

Joseph B. Fobister
General Delivery,
Grassy Narrows, ON. P0X-1B0

March 21, 2002

Via: Fax- 468-2736

Mr. Fred Hall
District Manager
Ministry of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 5080
808 Robertson Street
Kenora, Ontario. P9N-3X9

Re: Whiskey-Jack Forest Management Plan 2004-2024

Dear Mr. Hall

On behalf of the Anishinabek of Asubpeeschoseewagong, I would like to thank you for extending an invitation to participate in your 2004 -2024 Forest Management Plan. We feel it necessary to take this opportunity to address some unresolved issues from previous planning sessions.

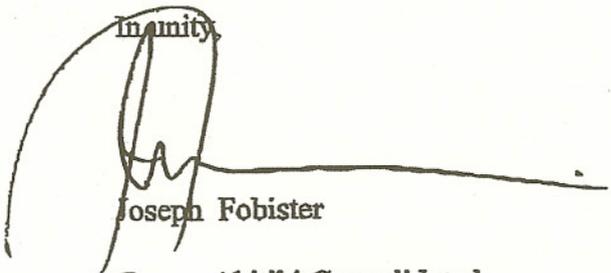
In the past, we believe that the Ministry of Natural Resources and Abitibi Consolidated have dealt with us as though we are not equal partners in the process. Our concerns have been made light of and it doesn't appear that you ever will due to your assertion that Kenora and the surrounding area would suffer economic hardship if logging were scaled back or had to make concessions. Employment and economic growth for Kenora has been given priority over our traditional values and culture. This is unacceptable. We have participated fully in the past and our concerns are never properly considered. What's worse, our attendance at information sessions and open houses is misconstrued as participation or approval.

The government of the colonists and the logging industry have conspired to destroy much of what we hold sacred. Our traditional values and culture are suffering and are headed towards extinguishment. This is being done so that the non-native interests can have work for a few short years. This land and the forests that are an integral part of it have sustained our people for time immemorial. We watch as they disappear on the backs of logging trucks to paper mills all over the continent. We do not *have* anymore to give. We are left to deal with the environmental and sociological nightmare left behind following tree "harvesting". Most of our trap lines have been decimated along with the old growth forests. A way of life disappears with these forests. This way of life does not grow back. Tree planters cannot replace it. Other trap lines await the same fate as each plan is developed in a vacuum. There is no interest in correcting unsustainable economic growth. We are not against economic development; we simply realize that it should not be considered an end unto itself.

We should not have to remind you that as beneficiaries of Treaty #3 we have rights that are recognized and protected under Section 35 of the Constitution Act. Courts all across the country are realizing the necessity to honour the spirit of the promises made by the Crown. We demand that you too honour your promises, made nation to nation, and work towards returning honour to the Crown.

Let this letter be notice to you that we are not consenting to a continued assault on our culture, our way of life and indeed, our very existence.

In unity,



Joseph Fobister

Cc: Abitibi Consolidated
Bryan Phelan, Kenora Enterprise
Grand Council Treaty #3
Robert Janes, Cook & Roberts
Grassy Narrows Band Council
Sicra Legal Defence
Chiefs of Ontario
Kenora Local Citizens Committee
Red Lake Local Citizens Committee
Howard Hampton