



Newly Posted Signs Misinform Public about Logging in Algonquin Park

Logging in Algonquin Park IS Sustainable

Mattawa, ON – In response to several signs that have recently been posted around Algonquin Park, the Canadian Institute of Forestry - Institut forestier du Canada (CIF/IFC) encourages the public to seek out well-informed and accurate information about the park. The signs, which state, “Logging in Algonquin Park is NOT Sustainable”, are incorrect; forestry activities within the Algonquin Park are, in fact, carried out in a highly responsible and fully sustainable manner.

“The Algonquin Forestry Authority (AFA) practices modern interdisciplinary, sustainable forestry, which balances important environmental, social-cultural, and economic criteria,” says Dr. Tat Smith, President of CIF/IFC. “Sustainable forest management is the foremost objective of the AFA, and their activities are enabled by comprehensive forest management plans that include extensive public consultation and verification by independent forest audits through certification to the CSA. The AFA’s Environmental Management System is also certified to satisfy the ISO 14001 standard.” These management plans include numerous prescriptions to conserve biological diversity, maintain forest health and productivity, protect soil and water resources, ensure habitat protection, maintain aesthetic qualities of the forest, as well as sustain social and economic values.

The silvicultural systems used within the Park are designed to emulate natural forest disturbance patterns resulting from tree mortality, wind events, or forest fires. By doing so, natural forest cover is maintained, diversity in forest age and structure is created, and essential habitat and ecosystem characteristics are safeguarded. With fire suppression occurring on the landscape, logging provides the disturbance mechanism needed to maintain a healthy forest cover that is favourable to supporting biodiversity. “Modern interdisciplinary forestry, as practiced across Ontario and in Algonquin Park incorporates best management practices based on significant scientific research to ensure sustainability of forest ecosystems and their processes,” says John Pineau, CEO of CIF/IFC.

Beyond conserving the natural characteristics of the forest and maintaining ecological integrity, logging also provides significant economic and social benefit to society. “Forest operations have been sustained within the park for over 175 years,” says Matt Meade, Executive Director of CIF/IFC. “Logging within Algonquin Park has provided consumers with a locally harvested, renewable resource and has supported the livelihoods of local communities for generations”.

Forestry in Algonquin Park, in Ontario and across Canada, is highly regulated, complies with provincial and federal legislation, and incorporates sound science-based research. The CIF/IFC supports the forestry practiced within Algonquin Park, as it is highly sustainable, provides a local source of wood products, and achieves Canadian and international forest management and environmental standards.

About the CIF/IFC:

The Canadian Institute of Forestry – Institut Forestier du Canada (www.cif-ifc.org) represents over 2400 members and acts as the national voice of forest practitioners, promoting public awareness and a better understanding of sustainable forest management informed by sound science.

For more information:

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