

# TGIRT-EIJB WASWANIPĪ

## FMU 26-65, 86-66, 87-63 and 87-64

### Minutes of the **FOURTEENTH MEETING**

Held on February 13, 2019 in Room 233 of the Cree First Nations in Waswanipi



Gouvernement régional  
d'Eeyou Istchee Baie-James  
Eeyou Istchee James Bay  
Regional Government

**APPROVED ON: DECEMBER 11, 2019**

# Table de GIRT de Waswanipi

Présences à la rencontre du 13 février 2019



Gouvernement régional  
d'Eeyou Istchee Baie-James  
Eeyou Istchee James Bay  
Regional Government

## Délégués et substituts

Groupe d'utilisateurs	Délégué	Présence	Substitut	Présence
Chef de la communauté et/ou maire et/ou président de BGA	Marcel Happyjack			
	Amélie Bécharde			
	Félix Guay			
	Yan Bernard			
	Julie Fillion		Francis Perreault	
	Valérie Moses			
	Frédéric Laliberté			
	Denis Chiasson			
PRAU	Julie Laberge (jusqu'à 12h00)	x		
	Jean-Sébastien Roy	x		
	Jean-Claude Villeneuve			
	Derrick Neeposh		J-P. Picard	
Gestionnaire de réserve faunique	Mireille Gravel			
Pourvoirie				
Locataire à des fins agricoles				
Maître de trappe/Titulaire de permis de	Paul Dixon (à partir de 10h35)	x		
Environnement et Eau	Johnny Cooper			
Entreprises sylvicoles				
Travailleurs forestiers (usine)				
Travailleurs forestiers (forêt)				
Groupe de travail conjoint	Sydney Ottereyes			
Développement économique local	Eli Moore			
Produits forestiers non ligneux				
Véhicule hors route				
Villégiateurs	Étienne Gobeil	x		
Industrie minière exploitation	Steve Gaudreault			
Industrie minière exploration	Kiril Mugeran			
Tourisme/récréation en forêt/culture				
Chasseurs/pêcheurs/observateurs faunique				
Énergie/biomasse	Pascal Tremblay			
Groupes jeunesse	Ryan Trapper			
Groupes de femmes	Louise B. Saganash			
Groupes aînés	Jonathan Sutherland			

## Observateurs, invités

Organisme	Observateur, invité	Présence
GREIBJ	Martin Fillion (animateur)	x
	Johanne Morasse	x
MFFP-Forêt	Éric Labelle	x
MFFP-Faune	Julien Second	
Gouvernement de la Nation Crie	Stéphane Ouellet	
Administration régionale Baie-James		
Invité	Johnny-Paul Picard	x

### Confirmation de présence ou d'absence

Présence	<span style="background-color: #90EE90; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px;"></span>
Présence par téléphone	<span style="background-color: #ADD8E6; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px;"></span>
Absence	<span style="background-color: #A9A9A9; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px;"></span>

# TGIRT-EIJB WASWANIP FOURTEENTH MEETING

Items	Results or discussion summary	Decisions
1. Call to order, introductions	The meeting begins at 10:15 AM. The animator asks the members to introduce themselves. Since all participants are francophones, the animator proposes to lead the meeting in French.	A guest is accompanying Mr. Jean-Sébastien Roy (Mr. Johnny-Paul Picard). He represents Mistuk Corp. for the entrepreneurs. It is proposed to amend the composition of the panel to allow Mr. Picard to participate as a delegate.
2. Reading and approval of the agenda	The animator reads the agenda. The agenda remains open. A delegate asks if it is planned to discuss the section of VHR trail north of Cavan Lake. The animator says that it is not but proposes to add the item on the agenda. This element could be the subject of a new issue in the grid. He asks for a proposed wording of issue in order to add it at item 6. B) of the agenda. It is suggested to word the issue as follows: "Maintenance of the access to the territory for all users".	On a motion by Mr. Étienne Gobeil, duly seconded by Mr. Jean-Sébastien Roy, it is unanimously agreed to approve the agenda with the requested amendment.
3. Reading, follow-up and approval of the minutes of the meeting held on February 14, 2018	The participants take a few moments to review the minutes of the meeting held on February 14, 2018. A special attention is paid to the follow-up elements. The animator takes advantage of this item to invite the delegates to consult the members section. He takes a moment to explain its contents.  Mr. Paul Dixon joins the meeting at 10:35 AM. The participants switch from French to English.	On a motion by Mr. Paul Dixon, duly seconded by Mr. Jean-Sébastien Roy, it is unanimously agreed to approve the minutes as proposed.
4. Reading, follow-up and approval of the minutes of the meeting held on July 11, 2018	The participants take a few moments to review the minutes of the meeting held on July 11, 2018. Some delegates could not review it. The animator pays particular attention to the follow-up elements.	Mr. Paul Dixon proposes the approval of the minutes as proposed. Only Mr. Jean-Sébastien Roy can approve it. He wishes to take a few minutes after the meeting to read it again before approving it.
5. Correspondence	A correspondence was received at the EIJB from the MERN about a consultation for the renewal of exclusive rights on some VHR trail portions. This correspondence is forwarded to the affected TGIRT including the Waswanipi TGIRT. In anticipation of the discussions that have started, the animator displays the interactive map of multi-purpose roads on the screen, which also includes a layer of VHR trails.	On a motion by Mr. Étienne Gobeil, duly seconded by Mr. Jean Sébastien Roy, it is unanimously agreed to ask the MERN that the trail section north of Cavan Lake is not the subject of any exclusive right and remains accessible to all. The same goes for the trail section linking the eastern portion of Cavan Lake and the Cavan

Items	Results or discussion summary	Decisions
	<p>A delegate uses this item to express some concerns regarding the increase of VHRs in the trap lines following the forest managements. This presence of VHRs in the moose habitat causes a certain disturbance to the species. The animator reminds the specific purpose of the correspondence which is regarding the renewal of exclusive rights for certain trails, which does not necessarily have the effect of increasing the VHR activity in the territory but more to support this activity. The delegate understands the purpose of the letter but still wishes to address the issue of the disturbance caused to wildlife and his way of life by the VHRs. His observations go back to the beginning of the harvest operations in the territory, which could have had a major impact over the last decades. Another delegate mentions that the practices have evolved since then and it would be appropriate to provide a more scientific dimension to the impact of human activities on wildlife.</p> <p>Another delegate raises a concern directly related to the issuance or renewal of an exclusive right exercised by a VHR club, which restricts the access to the trails to all. He would like to see some portions remain accessible to all. A delegate from the tallymen group reacts by mentioning that it does not make sense that a club can demand a usage fee in the trap lines when they are not willing to pay a right to the tallymen. At least two delegates agree regarding the existence of an issue related to the access to the territory for all, while the more specific interests could vary somewhat.</p> <p>The animator tries to bring the discussions to the object of the correspondence received from the EIJBGR. A delegate expresses his expectations regarding some sections. He asks that the section located north of Cavan Lake becomes a section without exclusive rights. Another delegate mentions the impacts related to the development of VHR trails and mentions that this development and the way it is operated by the clubs, goes against the rights of the tallymen. The animator adds that the exercise of an exclusive right by the VHR club and provide a better framework for this activity. For the delegate, this is the same thing he is saying. We can provide a framework to the use of VHR trails in order to limit their expansion on every side. The trails used by the</p>	<p>Lake Road. The animator will follow-up on this request and forward the correspondence to the CNG for their consultation.</p>

Items	Results or discussion summary	Decisions
	<p>trappers do not go at the same locations as the trails used by other groups. For example, the snowmobile trails used by the trappers often cross frozen lakes or ponds and in open locations. There is no funding for the construction of trails by the trappers. These operate with little means.</p> <p>The animator reiterates his question to know what the delegates wish to express regarding the request for the renewal of exclusive rights that is the subject of the correspondence. The delegate for the tallymen group asks to forward the request to the CNG. An expectation is also expressed for the north portion of Cavan Lake. It is requested that no exclusive right is granted for this portion. Another delegate expresses his agreement to this request. It is also asked to remove the section linking Cavan Lake on the eastern side. There is actually an exclusive right for this portion and nobody uses it.</p>	
6. Follow-up on the issues		
a) Balance between the economic aspects and those related to nature	<p>The animator introduces this new issue and mentions that it was raised by the delegate of the tallymen group. He also mentions the suggested need. The delegate wishes to clarify the need by adding mining activity. The delegate provides a context by explaining the changes he observed in the territory over the last 30-40 years in the territory, since the signing of the JBNQA. In addition to wildlife, it has an impact on the traditional way of life of the Cree. The animator invites the delegates to review the wordings of the issue and the need. He asks if it reflects well what was discussed at the last meeting and clarified a few moments ago. He asks the other delegates if they agree with the introduction of this new issue and this new need. The delegate of the tallymen group explains that there is a noticeable variance between what was included in the JBNQA and what is observed on site today, especially regarding some protection measures at the trap line level. In the specific terms, it was never possible to discuss the mining operations. The delegate suggests to carefully review the terms of the JBNQA. According to the delegate, terms related to forestry were agreed in the pas to assure a protection of the moose habitat but it does not work. Add to that the mining activity and it seems useless. The follow-up of moose populations done by satellite and by plane reveal that</p>	<p>On a motion by Mr. Paul Dixon, duly seconded by Mr. Étienne Gobeil, it is resolved to ask the CNG and the MFFP to continue the studies started in the past regarding the impact of logging on the moose habitat and to expand these studies to the marten and wildlife in general.</p>

Items	Results or discussion summary	Decisions
	<p>all goes well but they neglect to check with the tallymen. Everybody believes that the moose populations are well but it is not the case, especially at certain times of the year. Still, some scientific studies reveal that there is a problem. The animator asks again to the delegates to validate the wording of the issue and the need. The discussion return on the context of the last 30-40 years. The delegate of the tallymen group mentions that some trap lines have been harvested at 90%, which some call "light" forestry. With the mining development that seems to be growing, we can imagine what the territory will look like in a hundred years. The animator mentions that the TGIRT has a limited authority based on the issue raised but it does have some, as minimal as it may be. He asks the opinion of the other delegates. A delegate from the PRAU group expresses his agreement with the wording of the issue and the need. Now what remains is to determine the concrete actions that can be taken, some targets and indicators. It will eventually be necessary to see what impact the means agreed upon could have on the other users. A delegate from the BGA group mentions that it is a rather wide issue for the time being, that affects the forest environment as a whole. It is difficult at this stage to assess the impact of actions that could be agreed upon on our small birch allocations. She agrees with the issue and the need for the moment. What remains to be seen is how it will translate into actions and that's where there could be discussions. The animator confirms that all are comfortable with the wording of the issue and the need. He now asks the delegate of the tallymen group if he already wishes to propose a concrete means. He expresses a wish that the forestry companies and the MFFP continue their studies in protected areas that were started during the forestry consultations, i.e. to find if moose populations are maintained there. We must evaluate the impact of logging in the moose habitat. The delegate hopes that the studies continue on this subject, as was agreed during the consultations held in Waswanipi. For another delegate, this question is covered by the Paix-des-Braves agreement. We can understand that the means is worked at another level. The animator suggests to clarify the means which is to continue the studies started in the past regarding the</p>	

Items	Results or discussion summary	Decisions
	<p>impact of logging on the moose habitat. The delegate of the tallymen group confirms and proposes that these studies cover more broadly the wildlife in general. He mentions that the moose disappears for a few years following a logging. He also explains what hampers its progressive return in the following years, including the proliferation of blueberries, which attract bears. The animator adds that the request to continue the studies should be sent to the CNG and the MFFP. The delegate from the tallymen group asks that the TGIRT send a resolution to this effect. He proposes it. The delegate of the vacationers group seconds it. The animator will prepare a proposed resolution and send it to the delegates for their validation. The delegate from the tallymen group asks to add the marten in the proposed action. It will therefore mention the habitat of the moose, the marten and the wildlife habitats in general. He explains the reasoning.</p>	
<p>b) Maintenance of the access to the territory for all users</p>	<p>The issue of maintaining access to the territory for all users was raised by the delegate of the vacationers group. He introduces the issue he raised by mentioning a project being developed by the VHR clubs which could link the Lac-St-Jean and Abitibi region by going through the EIJB territory. He mentions the cohabitation dynamics among the VHR clubs and the other users and a tendency by the VHR clubs to take over trail portions that were maintained up to that point by other users. There is now a major project being developed by the VHR clubs and the government but the other users are not involved or even consulted. These users are angry about losing a free access to some trail portions that they used and maintained in the past and they wonder why establish a link between the Abitibi and Lac-St-Jean regions. Who asked for that and why complete such a project in our territory? There is a concern to provide a framework for the VHR activities but for the safety, the law enforcement already does a very good job. Infractions to the safety code occur sometimes on the trails but at a frequency that is similar to what we observe on the roads. However, this is a project that affects all users of the territory and we should not be kept away from such projects and decisions. According to the delegate of the tallymen group, there are too many snowmobile trails. These trails are</p>	<p>The animator will forward a request to the appropriate government authorities regarding the project of an inter-regional VHR connection. The purpose of this request will be to know the reasons that justify the implementation of such a connection and the analysis of the fallouts and impacts of such connection.</p>

Items	Results or discussion summary	Decisions
	<p>obstacles in some locations and the snowmobiles cause a noise disturbance.</p> <p>The delegate of the vacationers group would like to see the inter-regional link project be the subject of an analysis of the fallouts and impacts, to identify the pros and cons. For the delegate of the tallymen group, this issue is an example of the balance between the economic aspects and those related to nature. Tourism development can have an impact.</p> <p>A major question remains to determine why establish an inter-regional VHR connection. This is included in an issue that we perceive as an access to the territory for all users. The need is to know why establish an inter-regional VHR connection. Another delegate states his vision that the clubs can use the existing trails that are used and maintained by all but they are not justified to impose rights, especially when it is former forest roads whose construction was funded by the forestry companies.</p>	
<p>7. Wood production intensification area (AIPL) (Virginie Cayer)</p>	<p>Mrs. Virginie Cayer gives her presentation by telephone conference. A Power Point presentation is shown on screen. She mentions its objective which is to better understand the silviculture intensity gradients and the notion of wood production intensification area (AIPL). The MFFP also wishes to collect the concerns and comments of the members of the TGIRT, if any.</p> <p>The classification of the silviculture response strategy or the AIPL designation is essentially based on three criteria, i.e. the productivity, the forest dynamics and the restrictions to management. The silviculture intensity can be expressed according to three gradients: intensive, basic and extensive. The presenter provides a brief explanation of each of the three gradients and their context of application. With the help of illustrations, she demonstrates the planned management scenarios for each of the three gradients. Mrs. Cayer states that the purpose of this presentation is mainly to explain how the proposed AIPLs are targeted. She briefly states how the future steps will proceed in the consultation of the AIPLs. This is part of a national wood production strategy which is also the subject of consultations.</p> <p>Mrs. Cayer explains where the AIPLs are likely to be found, considering the dominant vegetation, the accessibility conditions and the current uses of the</p>	



Items	Results or discussion summary	Decisions
	<p>territory. The proximity of mills and labour, the condition of the road network and the silviculture investments made to this day are part of the criteria for the prioritisation of AIPLs. Following the AIPL designation, it is planned namely to do some reforestation with the help of improved plants and with a density of 2,000 plants/ha. It is also anticipated to do some pre-commercial clearing. More frequent follow-ups are planned to ensure that we reach the silviculture objectives.</p> <p>A delegate makes a criticism of the management methods implemented in the territory, namely the silviculture strategy aiming to increase the performance of trees, especially the use of fast growth species. He mentions that silviculture has a negative effect on the wildlife habitats. Another delegate mentions that silviculture does not have only negative effects but it can contribute to wildlife. To this effect, the animator brings up a slide of the presentation that illustrates the extensive approach which allows for the establishment of mixed vegetation.</p> <p>An interactive map will be available shortly to allow the members of the TGIRTs to express their concerns and comments in a geo-referenced manner. The animator uses an interactive map as part of the consultations on the PAFIO to explain how the AIPL interactive map should operate.</p>	
8. Follow-up on the 2018-2023 PAFIT amendment	Mr. Labelle recaps the latest steps in the agenda of the TGIRT consultations on the PAFIT. There was a pre-consultation of the TGIRT that ended on November 30, 2018. Afterward, an additional timeframe was granted until the end of December. Only one comment was received from the Waskaganish TGIRT. The TGIRT consultation is completed.	
9. Public consultation on the PAFIO	The public consultations on the PAFIO take place from January 28 to February 22, 2019. An information meeting was held the previous night at 7:00 PM in the town hall. Mr. Labelle briefly explains the subject of the consultations.	
10. Miscellaneous		

Items	Results or discussion summary	Decisions
<p>a) Joint TGIRT to discuss the VHR trails – February 20, 2019</p>	<p>The animator provides a context regarding the latest local representations regarding the use of VHR trails and the issuance of exclusive rights. There are also concerns that were raised regarding the harvest work performed near VHR trails. A delegate asks if the meeting will indeed take place. The animator replies that he has received a few confirmations to this day and that a condition for the meeting is the confirmation of the presence of the four VHR clubs. A Doodle survey was sent to the members of the three concerned TGIRTs and, after the survey, the date of February 20 in the early afternoon had been selected. The joint meeting will therefore be held on that date at the Chapais Town Hall. The use of the VHR trails is the only item on the agenda. This meeting aims for two objectives, i.e. to provide joint information to all and to agree on the preliminary conditions of social acceptability.</p> <p>A delegate expresses his desire to hold the meeting asks that a reminder be sent to the people invited. The animator agrees to send a reminder to the people invited who have yet to respond.</p>	<p>The animator will send a reminder to the people invited who have not yet responded.</p>
<p>b) Technical committee on the access management on the Category II lands – Linkage with the Category III lands (Sébastien Leduc)</p>	<p>Mr. Éric Labelle gives a presentation on this item in replacement of Mrs. Sonia Légaré. First off, Mr. Labelle mentions the existence of a TGIRT on the Category II lands and a mandate started at that panel on access management.</p> <p>As part of the mandate regarding the management of the road network in the Category II lands, there is an issue of access to the territory like at the TGIRT of the Category III lands. This issue is divided into two objectives which are to limit the expansion of the road network and reducing the redundancy of the accesses. Regarding the first objective, there is a concern to reduce the pressure on the environment. The road network tends to expand and there is a difficulty in limiting the expansion of the road network, considering the impacts related to the mosaic logging regime, the future forest management needs and the presence of numerous users of the territory. Nevertheless, the members of the technical committee have started verifying the expectations and needs of the tallymen in regards to the maintenance and closure of some roads.</p>	

Items	Results or discussion summary	Decisions
	<p>To this day, 4 trap lines have been selected as part of a pilot project to survey the needs and expectations of the tallymen. These trap lines are located on Category II lands and have been selected in order to represent the various Cree communities and a diversity of the context elements mentioned above. In order to prepare the meetings with the tallymen, the members of the committee established a map of the roads and asked the planners to indicate the operational impacts related to their closing if necessary.</p> <p>Mr. Labelle mentions the work completed to this day. He states that the work is not a consultation but it only aims to know the needs and expectations of the tallymen regarding the access. At the end of the exercise, the members of the technical committee realised that the sample retained was very restricted. In addition, it appeared difficult for the land managers to select the targets for a short term closure due mainly to the orphan blocks. In addition, during the consultations with the tallymen, they expressed no request for the closure of forest roads. Against all expectations, they instead asked that some accesses be returned to use. In fact, the members of the committee mention the hypothesis that if the survey covered more tallymen and the Category III lands, the results could be different. The members of the committee issued some recommendations regarding the Category II lands but hope that these are repeated for the Category III lands. Mr. Labelle demonstrates the process that could be undertaken on the Category III lands.</p> <p>Mr. Labelle discusses objective #2 as part of the mandate of the technical committee on the access to the territory. The redundancy of the road network can be expressed notably by loops whose necessity can be doubted. There is also an analysis of other avenues including the use of former corridors instead of the construction of new roads. It would also be possible to avoid multiple entrances and parallel roads.</p> <p>A delegate says he is surprised that so little consideration is given to the trap lines on the Category III lands compared to the Category I and II lands. In addition, questions such as the access to the territory of the trap lines is often discussed with</p>	

Items	Results or discussion summary	Decisions
	the political instances instead of directly with the tallymen. This is a comment he wished to express.	
c) Road management on the Category III lands (Éric Labelle)	<p>Mr. Éric Labelle starts his presentation by explaining the context of the initiative launched by Mrs. Sonia Légaré, in regards to the woodland caribou.</p> <p>Mr. Labelle introduces his presentation by mentioning that the management of the access roads in regards to the woodland caribou is a major issue. In this context, it is proposed to develop a road management plan.</p> <p>The objective of a road management plan is to consider the concerns of the users at the TGIRTs. It is also a key element for the reduction of the environmental impacts related to the forest management. It has already been several years that we have been discussing the development of a road management plan for the roads in the region and the work has not evolved much, except in the last few months. We are still at a preliminary stage. This can be explained by the vastness of the territory and the complexity of the work to be done, considering the limited resources. The plan is based on two elements: the common values of the users and a shared understanding of the regional issues, namely regarding the woodland caribou. The proposed solution is a prioritisation of the issues that is in progress at the MFFP, followed by an agreement of the partners. The first step is identifying the issues and values, then develop a basic network, which has already been done, a map of which is available on the EIJB RG website. Afterward, we identify the issues in the territory. For example, the woodland caribou is an issue in certain sections of the territory. We know for example that there are no woodland caribous south of FMU 087-62. However, there could be other values in this section of the territory. In some locations, it can be the moose. Therefore, we must collect the concerns related to the basic network and then identify the zones based on the values and vocations of the territory, followed by the establishment of objectives for each zone. If the access road management plan leads to actions regarding the opening or closure of some access, it will go through the entire process in effect in all cases.</p>	

Items	Results or discussion summary	Decisions
	<p>The need of the MFFP is based on the implementation of a recovery plan for the woodland caribou. In addition, the MFFP consults the TGIRTs to know the needs of the users in regards to an access road management plan. Mr. Labelle mentions the other values previously identified. The MFFP stakeholders need to re-establish the woodland caribou habitat but it must be done in harmony with the other values and the needs of the users of the forest territory. For Mr. Labelle, the ideal solution would be to sit together right from the start. But the question to know who will prepare the road management plan remains to be clarified. Mr. Labelle will do a follow-up with Mrs. Légaré and Mr. Leduc to clarify the question.</p> <p>A delegate from the tallymen group asks for the basis used to determine that there are no woodland caribous in certain parts of the territory, on a scientific non-native basis or on the observations of the tallymen. To him, the current scientific approaches are somewhat weak and they are used to issue similar conclusions regarding other species such as the cougar. The delegate expresses a comment regarding the anthropomorphic pressures exercises on wildlife. In addition, he suggests a more sensible approach that the government could follow. His trap line is located near Chapais and Chibougamau, where sport hunting is very present with a high density of roads that are open permanently. A moratorium on sport hunting is not requested and we respect that usage and the hunting camps. However, we would like to see the government reduce the density number of permanently-open roads. Luckily, the way of life of the native trappers, for many generations, ensured the preservation of the territory and its resources. Forestry has caused destruction and mining operations are nearby.</p> <p>In response to the question from the delegate representing the tallymen group, Mr. Labelle names a few of the people who are working on the woodland caribou recovery committee, including Mrs. Sonia Légaré, Mrs. Nadia Saganash and Mr. Stephan Ouellet.</p>	
11. Adjournment	The meeting is adjourned at 1:00 PM.	On a motion by Mr. Paul Dixon, duly seconded by Mr. Johnny Picard, it is

Items	Results or discussion summary	Decisions
		unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting.

## ACRONYMS

AIPL	Wood production intensification area
BGA	Beneficiary of a supply guarantee
JBNQA	James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement
EIJB	Eeyou Istchee James Bay
TGIRT	Integrated Land and Resources Management Panel
CNG	Cree Nation Government
EIJBRG	Eeyou Istchee James Bay Regional Government
MERN	Ministère de l'Énergie et des Ressources naturelles
MFFP	Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs
PAFIO	Operational Plan for Integrated Forest Management
PAFIT	Tactical Plan for Integrated Forest Management
PRAU	Harvest permit to supply a mill
FMU	Forest Management Unit
VHR	Off-road vehicle