

FOLLOW-UP REPORT OF THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE OPERATIONAL INTEGRATED FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANS (PAFIO)

Management Units: 026-61, 026-62, 026-63, 026-64, 026-65, 026-66, 085-51, 086-52, 086-63, 086-64, 086-65, 086-66, 087-51, 087-62, 087-63 and 087-64

Public consultation held from January 26th to February 19th, 2026

MINISTÈRE DES RESSOURCES NATURELLES ET DES FORÊTS



Acknowledgements

The Direction de la gestion des forêts du Nord-du-Québec wishes to thank the forest users who participated in this public consultation. We greatly appreciate your collaboration, which contributes to harmonious coexistence in the forest. We also wish to thank the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Regional Government for its collaboration in writing the consultation report.

Produced by

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Laval Gaudreault, ministère des Ressources naturelles et des Forêts, 2008

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List of abbreviations and acronyms

BGA	Timber supply guarantee holder (in French, Bénéficiaire de garanties d'approvisionnement)
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
EIJBRG:	Eeyou Istchee James Bay Regional Government
MRC (in English, RCM)	Regional county municipality (in French, Municipalité régionale de comté)
MRNF	Ministère des Ressources naturelles et des Forêts
PAFIO	Operational Integrated Forest Management Plan (in French, Plan d'aménagement forestier intégré opérationnel)
PAFIT	Tactical Integrated Forest Management Plan (in French, Plan d'aménagement forestier intégré tactique)
RSDF	<i>Regulation respecting the sustainable development of forests in the domain of the State.</i>
SFMA	Sustainable Forest Development Act
TLGIRT	Local Integrated Resource Management Planning Panel (in French, Table locale de gestion intégrée des ressources et du territoire)
MU (in French, UA)	Management Unit (in French, Unité d'aménagement)

Context

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Under the *Sustainable Forest Development Act*, the Ministère des Ressources naturelles et des Forêts (The Ministère) is responsible for producing the Operational and Tactical Integrated Forest Management Plans.

This Act requires that integrated forest development plans must be the object of a public consultation held by the body responsible for the composition and operation of the local integrated land and resource management panel (TLGIRT) or, if applicable, by the regional county municipality (RCM) to which that responsibility was entrusted under section 55.1.

The *Manuel de consultation publique sur les plans d'aménagement forestier intégré et les plans d'aménagement spéciaux* (Public consultation manual on integrated forest development plans and special development plans) indicates that following receipt of the consultation report prepared by the body responsible, the Ministère prepares a follow-up report on the public consultation. This one integrates the summary of the comments present in the consultation report produced by the body responsible and the follow-ups it intends to give them.

The Ministère has mandated the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Regional Government (EIJBRG) as the body responsible for the deployment of the TLGIRT, to support it in organizing public consultations.

OBJECTIVES OF THE CONSULTATION

The public consultation on the forest development plans has the following objectives:

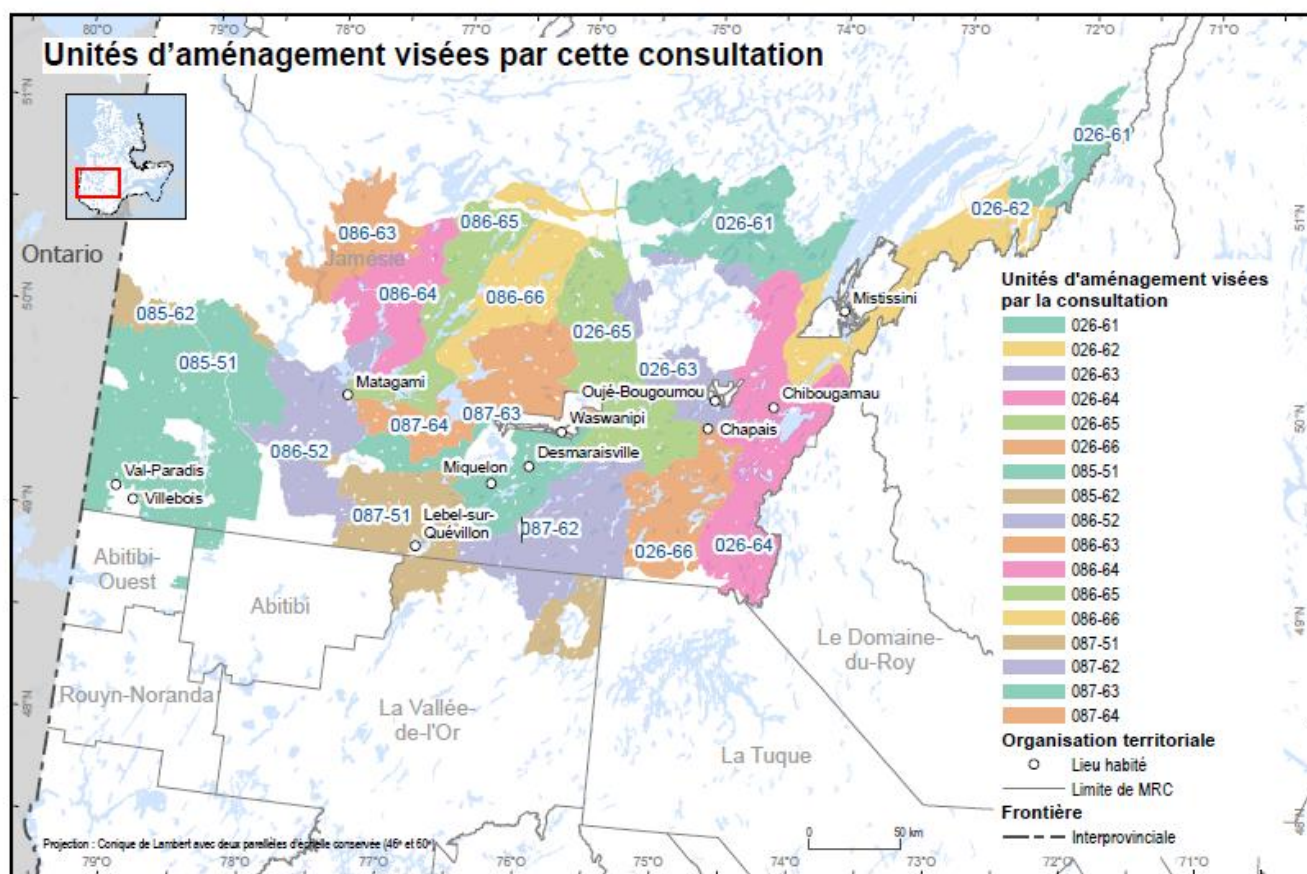
- Respond to the population's wish to be informed and listened to, and see their interests, values and needs to account for them in the decisions relating to forest management;
- Favour a better understanding by the population of management of the Québec public forest and, more specifically, of planning of forest management;
- Enable the population to express themselves regarding the proposed forest management plans and integrate, when possible, the interests, values and needs expressed;
- Reconcile the diversified interests of the many users of forest resources and land;
- Harmonize forest management with the population's values and needs;
- Enable the Minister to make the best possible decisions, in view of the circumstances.

Source: *Manuel de consultation publique sur les plans d'aménagement forestier intégré et les plans d'aménagement spéciaux*, 2021.

PERIOD AND MANAGEMENT UNITS CONCERNED

From January 26 to February 19, 2026, the government invited the public to express its views on the Operational Integrated Forest Management Plans (PAFIO) of Management Units (MU) 026-61, 026-62, 026-63, 026-64, 026-65, 026-66, 085-51, 086-52, 086-63, 086-64, 086-65, 086-66, 087-51, 087-62, 087-63 and 087-64.

The public was informed of the holding of the consultation through the distribution of the public notice presented in the appendix.



Map 1 - Management Units Covered by the Consultation

INFORMATION MADE ACCESSIBLE

During the consultation period, the Ministère produced and posted online an interactive map which enabled the consultation of the detailed forest management plans. This map was posted on the Ministère's website on the regional forest plans and consultations page: [Plans forestiers régionaux et consultations | Gouvernement du Québec \(quebec.ca\)](https://www.quebec.ca/gouvernement/actualites/ministere-forestiers-regionaux-et-consultations). Users could position on the map a point identifying the site concerned by their comment and submit it with an integrated form.

Those wishing to obtain further information on PAFIOs could contact the Ministère's teams during office hours.

Once the public consultation is over, those who wish to review the elements that were the subject of this consultation can find them on the map of previous consultations available at the following link: [click here](#).

REPORT ON PARTICIPATION

In the context of this public consultation, 42 persons sent comments by means of the electronic form. A total of 66 comments were received, including 24 expressed by an organization, an association or a business.

Table 1 - Number of Persons who Participated in the Public Consultation¹

Breakdown of comments received				
Management Unit	Number of respondents		Total comments	
	Personal	On behalf an organization	Number	%
026-63		2	2	3
026-64	37	2	39	59
026-65	1	2	3	5
026-66		3	3	5
085-51	1		1	1
086-52	1		1	1
086-65		1	1	1
087-51	1	2	3	5
087-62	1	3	4	6
087-63		9	9	14
Ensemble des UA	42	24	66	100

¹ Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Summary of Comments and Follow-up the Ministère Intends to Provide

Given their number, and with the goal of simplifying follow-up, the Ministère has chosen, in this report, the comments received in the form of table. This way of doing things makes it easier to find information and highlights all the main concerns raised by the people who took part in the public consultation. This also facilitates a review of the Ministère responses and an overview of the follow-up that will be done.

The following table summarizes the comments received and summarizes the analysis carried out by the Ministère.

Table 2 - Summary of comments and the Ministère's proposed follow-up

Theme	Participant category	Summary of comment	Ministère's Follow-up	MU
Infrastructures Period for completion of work	Recreational tourism	Requested to respect the TQ 93 snowmobile trail, which passes through the right-of-way for 1 km and uses the former railroad. Requested to leave a protection strip. Requested an alternative to avoid the closure of the snowmobile trail when transporting wood. Requested to be informed of periods of forest work and road repairs.	Some comments were related to the commercial planning presented for consultation in previous years. These have been transferred to the timber supply guarantee recipient (BGA) associated with the area and contact has been established between the parties. One measure exists and it provides for two meetings per year between the Fédération des clubs de motoneigistes du Québec (FCQM) and the industry in order to agree on harmonizations of sensitive areas. Requested to leave a protection strip: The request to maintain a tree strip is not applicable in this case as it concerns an area that has already been harvested and will be subject to non-commercial silvicultural work. Requested to be informed of periods of forest work and road repairs: The work will be done during the summer, so their completion period does not interfere with the snowmobile season.	026-63 026-65 026-66 087-62 087-63
Work location Type of silvicultural treatment Infrastructures	Recreational tourism Hunter/fisher Municipal clientele Citizens	Opposition to forest cutting and creating new roads in the area of the fire risk mitigation project near Chibougamau, where several trails are used by the public. Requested to maintain a minimum protective radius around the city and maintain the visual quality of the landscape.	The fire risk mitigation project is still under discussion with the city of Chibougamau. An information meeting will be held in collaboration with the MRNF for citizens on this project aimed at mitigating risks related to fires in public forests around communities.	026-64

Theme	Participant category	Summary of comment	Ministère's Follow-up	MU
Work location Period for completion of work Infrastructures Type of silvicultural treatment	Vacationer	Asked if there will be ditches and a culvert that will be installed near his road entrance. Wished to be informed of the period and duration of work. Asked if all culverts will be replaced or repaired on the road. Asked if there are plans to leave a certain percentage of mature forest. Asked if it was possible to have one or more firebreak(s).	The operational requests were forwarded to the operational panel of the Unité de gestion de Chibougamau so the BGAs can review them and respond to participants. On the territory of La Paix des braves, the equivalent of the harvested area in mosaic management is conserved. This residual forest consists of the same types of stands as those harvested. The MRNF performs the forest management as blocks. A fire break is built in the event of an emergency, as is done during forest fires near municipalities. For a rough shelter lease, the measures proposed on the SOPFEU website, Protect your home from wildfires SOPFEU, can be carried out within the limits of the lease, i.e., 100 m². Past this limit, an application for a permit for other purposes must be submitted to the MRNF. It is important to note that no tree harvesting can be done on the lease.	026-64
Work location	Outfitter	Opposition to the cutting as planned. Asked for a meeting to discuss alternatives.	A meeting was held on May 19, 2026, with the outfitter and steps are underway to harmonize the area.	026-64
Type of silvicultural treatment	Municipal clientele	Objection to the cutting encroaching on Parc Obalski. Requested to reduce the width of deforestation in order to maintain a forest strip to ensure tree stability. The planned deforestation encroaches on a lot owned by a citizen and on the snowmobile corridor.	This is an area within the scope of the Ministère des Transports et de la Mobilité durable. The comments have been sent to this Department since it is responsible for this matter.	026-64

Theme	Participant category	Summary of comment	Ministère's Follow-up	MU
		Requirement to maintain a tree line to mitigate the visual landscape in the industrial area. Asked if it was possible to conserve deciduous trees in order to create natural fire breaks.		
Work location	Recreational tourism	Opposition to forest cutting along Route 167.	The comments have been sent to the Ministère des Transports et de la Mobilité durable since it is responsible for this matter.	026-64
Communication	Recreational tourism	Asked for the possibility of using more conventional means, such as the newspaper, to encourage public attendance at the PAFIO presentation.	During a public consultation, a notice is published in local newspapers, such as <i>La Sentinelle</i> , before the start of the consultation to inform the public.	026-64
Infrastructures	Hunter	Asked for information regarding the type of road improvement and whether there will be reforestation. The type of improvement must be consistent with the woodland caribou precautionary approach.	The MRNF has discussed with the requester and steps are underway to harmonize the area. A field visit will be conducted to validate possible options to meet the request.	026-65
Infrastructures	Outfitter	Opposition to road repairs in areas around the lake, as an agreement was reached in 2025.	The MRNF will contact the outfitter. The areas will not be included in the summer 2026 work related to a return to production.	026-66
Work location	Hunter/fisher	Opposition to non-commercial silvicultural work (education), with the aim of maintaining diversity.	Clearing will help maintain diversity, as only deciduous trees competing with the coniferous trees will be cut.	085-51
Period for completion of work	Vacationer	Asked to be informed of the work period and wanted to know what future purpose the road needs to be repaired for.	The work is not expected to take place until 2028. The road must be repaired to allow for the transport of machinery to the operation areas as well as the transportation of wood once harvest is complete. There are no planned improvements on those roads, just repair.	086-52

Theme	Participant category	Summary of comment	Ministère's Follow-up	MU
Work location	Municipal clientele	Requested a 20-metre wide forest strip within 500 metres of the intersection with the campground access road.	A harmonization measure was agreed upon. The affected operation area has been modified to accommodate the maintenance of a forest strip along Route Billy-Diamond.	086-65
Infrastructures	Representative of a structured wildlife territory	No work is accepted, as a harmonization measure has already been agreed upon.	The MRNF will respect previously agreed harmonization measures. Should a change be made, the MRNF will notify the client and make a prior agreement with the client.	087-51
Work location Infrastructures	Vacationer	Requested to maintain the access to a cottage. Requested to remove the constraint areas east of the lake. Requested not to harvest the deciduous trees. Requested that some blocks be removed due to low volume.	A harmonization measure has been developed and accepted by the BGA. The constraint areas will be adjusted so that the block is more operational and to reduce the visual impact of the cutting. In addition, deciduous areas will be removed. A detailed analysis will be performed on the blocks for which removal is requested in order to validate the information and make any necessary adjustments as required.	087-51
Infrastructures Period for completion of work	Vacationer	Asked if there was a possibility to improve the road that is in close proximity to the new road to the dock. Wished to be informed of the period of work.	A harmonization measure was agreed upon. The BGAs do not plan to use this section of the road and a field visit will be conducted with the vacationer.	087-62
Infrastructures Period for completion of work	Municipal clientele	Requested to be informed of the start date for the repair of the road of Mine Bachelor. Requested that work on the site near the campground road be done in winter.	A request has been sent to the BGAs to share the operation schedule prior to the start of work. The BGAs cannot guarantee that the work will be carried out during the winter for the site located near the camping road. As such, the work schedule will be sent out to inform of the completion period.	087-63

Conclusion

The PAFIO are dynamic and present the locations with the necessary potential to carry out the various development work. To consult the various forest planning documents relating to Nord-du-Québec, visit the Ministère's website.

Public consultations on the PAFIO are organized each year with the goal of collecting comments from organizations and individuals during the validity period of the plans. These consultations generally are held in January.

To view information related to operational forest planning, consult the interactive map of the region on the Ministère's website or address one of the management units mentioned below.

Chibougamau Management Unit

624, 3^e Rue
Chibougamau (Québec) G8P 1P1
Telephone: 418-748-2647

Harricana-Nord Management Unit

1122, Route 111 Est
Amos (Québec) J9T 1N1
Telephone: 819-444-5238

Quévillon Management Unit

1121, boulevard Industriel
Lebel-sur-Quévillon (Québec) J0Y 1X0
Telephone: 819-755-4838

Mont-Plamondon Management Unit

645, 1^{re} Rue Est
La Sarre (Québec) J9Z 3P3
Telephone: 819-339-7623

Appendices

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE HOLDING OF THE CONSULTATION

The following table presents all the different means used by the MRNF or by the responsible body, for distribution of the announcement of the public consultation.

Table 3 - Means Used to Announce the Public Consultation

Means	Target audience	Information	Number	Date
Email	TLGIRT delegates and alternates	Announcement of the public consultation and information sessions	95 persons	December 8, 2025
		Presentation of the amendments to the delegates at the panel meeting	34 delegates present	November 4, 6, 18, 25 and 26, 2025
Email	Citizens wishing to be informed	List of citizens who expressed their interest in being informed on the public consultations	97 persons	January 26, 2026
Public notice	Readership of daily and weekly newspapers	Newspapers distributed in the territory of the forest management units	Readership of the <i>Citoyen Abitibi-Est et Ouest</i> (44,447 copies)	January 21, 2026
			Readership of the <i>La Sentinelle</i> (2,500 copies)	January 20, 2026
			Readership of the <i>Nation</i> magazine (7,500 copies)	January 23, 2026
			Readership of the <i>Jamésien</i> (7,800 copies)	February 2, 2026
	Citizens	Public notice posted in the offices of the EIJBRG in Matagami, Beaucanton and Villebois	3 posting sites	January 26, 2026
Social network	Subscribers to the Facebook and LinkedIn pages of the Ministry	Public page managed by the Ministry	2 publications	January 26 and 27, 2026 February 3, 2026
Press release	Citizens	Public page managed by the Ministry	1 publication	January 26, 2026
Website	Citizens	Website of Quebec.ca	Announcement of the public consultation	Januray 12, 2026
		Website of the EIJBRG	1 publication	Januray 27, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE AND INFORMATION ACTIVITY HELD

PUBLIC NOTICE

Ministère des Ressources naturelles et des Forêts

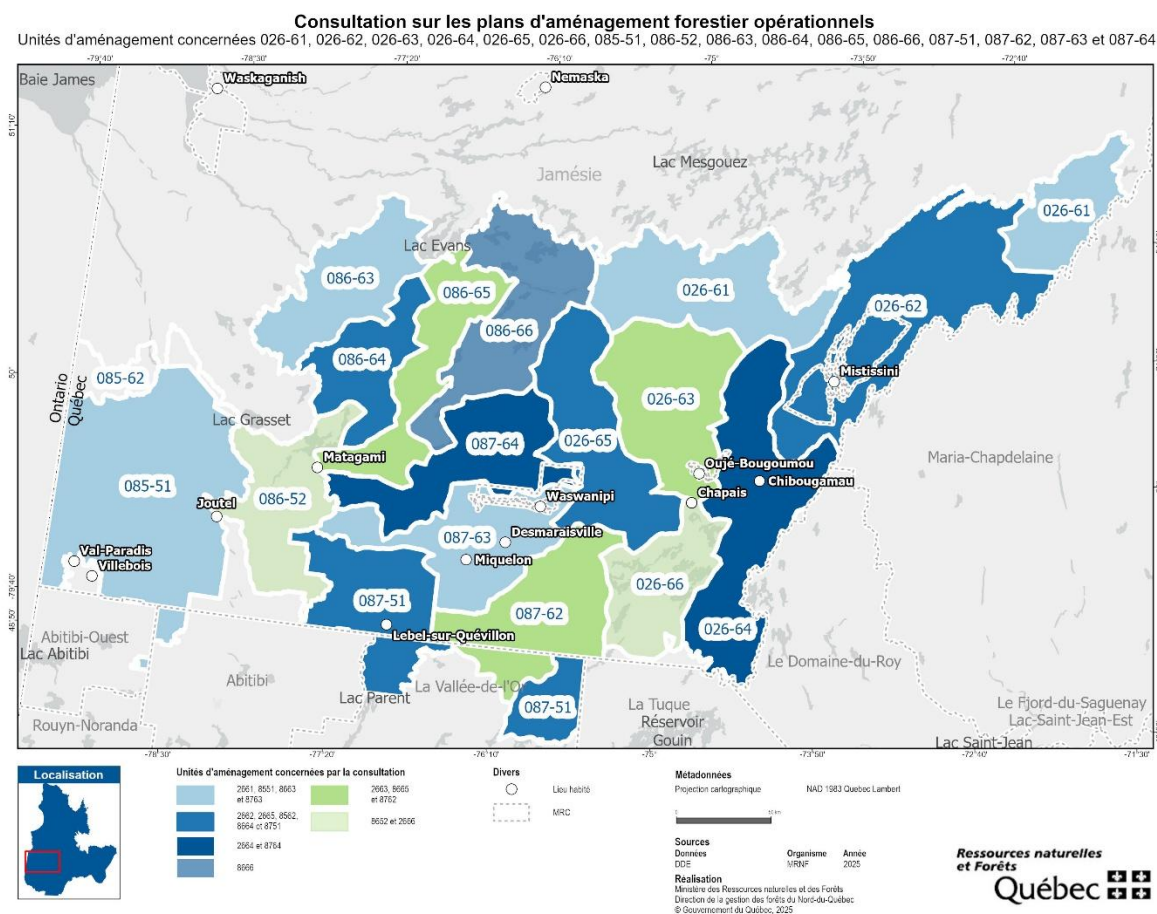
PUBLIC CONSULTATION – FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES IN THE NORD-DU-QUÉBEC REGION

From January 26 to February 19, 2026

The Ministère des Ressources naturelles et des Forêts (MRNF) invites the public to participate in a public consultation on the planned modifications in the Integrated Forest Management Plans - Operational (PAFIO) and on the special management plan (PAS) for the recovery of wood affected by the spruce budworm of the regional public land.

Those PAFIO present potential forest operation zones where work is planned such as timber harvesting, land preparation, reforestation, thinning, construction and rehabilitation of multi-purpose roads are potentially planned in some areas of the public forest for management units 026-61, 026-62, 026-63, 026-64, 026-65, 026-66, 085-51, 086-52, 086-63, 086-64, 086-65, 086-66, 087-51, 087-62, 087-63 and 087-64.

The PAS includes potential areas of intervention where timber harvesting operations are planned, as well as the location of roads and other infrastructure to be built or improved in management units 087-51 and 087-63.



To consult the plans and submit your comments: [Québec.ca/consultations-foret-nord-du-quebec](https://quebec.ca/consultations-foret-nord-du-quebec)



You have until February 19, 2026, at 11:59 pm, to provide your comments.

INFORMATION ACTIVITIES

Departmental experts will hold information sessions to specify the areas for potential intervention for public consultation, the way to provide online comments, and the follow-up that will be done regarding addressed concerns. A question-and-answer period with participants will conclude the activity.

Management units 026-61, 026-62, 026-63, 026-64, 026-65 and 026-66: Monday, February 2, 2026, starting from 7:00 p.m. - Chibougamau: City Hall Council Room (650, 3e Rue)

Management unit 085-51: Tuesday, February 10, 2026, starting from 6:30 p.m. - Beaucanton: Municipal Building Room A (2709, boulevard du Curé-McDuff)

Management units 086-52, 086-63, 086-64, 086-65 and 086-66: Wednesday, February 11, 2026, starting from 6:30 p.m. - Matagami: EIJB RG Headquarters – Large room (2, rue des Rapides)

Management units 087-51, 087-62, 087-63 and 087-64: Tuesday, February 3, 2026, starting from 6:30 p.m. - Lebel-sur-Quévillon: City Hall Room number 6 (500, place Quévillon)

For more information

Specialists are also available by appointment from Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. using the following contact information:

By email: nord-du-quebec.foret@mrnf.gouv.qc.ca

Unité de gestion de Chibougamau

624, 3e Rue
Chibougamau (Québec) G8P 1P1
Telephone: 418-748-2647

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Unité de gestion de l'Harricana-Nord

1122, Route 111 Est
Amos (Québec) J9T 1N1
Telephone: 819-444-5238

Note: This consultation does not allow for the review of the use of public land, or the rights granted to it.

INFORMATION ACTIVITIES HELD

In collaboration with Eeyou Istchee James Bay Regional Government, information activities were held on February 2, 2026, February 3, 2026, February 10, 2026 and February 11, 2026, to introduce the public to the interactive map and the public consultation process, and to inform them of how to submit comments.

Town/Locality	Management Unit	Date and time	Number of participants
Chibougamau	026-61, 026-62, 026-63, 026-64, 026-65 et 026-66	February 2, 2026 – 7:00 PM	8
Lebel-sur-Quévillon	087-51, 087-62, 087-63 et 087-64	February 3, 2026 – 6:30 PM	1
Beaucanton	085-51	February 10, 2026 – 6:30 PM	3
Matagami	086-52, 086-63, 086-64 et 086-66	February 11, 2026 – 6:30 PM	0

