

# What Government and Industry Said About Wood Subsidies, Over-cutting, and Forest Management in Quebec

- Subsidies

*Although timber is Quebec's most important natural resource, the government only receives a pittance from the 70 million hectares that belong to all Quebecers. After deducting the industry subsidies and credits and taking into account the operating expenses of the Ministry of Natural Resources...this system generates a meager annual income of \$0.20 per acre (in stumpage fees)...The decision of the Minister of Natural Resources to not increase the forest fees required for logging in public forests according to their fair value encourages industries to obtain their timber from public forests...[T]he Quebec government is exposed to severe criticism with respect to international trade and the renewal of American policies on compensatory rights by subsidizing the forestry industry in this manner.*

April 4, 2000 press release from the Union des producteurs agricoles (a private wood producers organization)



- Overexploitation

*The most severe problem is that we lack wood. Twenty years ago the average log that went through the mill was 6<sup>1/2</sup> inches wide. Today it is 4<sup>1/2</sup> inches. It is a problem caused by overexploitation of our forests...I can tell you that I began sending letters to the government back in 1976, 1977 informing it that forests were overcut and that we needed to forecast what was going to happen 25, 30 years down the road...You must invest money to find out exactly what is in the forest. And for the last 30 years I've been saying that the government never found the money to do it.*

Frank Dottori, President of Tembec and Chair of the Canadian Free Trade Lumber Council, October 9-10, 2000, in a submission to Quebec's National Assembly (provincial legislature)



- Forest Mismanagement

*"at present time the Ministry is unable to state with any certainty whether or not the sustained yield (of Quebec's forests) is being respected..."*

(From: Updating the Forest System: Consultation Document, Quebec Ministry of Natural Resources, 1998)

## ***Wholesale Export of Quebec's Forests into the U.S. Market is Destroying our Indian Way of Life***



Quebec's forestry policies violate the human rights of the Cree people. Under a constitutionally recognized national treaty and international law, the Cree people have the right to pursue their traditional way of life in the forest. This right is crystallized in our treaty under the "Principle of Conservation" which states:

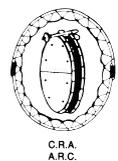
*"[Conservation] means the pursuit of the optimum natural productivity of all living resources and the protection of ecological systems of the Territory so as to protect endangered species and to ensure primarily the continuance of the traditional pursuits of the Native People..."*

In the quest for international markets, Quebec and the forestry industry have created a system that ensures that their needs are served at the expense of the forest environment, the animals that we depend upon and our basic rights.

For more information please contact the Grand Council of the Crees at (613) 761-1655 or see our web site at [www.gcc.ca](http://www.gcc.ca) or email us at [cree@gcc.ca](mailto:cree@gcc.ca)



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**Free trade with Canada equals free trees for Quebec's forest industry. Don't allow this to continue, our way of life depends upon it.**