

**Wulustuk Times**

Wulustuk - Indigenous name for St John River

This publication produced monthly at Tobique, NB, Canada E7H 5K3



New Brunswick Forest one day- wasteland the next

**Wulustuk Times:**

Each month we try to gather and publish the latest, most current and relevant native information for our readership. Proceeding with this concept, we feel that a well informed person is better able to see, relate with, and assess a situation more accurately when equipped with the right tools. Our policy is to provide you with these right tools.

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## **NB WOODLANDS HEADING FOR EXTINCTION?**

p.paul

People traveling through the woodlands of New Brunswick in search of peace, quiet and grandeur may not readily find these comforts too easily due to massive clear-cutting that has been going on in our forests over the years. Indeed this province once called the "Picture Province" with the slogan proudly printed on every licence plate in the province. That, sadly, is No More.

Had anyone traveled the woods recently they would be horrified and shocked to see how much of the once beautiful woodlands had been destroyed, wiped out and just ripped to shreds by man and machine through reckless forest operations.

In fact, the forest was so terribly devastated, it was essentially butchered, slaughtered and tattered to pieces by huge hi-tech equipment used today for clear-cutting everything in sight, right down to the last tree standing. It is taking us to the road to extinction.

At the rate the forest industry is going our woodlands could end up being a vast treeless terrain of wasteland one day, if not already.

Size of "logs" on trucks forecasts extinction

No one can miss the endless flow of huge 18-wheelers hauling their so-called "logs" (or should we say 'toothpicks') to market on a 24/7 schedule. Some of those 'logs' measure mere 3-5 inches across which tells the story of desperation of finding normal sized 12-16" wood. Normal sized logs are just not available for harvesters anymore, they now have to cut this tiny wood. How long can this slaughter continue and expect things to stay normal?

As this trend continues there will be nothing left for our children and grandchildren. The woodlands are being harvested clear to the final tree and shockingly, extinction is on the horizon unless we take steps immediately to stop the madness and work towards sane harvesting, conservation and restoration.

Protected Areas

At one time our lakes, rivers, ponds, streams and watersheds, plus all roadways were protected with buffer zones around them that kept the forest and land intact, at least aesthetically. That rule no longer stands however since the deep pocketed corporations have munched their way into government portfolios and successfully lobbied to override this protective regulation that allows them to cut right to the edges of any waterway they want.

From this loss of protection around watersheds a number of damaging consequences have followed, ranging from giant washouts from immediate hillsides causing massive fish-kills and injury to other wildlife in and around streams, brooks and rivers to creating networks of deadly pools and stagnant waterways instead.

Reforestation via tree plantation farming

The big corporations have agreed in many cases to reforest and re-cultivate the severed areas by replanting specific cash crop trees only, where clear-cutting took place for years and years. But unfortunately, it takes up to 60 years or more to restore a dense forest that, will all possibility, will again be clear-cut for corporate interests.

Another serious downer is that the plantations will plant only cash crop trees that can sell in the future to pay the corporations and stockholders, and to cover the replanting and maintenance during the 60-year tree life. But when that cycle ends a new cycle starts over again.

There is a good possibility that these 'plantations' could be springing up everywhere throughout the province near settled areas or neighborhoods where insecticides and pesticides and other harmful materials would be aerial sprayed routinely to protect the plants from failure, never mind the effects of toxic sprays on wildlife and humans.

There is no question that all plants and wildlife life in those sprayed areas would be severely affected or even decimated keeping every tree species in check and ensuring the select cash crop trees a vibrant life and guaranteed survival.

Aerial spraying is meant to keep unwanted plants, trees or vegetation from competing and taking precious nutrients away from the cash crop trees that will yield profits for corporations and stockholders at maturity. That is the bottom line in corporate forest industry.

#### Foreign corporations

In most cases these reckless harvesting procedures are done by corporations who could come from any part of the world but while in a country of interest they maintain a respectable image and a cozy relationship with the governments in areas where they harvest. This is done by staying in close alliance and affiliation with 'select' governments officials who can protect them..

Quite often the government appoints these 'select' leaders in forest industry to interact cooperatively with the corporations while at the same time posing as responsible protectors and administrators for the provincial woodlands.

Truthfully though, how much care and protection can elected leaders provide when corporations make the decisions in the forest industry and 'call the shots' in the background?

As a closing statement for this no-win situation, the woodlands in New Brunswick have literally been chopped clean and scoured to the bone rendering them genetically neutered and unable to produce a viable and truly bio-diverse product for the foreseeable future. This again begs the question where will our future generations get their lumber for their needs?

Unfortunately, that is the tragic picture that has been created by our government's misadventure in its irresponsible stewardship of our woodlands. Does the answer to saving our woodlands lie in our vote?

Again worth noting, an extinction of NB forests is now a plausible reality.

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## **LEST WE FORGET, "NATIVES WIN RIGHT TO CROWN LANDS": NB COURT**

Ottawa Citizen Online, Across Canada News

November 4, 1997

Chris Morris

[Please note: The following mainstream news articles may contain biased or distorted information and may be missing pertinent facts and/or context. They are provided for reference only. -- S.I.S.I.S.]

FREDERICTON (CP) Foresters and government officials reeled in shock Tuesday after a landmark court decision ruled that aboriginals own the Crown lands and forests of New Brunswick.

But native leaders were overjoyed. The decision reinforces what they've said all along: that they were here first and ancient treaties preserve their ownership of lands and forests in what are now New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

"Our aboriginal treaty rights are finally being recognized," said Len Tomah, a vice-chief of the Assembly of First Nations. "Hopefully the government of New Brunswick will respect and honor them as well."

Natural Resources Minister Alan Graham said he expects the province will fight the decision all the way to the Supreme Court.

"Inevitably, at the end of the day, we'll probably be in the Supreme Court of Canada on this one."

Justice John Turnbull of Court of Queen's Bench in Bathurst, N.B., upheld a lower court decision that said a 235-year-old treaty gives New Brunswick aboriginals the right to harvest and sell trees taken off publicly owned Crown land.

The case came about after Thomas Paul, a Micmac, was charged with illegally harvesting bird's eye maple logs on Crown land licensed to Stone Consolidated Inc. The rare maple is prized for its unique grain.

But Turnbull went beyond the bird's eye issue to deal with the ramifications of an early 18th-century proclamation called Dummer's treaty. He said it gives aboriginals the right to harvest "any and all trees they wish on Crown lands."

"The trees on Crown lands are Indian trees," wrote Turnbull, adding that Crown lands are reserved for aboriginals.

The issue has implications beyond New Brunswick. Dummer's treaty applied to what was known as Nova Scotia in the early 1700s now New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

"It really has broader implications in terms of reasoning for the whole Maritime region," said Fredericton lawyer Cleveland Allaby, who represents Paul. "So Nova Scotia better open its eyes as well."

Blaine Favel, chief of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, said the case is of national importance because it affects aboriginals in other provinces.

"It addresses the relationship that First Nations people have with the land, particularly on unoccupied Crown land," said Favel, who was at a meeting in Quebec City.

The New Brunswick government leases much of its millions of hectares of Crown land to forestry companies with names like Irving, Stone Consolidated and Repap. Forestry is the province's biggest industry, employing roughly 16,000 people.

Bev O'Keefe, president of the Juniper Lumber Co. of New Brunswick, which has 350,000 hectares under licence, angrily denounced Turnbull's ruling as "irresponsible."

"Not for a minute am I saying the natives shouldn't play a role," O'Keefe fumed. "I know some native people. We have some native people who work for us, both in our woodlands and in our mill. They're very good people. I just think this decision could be detrimental to what we've already put in place."

Roger Augustine, a New Brunswick member of the federal Indian Claims Commission, said forestry companies have reason to be nervous. He said if the case goes to the Supreme Court and the First Nations win, then companies like Irving and Repap will be asked to account for what they have taken off and used from Indian lands in the past and present. That would be more than just trees. It would include all natural resources, wildlife and lost opportunities for aboriginal people.

"In a lot of cases, we're not really asking for the land back," Augustine said. "We just want to be compensated for the lost opportunities."

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## **NATIVE RIGHTS UPHELD OVER TREE CUTTING**

Globe and Mail

Wednesday, November 5, 1997

Kevin Cox, Atlantic Bureau

A precedent-setting New Brunswick court case has recognized the 277-year-old right of native people in that province to cut trees on Crown land, bolstering land claims of aboriginal groups across Canada and sparking fears about the future of the province's forest.

Mr. Justice John Turnbull of the Court of Queen's Bench has upheld a Provincial Court acquittal last year of Micmac Thomas Paul, who was charged with violating the Crown Lands and Forests Act by cutting highly prized bird's-eye maple logs worth about \$3,000 from Crown land near Bathurst that was licenced to pulp and paper company Stone Consolidated Canada Inc.

Judge Turnbull ruled that the act is not applicable to New Brunswick native people because a treaty signed between Indian leaders and representatives of the British monarchy in 1725 recognized that the aboriginal people in the province maintained ownership of their lands.

"I am of the opinion that the Indians of New Brunswick do have land rights and that such are treaty rights," Judge Turnbull wrote in a decision released in Bathurst. "It does not matter what such rights are called. It is not a right restricted to personal use, but a full-blown right of beneficial ownership and possession in keeping with the concept of 'This is our land -- that is your land.' "

He said that a legally correct way to interpret the 1725 treaty -- which was made more than 50 years before British settlers arrived in what is now New Brunswick -- would be to consider Crown lands reserved for Indians.

"The trees on Crown land are Indian trees," the judge wrote. "Not exclusively, but [the Indians'] rights are protected by treaty...At the present time, Indians have the right to cut trees on all Crown lands."

The New Brunswick government, which fears the decision could lead to widespread poaching of trees on Crown lands, will likely appeal the decision, Natural Resources Minister Alan Graham said in an interview yesterday.

Mr. Graham said 50 per cent of the province's forests are on Crown land and any widescale timber cutting would disrupt the province's management plans.

He said more than 16,000 people in the province make a living from the forest and the province is concerned that some people may use the court decision to cut trees indiscriminately.

"This is not an issue of a native person cutting a bit of wood to heat a home or to make furniture. We've always gone along with that. The concern is how that may change because of this decision," Mr. Graham said.

He said the department has laid more than 200 poaching charges this year against people who illegally cut bird's-eye maple logs, valued because of their unique grain, in Crown forests.

"That bird's-eye maple is worth between \$5,000 and \$10,000 a tree, and we have been seeing some hefty fines handed down [to those convicted of poaching]. But that could all change if we find we have people hiding behind the guise of treaty rights."

Mr. Graham said he hopes to meet as soon as possible with native representatives in the province and to work with them to improve forestry-management plans for Crown lands.

But native leaders believe the decision should lead to more jobs for aboriginal people in forestry. As well, they say, it will give a major boost to native land claims across Canada.

"This is not so much 'Goodbye to the forest' as 'Hello to better forest management,'" Roger Augustine, former president of the Union of New Brunswick Indians, said in an interview yesterday.

"This is great news for land claims across Canada. Just to get to this point where a judge comes in and recognizes our treaty rights is a major, major step forward, not just for forestry

management but also for self-government," said Mr. Augustine, a member of a federal commission examining native land claims.

He said the recognition of native ownership of Crown land could prompt aboriginal groups to demand compensation from forestry companies such as J. D. Irving Ltd. that have been cutting there for decades.

He acknowledged there are some native people cutting trees on Crown land now but said he does not expect that number will increase because of the court decision.

The decision should also prompt provincial governments and logging companies across Canada to start working with native groups to develop forestry-management plans, Harry Bombay, executive director of the National Aboriginal Forestry Association, said in an interview yesterday.

"The provinces have never before recognized that aboriginal people and their governments have a role to play in sustainable forest management," he said, noting that 80 per cent of the Indian reserves in Canada are in forested areas.

He said the decision should prompt the federal government to consider aboriginal treaty rights when the national forestry strategy is revised next year.

As well, Mr. Bombay said, native groups should be able to expand employment opportunities in the forest industries as they negotiate with logging companies and the provincial and federal governments.

"We have unemployment rates of 95 per cent in some of our communities, and a bit of good will on the part of governments and a willingness to involve aboriginal people in the forest industries could greatly change that," he said.

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## **INTERESTED IN PRESERVING NB CROWN LANDS?**

Ruling on Crown lands bolsters claims  
News Release  
For immediate release: September 8, 2008

Environmental Groups Call for Forest Information Session in Cities

September 8, 2008, Fredericton - Environmental organizations are calling on the provincial government to host public information sessions on its two new forestry reports in New Brunswick's major population centers before the public comment period closes on October 3rd.

Public information sessions with the reports lead authors are planned for five communities that are considered to be forest-dependent. However, members of the Crown Lands Network are concerned that the majority of New Brunswick's citizens in most of its cities are being excluded.

"A real public consultation process needs an informed public. Limiting the public information sessions to mill towns will leave the vast majority of New Brunswickers uninformed. Crown Lands Network member groups are calling on the government to add information sessions in all of the cities, so at least people there can have the same opportunity to become informed. Decisions made based on these reports will shape the future of our public forests for the next century," commented Florian Levesque, President of Environnement Vie.

David MacDonald, Treasurer of the Southeast Chapter of the Conservation Council of New Brunswick, said, "Discussions about our province's public forests are relevant to all people in the province, not only those who live in forest-dependent communities. People in the cities value our province's forests for clean water, jobs, wildlife habitat and recreation. Why has the provincial government decided that people in these cities - where a large proportion of our population lives - don't need to learn more about these reports before they can comment on them?"

Tracy Glynn, Acadian Forest Campaigner with the Conservation Council of New Brunswick, noted, "When the government cancelled the information sessions in February about their survey of public values related to the forest, they said they planned to hold the sessions after the Task Force report came out. Now we find out that plans to hold these sessions in Fredericton, Moncton and Saint John have been eliminated by Communications New Brunswick."

The Crown Lands Network is a collaboration of New Brunswick organizations who are interested in the sustainable management and conservation of our province's Crown lands. The network shares information and coordinates activities on issues of province-wide interest.

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## **AMAZON DEFORESTATION INCREASES BY 69% IN LAST 12 MONTHS**

Saturday, August 30, 2008 | 6:08 PM ET

The Associated Press

Amazon deforestation jumped 69 per cent in the past 12 months - the first such increase in three years - as rising demand for soy and cattle pushes farmers and ranchers to raze trees, officials said Saturday.

Some 8,147 square kilometers of forest were destroyed between August 2007 and August 2008 - a 69 per cent increase over the 4,820 square kilometers felled in the previous 12 months, according to the National Institute for Space Research, or INPE, which monitors destruction of the Amazon.

"We're not content," Brazil's environment minister, Carlos Minc, said.

"Deforestation has to fall more, and the conditions for sustainable development have to improve."

Brazil's government has increased cash payments to fight illegal Amazon logging this year, and it eliminated government bank loans to farmers who illegally clear forest to plant crops.

The country lost 2.7 per cent of its Amazon rain forest in 2007, or 11,000 square kilometers. Environmental officials fear even more land will be razed this year, but they have not forecast how much.

Minc says monthly deforestation rates have slowed since May, but environmental groups say seasonal shifts in tree cutting make the annual number a more accurate gauge.

Most deforestation happens in March and April, the start of Brazil's dry season, and routinely tapers off in May, June and July. Last month, 323 square kilometers of trees were felled, 61 per cent less than the area razed in June.

Environmentalists also argue that INPE's deforestation report wasn't designed to give accurate monthly figures but to alert and direct the government to deforestation hot spots in time to save the land.

The Amazon region covers about 4.1 million square kilometres of Brazil, nearly 60 per cent of the country. About 20 per cent of that land has already been deforested.

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## **CHIEFS THREATEN TO BLOCK PIPELINE**

SUN MEDIA

The Winnipeg Sun

A group of southern Manitoba chiefs say they will block construction of two pipelines through the province unless the federal government and pipeline companies commit by Tuesday to consult with them.

"We want a commitment to sit down, consult and accommodate," said Peguis Chief Glenn Hudson, a spokesman for the seven chiefs whose First Nations are signatories to Treaty 1. "We want to ensure our rights are respected and upheld."

The Treaty 1 chiefs have already gone to court in an effort to force the federal government to honour its duty to consult with the First Nations with respect to its approval of pipeline projects being built by TransCanada and Enbridge through Manitoba on land encompassed by the treaty.

The TransCanada hearing took place last month, while scheduling for the Enbridge hearing is set to take place next week.

Hudson said the chiefs expect a positive outcome from the court process but have decided they cannot wait any longer to be consulted -- something he said the courts should not have to force Ottawa to do.

The Treaty 1 ultimatum follows on the heels of blockades that were erected by Saskatchewan First Nations earlier this week that halted construction of Enbridge's Alberta Clipper pipeline at two locations.

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OUR FOREST REQUIRES OUR SAY :Tracy Glynn, NB Conservation  
Miramichi Leader, Published Monday September 15th, 2008

The fate of our public forest is being determined right now. By the end of the year the provincial government will decide whether to better protect our endangered Acadian forest or push it to the brink of extinction. They will use two reports released on August 27 to guide their decision. One report is a menu of seven forest management options and the other is an analysis of global market opportunities for the forestry sector.

The first report, prepared by the Task Force on Forest Diversity and Wood Supply, included the participation of the Conservation Council's Policy Director David Coon. This report describes the impacts of the different forest management options on forest diversity and wood supply.

The second report by CIBC economist Don Roberts and Woodbridge Associates recommends increasing wood supply to forestry companies. Increasing wood supply would mean a reduction in conservation areas and an increase in tree farms at a time when our forest is at a critical state. Twenty-five per cent of our public forest is now less than 20 years old. Over half of our bird species' populations are not secure. Increasing wood supply would not ensure that mills stay open. On August 28, a Telegraph-Journal article quoted a UPM executive saying that a greater wood supply would not have made a difference in his company's decision to close its Miramichi mill. Company officials attributed the mill's closure to rapid appreciation of the Canadian dollar and a surplus of magazine paper on the market. It's time to make choices for the future. We need to manage for abundant wildlife habitat, protection of streams and rivers, climate change impacts and forest diversity in terms of age and species.

The Conservation Council therefore supports the conservation-oriented options A and B described in the first report. These options increase protected areas, and restore old growth forest conditions, while reducing clearcutting and capping plantations.

Option B focuses on ensuring our forest can withstand the ravages of climate change by restoring the diversity of species, which will be unaffected by global warming. Option B also increases the minimum area of old forest to 51 per cent by 2062, providing critical habitat for species that can only survive in such conditions like pileated woodpeckers, owls and flying squirrels.

Industry prefers Option E, which is the Self-sufficiency Task Force option the Minister of Natural Resources had the Task Force analyze. Option E would see 20 per cent of trees harvested by clearcutting and 37 per cent of our public forest converted to plantations.

Many citizens of New Brunswick are repulsed by the impacts of clearcuts. Clearcutting must be cut in half to help restore our Acadian forest, protect animal and plant habitats, and safeguard our streams and rivers. The primary objective of the industry option is to increase current and future softwood supply through reductions in conservation areas and increases in plantation areas. Riparian buffers would be reduced to 20 metres under their option, which will destroy water quality, aquatic habitats, and kill fish. Option E would decimate forest diversity and weaken the forest's ability to recover from disturbances that are increasing in frequency due to climate change, including: fires, pest outbreaks, droughts and floods.

While industry has made it clear that their option will increase the size of protected areas, little has been said about their option allowing clearcutting in conservation areas currently off limits, like old forest habitat, deer wintering yards and riparian buffers. Industry's option decreases the overall conservation area from 30 to 20 per cent. Public hearings conducted in 2004 and a public survey done in 2007 revealed that New Brunswickers think that too much timber is being cut, and that environmental protection should supersede ensuring more wood supply for the forest industry. The public must be adequately informed and genuinely consulted on the options being considered for our public forest.

A limited number of public information sessions and the lack of public hearings on the forest reports suggest the government has already decided to give the forest away to industry. The public can view the reports online <http://www.gnb.ca/cnb/Promos/Forest/index-e.asp> and submit their comments before October 3 at [dnrcomments@gnb.ca](mailto:dnrcomments@gnb.ca) or by mail to the Department of Natural Resources.

Tracy Glynn  
Acadian Forest Campaigner,  
Conservation Council of New Brunswick

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### **Readings and Observations from Nugeegadunked**

Here is some information from my research notes that I found interesting, new to me, but you might already be aware.

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The number of Persons living on Indian Reserves in New Brunswick in 1841 was only 118. There were 16 at Tobique and 1 at Madawaska (Little Falls). The total land in the Province set aside for Reserves were 62,223 acres. Tobique had 16,000 acres reserved. The Tobique reserve extended 9 miles along the left bank of the St. John River (not sure which side is left, I guess it assumes going down the river).

The main thrust of colonial strategy in their land tenure system was to clear, occupy and improve the land. Grants to colonists were made based on the occupants ability to clear the land and make improvements. The Surveyor General decided if they had "improved" the land. In fact, back in the days of Champlain and Lescarbot in the early 1600s, they both advocated clearing as much land as possible so that the weather could be improved, made warmer, so

that more tender crops could be grown here. They argued that the forest was too dense and was holding back the snows in the spring. So we have listened to them very well. The snows no longer hold back. Right?

Here is a good example of their thinking. A. W. Rainsford, the Commissioner for Tobique noted in his report submitted in 1842 that three miles of frontage towards the lower end of the reserved land was occupied by white squatters. He goes on to offer a solution to managing these squatters. "The fine interval below, and a suitable tract of at least one mile square, immediately above the mouth of the Tobique should be reserved for a Town Plot generally, and a portion of it marked off into building lots. 2500 acres above the Village Plot should be surveyed into whole remainder of the Reserve, with the exception only of a wood lot of perhaps a 1000 acres, as an appendage to the village, should be surveyed and offered for sale under direction of the Commissioner. The Return (of survey) to be accompanied by his estimates of the values of the several lots, and also where occupied, of the improvements. The necessity which exists for breaking up this Reserve, at least in part, is universally acknowledged." Now listen to what he says, "Its unimproved wilderness condition, at the very mouth of the large River Tobique, is found to be a serious obstacle, preventing the formation of settlements on the bank of the Tobique above it."

There were other situations similar to Tobique at Madawaska, Meductic, and elsewhere where the Indians were not "making improvements" and clearing the forests. In his "General Comments" (May 6, 1847) in regards to all these white squatters on Indian Reserves, the Surveyor General states that experience has proven that squatters on the Indian Reserves "cannot be prevailed upon to become tenants, and pay regular rents; neither can they be coerced to do so, without continual resort to litigation. Any attempt to eject them from the Reserves entirely will, in all likelihood, create the greatest excitement - draw forth the sympathy of the several neighbourhoods, and be ultimately unsuccessful. The only course therefore it seems, which can now be adopted, is the sale of the parts the squatters occupy, reserving the value of their improvements, although many of them are certainly very undeserving of such indulgence at all. The sale also recommended of some unoccupied portions of the large Reserves, such as at Tobique, and other places, which retard the general improvement of the Country, is loudly called for." Yes, these big reserves are getting in the way of "improving" the land. He goes on to say, "The reasonable wants of the Indians are fully provided for by the Reservations, which it is above recommended should continue to be held for them; and all the Commissioners ought to be required to report the names of those deserving Indians who desire to hold and IMPROVE fifty acre lots, agreeable to the Act passed in 1844, under which they will also be entitled to receive free grants after 10 years occupation. The Act further provides that the monies to arise from the sale of the other parts of the Reserve are to be deposited in the treasury, and appropriated exclusively for the Indians' benefit."

So, they start selling off Reserve land. I found a list in 1867 of names living on Reserve land who had purchased that land, "Return of Indian Lands in New Brunswick - Sold by Government but not yet granted." In the Tobique it lists 11 names, last names like Turner, Kelly, Armstrong, Taylor, Larlee, and they were sold between 100 and 155 acres.

To me this whole matter of "reserved land" is just a sham, something done to pacify the Indians, done in ignorance of their culture, and with no genuine commitment to honour the agreement long term. They give the land to them, then they take it away bit by bit. And, as

Tappan Adney once concluded, we gave them something that was theirs in the first place. We allowed them to live in their own land. How generous!

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**Good Morning Mr. Paul,**

Congratulations for your newspaper. Information is a powerful tool, and this is no doubt why very rich people make every attempt to control the media. To illustrate, when you surf the various news channels on t. v. no matter that you watch the BBC, CBC, ABC, CBS, Radio France, whatever, we get all the same pictures, often from archives. We may have freedom of speech to some degree, but our capacity to do so in a well informed way is seriously limited by the foregoing.

I'm a bit pressed right now in the wake of my papa's funeral on Monday. But on our declining forests, I will just say this for now, and you can use it as you think proper, whether as an article or a letter to the Editor. Only, kindly send a copy of what you print to the NBEN. Of course, I would appreciate a scan of the piece, though e-mail. Here goes:

In the mid-1970's, as a Registered Professional Forester working for Fraser Inc., I was part of a task force that spent considerable effort at modelling the future of our forests. We concluded - and both Industry & Government were informed of this - that for Industry not to run out of wood between 2010 - 2020, there should be, in Fraser's case, no expansion, biologically mature stands should be harvested first, young stands should be all pre-commercially thinned, and all stand not promptly regenerating naturally, quickly planted. Well, we have seen considerable expansion in the interval, and intelligent selection of stands for harvest ignored to such a point that we have seen several mill closures in the decade 2000 - 2010. Not only this, there have been MUCH public money to assist the Industry in one way or another. Not to mention the thousands of jobs lost and families direly affected while the Industry tsars are laughing... Their ministerial valets don't have the guts to honour their oath of office to serve the people. At least two ex-ministers have even been appointed to the corporate board of one pulp & paper company operating in northwestern New Brunswick, so they have been well fattened. I suppose they considered us all suckers taking in their mud year after year.

Have a great day. J. Denys Bourque, R. P. F.

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**WILDLIFE COMING TO OUR BACKYARDS**

September 28, 2008

When I first moved here from the west coast I was amazed at the brilliant colors of the fall trees. The burning reds, vibrant oranges, subtle purples of the hardwood forests are a unique, valuable commodity just like "gold". And to think, this is a renewable resource?

In the last few years I would wait for the colors to appear and I could not help but notice they are dwindling. In addition to this change I began to notice a sharp decline and unusual changes in the bird species at our feeders. We had sightings of Indigo Buntings and Northern Orioles. This may seem great but did they lose their habitat? I used to watch a pair of Pileated Woodpeckers that returned to the same area for several years. The area was cut and the woodpeckers are gone. Did they survive? Along with this there has been an increase in animals that are usually seen deep in the woods. Coyotes are coming in to yards and feeding on domestic animals. You can notice a drastic increase in the deer and moose along the roadsides. I actually saw an Eastern Cougar cross the road near Mt. Carlton and according to many they do not exist here. These changes are just a few examples of observations I have noted. I could go on and on and I am not alone where these few and many more observations are concerned.

Why all the changes? Could it be the effects of mass clear-cut logging? Drive from Plaster Rock to Mt. Carlton and you will notice huge areas are clear-cut. The roads are busy with trucks hauling logs, chips, and huge machines that do the job of many men.

I am not opposed to logging but I question the methods used. The machines used today do not select log, they take everything in their path. The companies justify this by implementing a large-scale replanting program. The problem is they are not replacing all the species destroyed; they plant a "cash crop", trees that grow fast, softwood. In addition the big companies are not overly concerned with the fines and penalties they face when they cut too close to a waterway or have a chemical spill. It's all a part of their costs. I worked for the research department of BC Forest Service and the problems encountered from clear cutting then replanting Douglas Fir are many and not reversible. Before we know it, it will be too late here and we will be faced with the extinction of animal species and their habitats.

Where have the "little guys" gone? Small-scale select logging? Have the big companies and the big machines driven them out? Made it impossible to make a living? If you can't beat them join them?

What about our parkland? Do we watch it dwindle in favor of industry? Or should we demand expansion and protection and create new jobs and new careers where our land and our forests are concerned? It is never too late and change is good or so I have been told.

Jo-Anne Harris, Riley Brook, NB

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## **DAN'S CORNER - CROWN LAND IS INDIAN LAND**

The land that has come to be known as Canada is Indian land, our land, and has always been our land.

At some point after contact those transplanted Europeans arrogantly decided that they would begin referring to Indian land as Indian Crown Land. This represents the beginning of the theft of our land. It also represents the beginning of the creation of the legal fiction and political illusion that has come to be known as Canada. This was the eurocanadian means of legitimizing what they knew and still know as the theft of land. Theft of Indian land.

If one reads European history one will discover that the theft of Indian land began much earlier. This was when the Christian church divided North America into portions and gave certain portions to different countries. Along with land grants the church also granted to European whites its go-ahead to conquer and populate Indian lands for in the minds of Church officials the occupiers were/are only sub-human savages. These savages were not civilized, not Christians, were/are not like Europeans for they did not try to conquer and convert "others" and they did not develop the land.

In the minds of Europeans the "permission" from the Christian church was and is the legitimizing force for the act of stealing land that does not rightfully belong to one. After all, the church gave its approval to steal savage land.

The Christian churches "permission" was what began the religious theft process of our land, and the methods that gave it life and sustainability, into the present, was the concept of Indian Crown Land. >From there, it was simply a matter of time and eurocanadian chicanery attitudes for it to become simply Crown Land.

In the present day you add to the mix the eurocanadian's deliberate and calculated state of denial with respect to their theft of our land along with their "white is right" and "might is right" attitude and you have a situation where those eurocanadians are more than willing and able to eliminate more of our people in the same manner that they managed to annihilate the Beothuk, so that they may continue holding on to our land.

Maybe the eurocanadians won't annihilate our people in as blatant a manner as they once did but annihilate they will for they will not return our land simply because they know in their hearts that this land is our land. For their individual and collective greed is too great. Greater yet then even their individual and collective guilt for their theft of Indian land.

As Indian people we are duty-bound to do what we must do to continue what the Ancestors have instructed us to do. To honor, respect, nurture and protect our Sacred Earth Mother. And to honor, respect, nurture and protect the Ancestors, the People and the Seventh Generation.

All My Relations, -Dan Ennis

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## DEAN'S DEN, - OLD TREE BLUES

As I stand here, and look around  
I see nothing but - your clear-cut ground  
I guess with me, you saw some need  
And left me here - to spread my seed,  
But all the soils' washed away  
Leaving only ledge and clay  
Not a squirrel, jay, or mole  
So how am I to play my role,  
One more time, again I'll bud  
Here amid the rocks and mud  
A jumbled mess of stumps and roots  
And dim imprints of logger's boots,  
No good spot where pip may fall  
Haste and waste have ruined all  
No rich place for sprouts to start  
Where greed has clawed at nature's heart,  
Not an alder, bush, or crow  
Where mighty forests used to grow  
Just skidder tracks and washed-up roads  
Where massive trucks hauled out their loads,  
The life-force of the land is gone  
No pristine stream for fish to spawn  
Spread and spurned beneath the sky  
Not even fit for bird to fly,  
All done by man - for things to own  
Just one old tree ... left all alone  
The wayward wind engulfs, subdues  
As branches sing ... the old tree blues!

D.C. Butterfield