

Dear Editor,

Please publish the following **open letter** which was sent to the Hon. Doug Tyler, Minister of Natural Resources and Energy.

Thank you,

Roberta Clowater,  
NB Protected Natural Areas Coalition

March 15, 1999

Hon. Doug Tyler  
Minister of Natural Resources and Energy  
P.O. Box 6000  
Fredericton, NB E3B 5H1

Dear Mr. Tyler,

As you may know, 36 environmental and wildlife groups from around New Brunswick have asked Dr. LaPierre to include in his final report a recommendation of interim protection for all twelve candidates identified in his first report. Given the fact that Dr. LaPierre's report will not be submitted to you until summer, at the earliest, we thought it prudent to make our request to you directly, so more immediate action could be taken on this matter. We strongly believe that no industrial activity (forest harvesting or new mining claims) or road-building should take place in the 12 identified natural areas until all relevant studies and negotiations have been completed, and final decisions have been made. During the public consultation process, no information of a detailed scientific or economic nature came forward that would cause Dr. LaPierre to eliminate any of the 12 areas from further consideration. Therefore, all 12 areas must move forward to the next stage in the process - a socioeconomic analysis that considers the costs and benefits of protecting each area, individually and cumulatively. According to the information we have about wood supply implications, an immediate moratorium on cutting in the 12 areas would have little, if any, wood supply implications, but, it could certainly increase the ability of all parties to negotiate fairly.

We also request that the socioeconomic analysis be done by acknowledged experts in forest employment, wood supply, economic diversification, tourism employment,

parks management, wildlife ecology and rural development. To be credible, this analysis must be done in an open and transparent way, incorporating terms of reference suggestions from interested parties (government and non-government), and the methodology and detailed results must be available to industry, non-government organizations and the public.

At the same time, it is very important for government to provide leadership to begin discussions with industry, conservation groups, aboriginal groups, wildlife groups, recreationalists, scientists, landowners and other interested parties. These discussions should bring together representatives of all interested groups to work constructively with government on a reasonable solution which protects significant wildlands in New Brunswick, maintains employment in natural resource industries, helps diversify the economy and provides even more employment opportunities. We believe that all parties can work together in good faith if all 12 areas have been given interim protection.

To be most effective, the socioeconomic analysis should be completed within six months to one year, which would allow the protected areas candidates to be discussed within the context of the upcoming 2002 forest management plans.

We would appreciate a response from you on the interim protection issue as soon as possible. If you have any concerns that could be addressed by me directly, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Roberta Clowater  
Coordinator  
NB Protected Natural Areas Coalition

Groups endorsing this request:

Atlantic Association of Professional Naturotherapists

Atlantic Salmon Federation

Blue-Green Society, Sackville

Campaign for Pesticide Reduction - NB

Clearinghouse Group, Glassville

Club des Naturalistes de la Peninsule acadienne

Comité de l'environnement de l'école aux Quatre Vents, Dalhousie

Comité de gestion des écosystèmes de Kent / Kent County Ecosystem

Management Committee Concerned Youth for Development, Fredericton  
Conservation Council of New Brunswick, Fredericton  
Coopérative Naturel, Ltée, Kedgwick  
EcoAction, Moncton  
Éco-Cocagne, Cocagne  
Ecoversité, Moncton  
Falls Brook Centre, Knowlesville  
Ford Alward Naturalists Association, Glassville  
Fundy Environmental Action Group, Alma  
Grand Manan Whale and Seabird Research Station, Grand Manan  
Le Club d'ornithologie du Madawaska, Edmundston  
Maritime Atlantic Wildlife, Cookville  
Moncton Naturalists' Club  
Nature Trust of New Brunswick  
NB Protected Natural Areas Coalition, Fredericton  
NB Salmon Council  
NB Trappers and Fur Harvesters Federation / Federation des  
Trappeurs et Récolteurs de Fourrures N-B, Inc.  
New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists  
Oxfam Canada - Projet Acadie,  
Moncton People Against Nuclear Energy, Moncton  
Projet siffleur / Piper Project, Tabusintac  
Quispamsis Environmental Committee, Quispamsis  
Sierra Youth Coalition - Atlantic Division  
Sussex Society of Public Interest, Sussex  
UNB Student Environmental Society, Fredericton  
Vertige, Comité d'environnement de l'Ecole Secondaire Mathieu Martin, Dieppe  
Washademoak Environmentalists, Cambridge-Narrows  
Winterwood Environment Committee, Sussex

c.c. David MacFarlane, Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Energy  
Premier Camille Thériault