

LETTRE OUVERTE À PAUL ROBICHAUD, MINISTRE DES RESSOURCES NATURELLES

15 mai 2014

Monsieur le Ministre Robichaud,

Nous, du milieu universitaire du Nouveau-Brunswick, sommes profondément inquiets par rapport aux annonces et mesures récentes du gouvernement provincial relativement à la stratégie forestière de la province. Plus précisément, nous croyons qu'il y a eu un manque de consultation et de la transparence dans la prise en compte des études scientifiques en ce qui concerne : (i) la *Stratégie de gestion des forêts de la Couronne*, nouvellement proposée et visant à augmenter d'environ 20 % l'approvisionnement en bois; et (ii) l'entente avec JDI engageant la province à fournir à JDI des quantités précises de résineux pour les 25 prochaines années.

D'après l'information recueillie jusqu'à maintenant, nous semblons être devant une stratégie qui a été élaborée à huis clos; qui a des lacunes importantes au chapitre de la conservation; qui offre à la population des avantages douteux sur le plan socio-économique; qui limite la capacité du gouvernement à dessiner l'avenir des politiques forestières; et qui pourrait compromettre la capacité de surveillance du gouvernement envers la gestion de la forêt publique. De plus, il est difficile de concevoir comment cette stratégie règle les problèmes soulevés dans les rapports de différents groupes de travail sur la foresterie, et dans les études parrainées par le gouvernement au cours des dernières années. On ne sait non plus, si elles le sont, comment les recommandations de ces rapports et études sont mises en œuvre.

C'est pourquoi nous demandons au gouvernement d'interrompre immédiatement ce processus, et de réexaminer la stratégie en s'inspirant de la sagesse collective accumulée au cours des dernières années; dans les rapports, les études et les recherches universitaires.

Si le gouvernement veut réexaminer la stratégie efficacement, il doit informer le public de façon responsable, lui faire connaître son plan d'action et le faire participer au processus de planification. À cette fin, nous demandons au gouvernement de faire sans délai ce qui suit :

1. Fournir tous les détails de la stratégie proposée pour la gestion des forêts de la Couronne, et mettre en relief la logique, le bien-fondé, les compromis envisagés, et les considérations techniques qui ont été retenus.
2. Divulguer l'entente avec JDI dans son ensemble, ou expliquer de façon convaincante pourquoi certaines clauses ont été jugées confidentielles. Les contrats avec d'autres titulaires de permis de coupe devraient être rendus publics avant la signature.
3. Faire participer les parties concernées, de façon ouverte et constructive, à la modification de la stratégie actuelle et de l'entente, afin de s'assurer de maintenir certains des avantages visés tout en éliminant les sources d'inquiétudes les plus valables et les plus importantes.
4. Prolonger, au besoin, le délai pour approuver le plan de gestion des terres de la Couronne afin de s'assurer d'avoir l'appui soutien nécessaire du public relativement à cette politique.

À notre avis, si le gouvernement provincial prend de telles mesures, cela contribuera à assurer la gestion durable des terres de la Couronne du Nouveau-Brunswick pour la génération actuelle et les générations futures.

Veillez agréer, Monsieur le Ministre, nos salutations sincères.

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