

# *MAZINAW – LANARK FOREST INC.*

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February 13, 2020

Nick Baggs  
Crown Forests and Lands Policy Branch  
Roberta Bondar Place, Suite 400  
70 Foster Drive  
Sault Ste Marie , ON  
P6A 6V5  
Canada

Submitted Online Via the [Environmental Registry of Ontario](#)

**Re: Support for Proposed Revisions to Ontario's Independent Forest Audit Regulation under the Crown Forest Sustainability Act, ERO# 019-1006**

Mr. Baggs,

Mazinaw-Lanark Forest Inc. is a small, cooperative SFL in Southern Ontario with shareholders representing sawmills, a group of independent loggers and a pulp mill. Our shareholders are principally independent, family owned businesses whom have been operating on Crown land for generations. Our shareholders have broad representation in the communities within and surrounding the SFL boundaries. Over 785 people are employed by these operations and are dependent on wood produced from the forest.

As the general manager of Mazinaw-Lanark Forest Inc., thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Proposed Revisions to Ontario's Independent Forest Audit Regulation under the Crown Forest Sustainability Act, Environmental Registry of Ontario number 019-1006. I am writing to you today to express support for this proposal. I also participate as an industry member on the Forest Management Planning Advisory Group (FMPAG).

Mazinaw-Lanark Forest Inc. has participated in three Independent Forest Audits (IFA) during the time that our SFL license has been in place (2004, 2009, 2016). Given our experience with IFA audits in the past we are supportive of the principals described in this policy proposal, specifically:

- Extend the timeframe for audits to at least 10-years,
- The principles that allow the Minister to extend the 10-year audit period for a management unit, and
- Modifying the scope of an audit based on relevant factors,

The company and our shareholders are also supportive of the proposal to have these changes come into effect for the 2021 IFA program.

Mazinaw-Lanark Forest Inc. feels that the proposed changes in this notice will allow for appropriate audit oversight and efficiencies given the timelines for planning in the regulated manuals and the level of day-to-day monitoring of our operations already in place.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Mertins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Matt Mertins, RPF  
General Manager  
Mazinaw-Lanark Forest Inc.

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