

Date of notice : October 21, 2020



## **Public notification**

**FSC® Forest Management Annual Surveillance Audit**

**Eastern Ontario Forest Group**

**in**

**Kemptville, Ontario, Canada**

### **Introduction**

NEPCon is conducting an FSC® forest management and chain of custody annual audit of Eastern Ontario Forest Group located in Kemptville, Ontario, Canada. The evaluation will be conducted during the week of **November 30, 2020**.

### **Scope of Evaluation**

The FSC® certification audit will assess the environmental, silvicultural and socioeconomic aspects of the forest management unit(s) (FMU) managed by Eastern Ontario Forest Group, using the FSC Forest Management Standard – Great Lakes St. Lawrence (2010). To obtain a copy, please visit:

[https://ra.secure.force.com/SWPubDocs/PublicFiles?folder=Interim\\_Standards](https://ra.secure.force.com/SWPubDocs/PublicFiles?folder=Interim_Standards)

Information on this FSC certificate holder is available on FSC's website:  
<https://info.fsc.org/details.php?id=a0240000005sV9pAAE&type=certificate>

NEPCon is accredited by the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC) and this evaluation will follow procedures which have been approved by the Forest Stewardship Council®.

### **Team Composition**

James Hallworth, R.P.F., will lead the audit team.

## Steps and Schedule

Following is a short description of the evaluation process and a tentative agenda:

- Field visits – During the week of **November 30, 2020**, the audit team will conduct field visits of recent and active forest management operations on the certified area.
- Stakeholder and Indigenous communities/peoples consultation – Throughout the fieldwork, the team will contact local stakeholders and indigenous communities/peoples regarding the forest management activities of Eastern Ontario Forest Group in communities surrounding the forest area. This can include private interviews and discussions as well as public meetings.
- Final evaluation briefing – Prior to departure the team will meet with the Eastern Ontario Forest Group forest managers and other parties to finalize their data collection and present preliminary findings.
- Draft report production – The audit team will produce a confidential draft report that will be circulated for comment to the Eastern Ontario Forest Group. This should occur within one month after completion of the evaluation.
- Certification decision – Upon receipt of comments on the draft report from the Eastern Ontario Forest Group forest managers, and other general stakeholder and indigenous communities/peoples comments, NEPCon will reach a certification decision. Barring unforeseen obstacles, this should occur by **January 28, 2021**.

## Your Comments Sought

As a part of the audit process we invite stakeholders and indigenous communities/peoples to offer comments on the Eastern Ontario Forest Group forest management activities in relation to conformance with the requirements of the forest management standard referenced above. **We welcome input, either public or confidential.** Your input will be valuable at any stage of the process, but we would prefer to receive your comments before the end of the on-site audit so that we can take them into consideration in reaching a certification decision. Your options for communicating your comments are as follows:

1. Meet with a NEPCon audit team member before or during the audit.
2. Send comments to the NEPCon staff person responsible for coordinating this audit (see contact info below) or

**Unless you request otherwise, these comments will be kept confidential,** available only to FSC and NEPCon staff.

NEPCon's complaints, appeals and dispute resolution policy is available to stakeholders and indigenous communities/peoples at [www.nepcon.org](http://www.nepcon.org).

Contacting the Audit Team	Contacting NEPCon	Mailing address
James Hallworth ♦ Email: jhallworth@preferredbynature.org ♦ Telephone: +1 249-358-9844	James Hallworth ♦ Email: jhallworth@preferredbynature.org ♦ Telephone: +1 249-358-9844 ♦ Worldwide Website: <a href="http://www.nepcon.org">www.nepcon.org</a>	NEPCon Canada Inc. PO box 1771, Chelsea QC, J9B1A1