

Date of notice : October 6, 2023



## Public Notification

FSC® Forest Management Annual Audit

Eastern Ontario Forest Group

in

Kemptville, Ontario, Canada

### Introduction

Preferred by Nature is conducting an FSC® forest management annual audit of Eastern Ontario Forest Group located in Kemptville, Ontario, Canada. The evaluation will be conducted during the week of **November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023**.

### Scope of Evaluation

The FSC® certification audit will assess the environmental, silvicultural, and socioeconomic aspects of the forest management unit(s) managed by Eastern Ontario Forest Group, using the Regional FSC FM Standard - Great Lakes St. Lawrence (2010). To obtain a copy, please visit: <https://ca.fsc.org/en-ca/standards/forest-management-standards>.

Information on this FSC certificate holder is available on FSC's website: <https://fsc.org/en/fsc-public-certificate-search>.

Preferred by Nature is accredited by the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC) and this evaluation will follow procedures which have been approved by the Forest Stewardship Council®.

### Team Composition

James Hallworth, RPF will lead the audit team.

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## Steps and Schedule

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

- Stakeholder and Indigenous communities/peoples' consultation – Before and during the fieldwork, the team will contact local stakeholders and Indigenous communities/peoples regarding the forest management activities of the certificate holder in communities. This can include private interviews and discussions as well as public meetings.
- Field visits – During the week of **November 20th**, the audit team will conduct field visits of recent and active forest management operations on the certified area.
- Evaluation briefing – The team will meet with the certificate holder's forest 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 the certificate holder. This should occur within one month after completion of the evaluation.
- Certification decision – Upon receipt of comments on the draft report from the certificate holder forest managers, and other general stakeholder and Indigenous communities/peoples' comments, Preferred by Nature will reach a certification decision. Barring unforeseen obstacles, this should occur in **January 2024**.

## Your Comments Sought

As a part of the audit process, we invite stakeholders and Indigenous communities/peoples to offer comments on the certificate holder'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.** Your input will be valuable at any stage of the process, but we would prefer to receive your comments before the end of the on-site audit so that we can take them into consideration in reaching a certification decision. Your options for communicating your comments are as follows:

1. Speak with a Preferred by Nature audit team member before or during the audit.
2. Send comments to the Preferred by Nature staff person responsible for coordinating this audit (see contact info below)

**Unless you request otherwise, these comments will be kept confidential,** available only to FSC and Preferred by Nature staff. Preferred by Nature's complaints, appeals and dispute resolution policy is available to stakeholders and Indigenous communities/peoples at [www.preferredbynature.org](http://www.preferredbynature.org).

<b>Contacting the Audit Team</b> James Hallworth <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ Email: <a href="mailto:jhallworth@preferredbynature.org">jhallworth@preferredbynature.org</a></li><li>◆ Telephone: +1 (249) 358-9844</li><li>◆ Worldwide Website: <a href="http://www.preferredbynature.org">www.preferredbynature.org</a></li></ul>	<b>Contacting Preferred by Nature</b> James Hallworth <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ Email: <a href="mailto:jhallworth@preferredbynature.org">jhallworth@preferredbynature.org</a></li><li>◆ Telephone: +1 (249) 358-9844</li><li>◆ Worldwide Website: <a href="http://www.preferredbynature.org">www.preferredbynature.org</a></li></ul>	Mailing address Preferred by Nature Canada Inc. PO box 1771, Chelsea QC, J9B1A1
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