

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

Office of the Minister

Room 6630, Whitney Block
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Toronto ON [M7A 1W3](#)
Tel: 416-314-2301



March 11, 2020

Mr. Warren Dunlop
President
North Pigeon Lake Association
president.npla@gmail.com

Dear Mr. Dunlop:

Thank you for your emails on behalf of your Association requesting a moratorium on logging in the Catchacoma Forest. I have heard your concerns and would like to provide you with the following information.

This area is located within the Bancroft-Minden Forest Management Unit (FMU). The Bancroft Minden Forest Company is the sustainable forest licensee for this FMU. The planned harvest operation is consistent with the 2011-2021 Bancroft-Minden Forest Management Plan (FMP) approved by my ministry. Further, the FMP was developed consistent with Ontario's forest policies including the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act* and the Old Growth Policy for Ontario's Crown Forests.

For each harvest block, a Forest Operations Prescription (FOP) is developed to set the long- and short-term objectives. This ensures that the current forest is managed to achieve the expected forest structure and condition. In the FOP for this harvest block, the overall objective is to improve the quality of the stands by prioritizing the removal of lesser quality trees and improving future growth of remaining trees. This will create openings for other trees to grow and will also help establish new hemlock regeneration.

Harvest Block 1711, which is located north of Catchacoma Lake, is currently being harvested based on scheduled operations in the 2019/20 Annual Work Schedule for the Bancroft-Minden FMU. About 90 per cent of the scheduled harvest area (136 hectares) is made up of hemlock dominated stands being managed through the selection silviculture system, which consists of periodic partial harvests.

A selection harvest system has been planned with the objective of removing about 30 to 40 per cent of the mature trees, targeting those that show signs of decline. More than half (60 to 70 per cent) of the

mature, overstory (the layer of foliage in a forest canopy) hemlock will remain uncut. The last harvest operation in part of these stands was done in 1988 using the selection silviculture system.

During the planning of this operation, the protection of non-timber values, including species at risk were considered and Area of Concern prescriptions designed to minimize the risk of impacting these values have been applied.

If you would like more information about the management and harvest of this block, please contact the Bancroft Minden Forest Company at (613) 332-6890.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

John Yakabuski
Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry

c: The Honourable Jeff Yurek, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Her Worship Janet Clarkson, Mayor, Municipality