



Forest Management Certification reassessment of Nawiinginokiima Forest Management Corporation (NFMC)

in Marathon, Ontario, Canada

May 31st, 2019

Introduction - NEPCon is conducting a forest management and Chain of Custody reassessment audit of Nawiinginokiima Forest Management Corporation (NFMC) located in Marathon, Ontario Canada. The evaluation will be conducted during the week of July 15th, 2019.

Scope of Evaluation – The reassessment audit will assess the environmental, silvicultural and socioeconomic aspects of the Pic River Forest managed by NFMC using the FSC® National Boreal Standard (2004). This standard is available on FSC Canada’s website: <https://ca.fsc.org/en-ca> NEPCon is accredited by the Forest Stewardship Council® and this evaluation must follow procedures which have been approved.

Team Composition

Christine Korol, lead auditor - Christine has been involved in the field of forest certification for the past 10 years, working closely with companies, NGOs, communities and auditors in evaluating and implementing FSC’s Forest Management (FM) and Chain-of-Custody (CoC) certification requirements. For over 7 years, Christine worked with Rainforest Alliance’s RA-Cert division, eventually overseeing the Canadian portfolio of Rainforest Alliance’s certification services. Christine has years of experience auditing to forest management and CoC standards across Canada, and also in Indonesia and Taiwan. Since 2016, Christine has been an auditor on four Ontario Independent Forest Audits. As a trainer, she has led Forest Management Lead Auditor Training courses in Canada and Taiwan. Most recently, Christine has worked with FSC in the development of the new FSC Canada National Forest Management Standard and the FSC Controlled Wood National Risk Assessment for Canada. She also supports companies directly with their forest management and CoC systems, and in developing their sustainable sourcing policies. Christine is a provisional member of the Ontario Professional Foresters Association, has a Masters degree in Forest Conservation, and a Bachelors degree in Ecology. She is based out of Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Jeremy Williams, social auditor - Jeremy earned a B.Sc.F. from the University of Toronto’s Faculty of Forestry (1979) and a Ph.D. from the same Faculty with a specialization in Forest Economics (1986). He successfully completed QMI’s environmental lead auditor course for ISO 14000 in 2000, and in 2009 took the Smartwood Lead Auditor training course. Dr. Williams is a Registered Professional Forester in Ontario. Dr. Williams has a wide range of experience in forest management in Canada, and has worked in most provinces and territories, as well as internationally. Within Ontario, he is familiar with both the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence and boreal forest types. As of January 2019, he has participated in 49 Independent Forest Audits, including 27 as lead auditor. He has also been involved in ten FSC re/assessments and more than a dozen annual audits. Other recent, relevant work has included an assessment of the Ontario MNR’s approach for assessing sustainability in forest planning,

undertaking a jurisdictional review of forest sustainability frameworks and providing expert advice to a Nova Scotia review of forestry practices. He is also active in forest carbon management, forest governance and supporting Indigenous efforts to participate in the forest sector.

Mark Leschishin, forester - Mark is a forest technician and professional forester with more than 38 years experience in forest management planning and operations in Ontario. Mark operates a forestry consulting firm in Wawa (Borealis Forestry & GIS). He has performed assessments of the value of forest resources and undertaken compliance monitoring and auditing of forest management. Mark co-authored the 2000 forest management plan for the Wawa Forest, assisted in preparing the 2001 forest management plan for the former Superior Forest, and provided strategic input to the 2008 forest management plan for the White River Forest. As of 2016, Mark has lead seven Independent Forest Audits in Ontario, participated in 28 others as an auditor, and participated in one Rainforest Alliance FSC pre-assessment, one full assessment, and four annual audits. Previously, he spent 14 years with the OMNR as a forester on the White River and Wawa Forests. Mark completed the RA/SmartWood Lead Assessor Certification Training Course in 2001, other related RA training modules in 2007, as well as the EMS Lead Auditor Training Course for the ISO 14001:2004 standard in 2010.

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

- **Fieldwork** - The on-site portion of the evaluation, including field visits of recent and active forest management operations, will be conducted during the week of July 15th, 2019.
- **Stakeholder consultation** - Throughout the fieldwork, the team will contact local stakeholders regarding NNFMC's forest management activities 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 NFMC 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 NFMC. This should occur within one month after completion of the evaluation.
- **Certification decision** - Upon receipt of comments on the draft report from NFMC forest managers, and other general stakeholder comments, NEPCon will reach a certification decision. Barring unforeseen obstacles, this should occur by September 16th, 2019.

Your Input Sought – As a part of the audit process we invite stakeholders to offer comment and feedback on NFMC's forest management activities in relation to conformance with the requirements of the forest management standard referenced above. We welcome input, either public or confidential, in whatever form is easiest and most secure for you. Your input will be valuable at any stage of the process, but we would prefer to receive your comments either prior or during the on-site audit so that we can take them into consideration in reaching a certification decision. Your options for communicating your observations to us are as follows.

1. Meet with a NEPCon assessment team member during or shortly prior to fieldwork.
2. Call and give comments to Mylène Raimbault, NEPCon staff person responsible for coordinating this certification reassessment, or submit written comments by mail or email. Unless you request otherwise, these comments will be kept confidential and are solely for the purposes of assessing the certificate holder's conformance.

The source of any information provided will be kept confidential, available only to FSC and NEPCon staff. Stakeholders who may wish to dispute any aspect of the forest certification process or decision can access NEPCon's Dispute Resolution Policy at www.nepcon.org.

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