AccountAbility for Forest Management

Québec’s forest regime is evolving constantly, and the government works hard to adjust its management methods to suit new contexts and the growing needs of local and regional communities. Under the sustainable forest development act, which came into force on April 1, 2013, the Ministère des forêts, de la faune et des parcs is responsible for producing a five-yearly review of sustainable forest management and tabling it in the national assembly as evidence of the actions taken.

An Obligation for the Ministère

Growing numbers of individuals and organizations in Québec are taking an interest in sustainable forest development and would like to be involved in the management process. The Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs is responsible for managing the public forests and overseeing private forest development, and also has a duty, within the scope of its powers and resources, to report publicly on the methods it uses and the extent to which it achieves its goals.

Under the former Forest Act, the Minister was required to submit a five-yearly report to the National Assembly on the state of Québec’s forests, covering, among other things, the management of public forest resources and the results obtained. Three reports were produced. The first presented a profile of the forest at the end of 1990, and it was followed by two other reports covering the periods 1990 to 1994 and 1995 to 1999.

In addition, under the Act respecting the Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune, the Chief Forester was required to produce a review of sustainable forest management. The first of these reviews, covering the period 2000-2008, has already been produced, and the next one, covering the period 2008 to 2013, will be tabled in the National Assembly in 2015.
Changes Introduced by the New Forest Regime

The Sustainable Forest Development Act, which replaced the Forest Act on April 1, 2013, is designed to respond more comprehensively to the demands of sustainable forest management. Under the Act, reporting requirements are more stringent. In future, the Ministère must produce a five-yearly review of sustainable forest management, presenting the overall results obtained and detailing those achieved through the application of the Sustainable Forest Management Strategy and the consultation policy. The review must also include an analysis of sustainable forest management results in the public forests, prepared by the Chief Forester.

Lastly, to help ensure that the Ministère’s performance continues to improve over time, the review will report on the implementation of the Sustainable Forest Development Act and any improvements the Ministère intends to make. The first review will cover the period April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2018, and will be tabled in the National Assembly in 2019.

Forest Regime Management Framework

The Ministère has introduced a management framework for the 2013-2018 forest regime, to help it make informed decisions as part of an ongoing improvement process. The framework will present an overall vision of the regime’s goals, along with the methods chosen to achieve them, and the roles and responsibilities of the Ministère and its partners for the period 2013-2018. Many of the goals and methods used in the framework will be derived from local, regional and provincial consultations.

The purpose of the management framework is to ensure that the forest regime is understood, applied and evaluated properly, and adjusted where necessary. It will also help to structure and organize the reporting process for the five-yearly sustainable forest development review.

For further information on the forest regime of the Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs, please see:

mfn.gouv.qc.ca/forets/index.jsp

2013 Version