



Canadian Institute of Forestry  
Institut forestier du Canada

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Anthony Dixon  
The Daily Observer  
100 Crandall  
Pembroke, ON, K8A 0B1

November 14, 2013

Dear Mr. Dixon,

Local members of the Canadian Institute of Forestry (CIF/IFC) would like to comment on a recent editorial published in your newspaper (“Taking a stand against logging in Algonquin Park”, November 2<sup>nd</sup>). The article contains many factual errors and greatly misrepresents forestry operations in Algonquin Park.

Modern interdisciplinary forestry, as practiced by the Algonquin Forestry Authority (AFA) in Algonquin Park, is science-based, subject to meaningful public consultation, and ensures publically owned forests are managed sustainably as required under provincial legislation. Forest management objectives are not about “maximizing profits for corporate friends”, but instead are about balancing environmental, social, and economic criteria, with high consideration for a variety of ecological indicators. AFA forest operations are enabled by rigorous Forest Management Plans that place extensive consideration on wildlife values, biodiversity, recreation, ecosystem management, and social-cultural values. Their activities are also verified by regular third party certification audits, which ensure that Canadian and International environmental and forest management standards are achieved. Forest operations also support the livelihoods of many communities in the area and have been maintained within the park for generations; currently over 300 people are employed by the Park’s forestry operations, while another 2,500 people are employed by the mills to which the wood is supplied.

The silvicultural systems used in the Park, such as single-tree selection and shelterwood, aim to maintain natural forest conditions and create diversity in forest age and structure. A variety of old-growth, middle-aged, and young forest stands are needed to benefit the abundant and diverse wildlife that relies on the forests within the Park. Further, the majority of pine management relies largely on the shelterwood silvicultural system employed, in which residual trees are left to provide partial shade and a seed source for natural regeneration to occur. Since this system emulates low-intensity fires, logging provides the disturbance mechanism needed to regenerate pine in a landscape where fire suppression takes place.

Overall, the term “brutal exploitation” greatly misrepresents forest management within Algonquin Park. Logging provides a locally harvested, renewable resource, while sustainable forest management protects ecological and social-cultural values. This ensures the maintenance of natural forest conditions for current and future generations. The responsibility with which the forests within the park, and within Canada, are managed is something every Canadian should be proud of!

The Canadian Institute of Forestry (CIF/IFC) has over 2300 members and is the national voice of forest practitioners, promoting public awareness and a better understanding of good forest stewardship.

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