



PRESS RELEASE – For immediate release

FOREST MANAGEMENT IN MAURICIE

Four Companies Registered In Sustainable Forest Management – A Canadian First

La Tuque (Quebec), November 13, 2003 – Four forestry companies from the Mauricie region, namely Kruger Inc. (Kruger, Scierie Parent and Kruger Wayagamack Inc.), Gérard Crête & Fils inc., John Lewis Industries Ltd. and Légaré Industries Ltd., have translated their commitments and responsibilities with respect to sustainable forest management into action by registering the supply territory located in common area 043-20 in the Mauricie region to Canadian standard CSA-Z809. This certification was issued by the firm of external auditors, QMI. During the audit, QMI specified that this was the very first time in Canada that certification to the CSA-Z809 standard was granted to a group of forestry companies who had applied jointly.

Sustainable forest management (SFM) according to CSA-Z809

SFM is based on criteria that concern conserving biological diversity, forest ecosystems, soil and water resources. These criteria guide the definition of the values and characteristics deemed important by the forest users. Each value identified must be accompanied by an objective, a performance indicator and a target in order to improve forestry practices. All of these steps must be carried out in cooperation with the stakeholders for the territory.

Thus, in 1997, Kruger, Scierie Parent, in cooperation with the other forestry applicants, established an Advisory Committee for the supply territory to the south of the Gouin reservoir (common area 043-20). This committee was set up to place the stakeholders at the heart of the value identification process. It includes 19 organizations that are interested in or affected by forest management activities, namely the different levels of government, Native communities, outfitters, hunters and fishers, citizen's groups and forest workers.

It was therefore in a spirit of transparency and cooperation that the very first sustainable forest management plan was developed with the help of all the stakeholders. This SFM plan provides guidelines for various forest practices as well as performance indicators for honouring the different values.

“Everyone involved in this process must constantly improve their forest practices by incorporating the various regional values identified for the referenced area. All of the stakeholders have demonstrated a true commitment to seeing this certification project through and today we can say that it has been a team success,” declared the certification representative, Jean-François Mérette, Vice President – Operations, Kruger Forest and Wood Products Division.

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INFORMATION:

Kruger Inc.

Jean Majeau
Vice President, Corporate Affairs
Tel.: (514) 343-3213
Email: jmajeau@kruger.com
Web site: www.kruger.com

Gérard Crête & Fils inc.

Michel Champagne
Director
Human Resources and Public Relations
Tel.: (418) 365-1202, extension 244
Email: lrichard@crete.qc.ca
Web site: www.gcrete.com

John Lewis Industries Ltd.

Denis Renaud
Director, Procurement
Tel.: (819) 523-2765, extension 245
Email: denis.renaud@remabec.com
Web site www.industriesjohnlewis.com

Légaré Industries Ltd.

Jean Légaré
Director, Procurements
Tel.: (418) 337-2286
Email: indleg@globetrotter.net
Web site: www.legareindustries.com

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