

**Meeting Brief**  
**Public Advisory Group (PAG), Prince Albert Timber Supply Area (PA TSA)**  
**December 14, 2022**

18 participants attended the meeting from organizations in 6 interest categories. Introductions included James Fischer, the new General Manager for Sakaw. Brief review of PAG role in developing and tracking progress against the Forest Management Plan.

**Updates**

- Development of 2023/24 Operating Plan.
- Project to replace the forest inventory is getting underway
- Last summer's reforestation tour was cancelled due to weather. Two field tours were subsequently held with LLRIB, who had raised renewal concerns at the last meeting. An Open House/Forest Tour was also held at the Clarine Lk Forest where a 28 year old and a current harvest site could be viewed.

**FMP 2022 Annual Report** (on the 2020-21 Operating Year):

Participants were asked to identify any indicators they wanted to discuss in particular.

Hydrology Proposed that the commitment to stay under 20% disturbance in a watershed should be determined from the year the site is considered decommissioned and 20 years thereafter.

Caribou Habitat (Ind 7c) Discussion about the strategy of creating a shifting mosaic of good caribou habitat in the landscape over time, and how the amount of disturbance in a caribou range is measured and reported on. It was felt that the caribou habitat map does not accurately reflect where populations are, and should be corrected. The province has identified the Caribou Management Areas which ultimately identify and/or restrict harvesting activity.

Harvested vs. Estimated Volumes (Ind 13) Pulp was removed from all 3 years of reporting, as it is currently not being harvested in significant amounts, and the differences between the predicted and actual volumes are now greater. This shows the forest inventory is not as accurate as it looked previously.

Compliance-Soil & Water (Ind 17) There were 2 non-compliances with road reclamation requirements in 2020-21. In one case reclamation took longer than 2 years to complete. In the other case the reclamation standard was not met, and this was voluntarily reported.

Harvest Distribution by Planning Areas & Species Grouping (Ind 24) This strategy to distribute the harvest geographically and by forest type conflicts with strategies to cluster the harvesting in events to create larger patches of intact forest and caribou habitat in future.

Indigenous Communities Review of Operations/Strategic Plans (Ind 25) Engagement with Indigenous communities gives Sakâw an opportunity to become fully informed about implications of draft forestry plans on a community's ability to hunt, fish and trap for food or carry out traditional uses. If necessary forestry activities can then be adjusted to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse impacts. Information about discussions and commitments or changes to plans made as a result of engaging with people is submitted with the Operating Plan. This helps inform the provincial government's duty to consult with the leadership of Indigenous communities.

Economic Contribution of the Forest Industry (Ind 28) In response to a question about Indigenous employment it was noted that Indigenous involvement in Saskatchewan's forest sector is the highest in Canada, with First Nations being allocated 44% of the wood from the PA TSA. Indigenous communities are benefiting from and are proud of notable successes from participating in this industry. Economic reconciliation is important and the Saskatchewan Forest Industry is a good example.

**Closing Comments**

Update on Potential New Mills in Prince Albert. PAG members would like to see more terminology using sustainable forests & ecosystems not sustainable harvest.