. Box 2006, Fortis Bldg.
Corner Brook, NL, A2H 6J8
 - (ii) **Assistant Deputy Minister**
Mr. Stephen Balsam
Forestry and Wildlife Division
Dept. of Fisheries and Land Resources
P.O. Box 2006, Corner Brook,
NL A2H 6J8 (709) 637-2339
 - (iii) **Principal Contact Person**

Mr. Francis Skeard
Director of Forest Ecosystem Management
Forestry and Wildlife Division
Dept. of Fisheries and Land Resources
P.O. Box 2006, Corner Brook,
NL A2H 6J8 (709) 637-2343
- The Undertaking:**
- (i) **Nature of Undertaking**

To conduct forestry activities (harvesting, silviculture and primary road construction) in Forest Management District 19a from 2018 to 2022.
 - (ii) **Purpose/Rationale/Need for Undertaking**

This undertaking will enable the harvesting of approximately 1,035,000 m³ of timber, construct approximately 61 kilometers of primary forest access road and apply Silviculture prescriptions on approximately

750 ha throughout the District within the five year period;

This undertaking is necessary to maintain and/or expand the existing commercial industry and allow domestic harvest for home building and heating.

Description of Undertaking:

(i) Geographic Location

Forest Management District 19a contains 7.1 million hectares. The District is situated in central Labrador and generally bounded to the north by the Mulligan and Red Wine Rivers, to the east by the height of land that separates the Kenamu River watershed from those flowing into the Labrador Sea, to the south by the height of land that separates the Gulf Watershed from those flowing into the Labrador Sea, and to the west by longitude 61° 45'. District 19a falls within the boundaries of lands subject to comprehensive land claims negotiations between Innu Nation, the Government of Canada, and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. District 19 has been further subdivided into Sub-districts 19A, 19B and 19C.

(ii) Physical Features

Considering that most of Labrador is only sparsely forested or not forested at all, District 19a contains the majority of Labrador's closed canopy forest. This heavy to moderately stocked, spruce-fir forest contains a diverse mosaic of vegetation types, such as open sphagnum forest, lichen woodlands, mixed hardwoods (birch, aspen and poplar), black spruce bogs, and a variety of other wetland types. Although frozen most of the year, a significant portion of the landscape (11.6%) is composed of water. The District's numerous lakes, rivers, and streams play a critical role in shaping its ecological character. The result is a unique

ecological landscape, highlighting an important relationship between climate, topography, hydrology, and vegetation.

(iii) Operation

Commercial harvesting will be carried out manually and possibly with shortwood harvesters and forwarders; while domestic harvesting will be done by chainsaw, with extraction by snowmobile and ATV. Roads will be constructed using excavators and/or bulldozers and silviculture will be carried out using prescribed tools. All buffer requirements and operations will be carried out in accordance with the Environmental Protection Guidelines for Ecologically Based Forest Resource Management and the Forestry Act. Operations will commence upon approval of undertaking and continue yearly until 2022.

(iv) Occupations

Loggers, equipment operators, truckers, sawmillers, silviculture workers and domestic cutters

Approval of the Undertaking:

Commercial and domestic cutting permits, as well as operating permits, will be required and issued from the District Forest Management Offices.

Schedule:

This Plan is scheduled to commence on January 1, 2018 and end on December 31, 2022.

Date



Director - FEM