



Forest and Wood Products Division

**PRESS RELEASE – For Immediate Distribution**

**Forest Work on Île René-Levasseur**

**ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED ACCORDING TO SUSTAINABLE FOREST DEVELOPMENT RULES, WITH THE GREEN LIGHT FROM BAPE, AND IN CONSULTATION WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

**Montréal, November 26, 2003** — Kruger Inc. today reported that the forest resource harvesting work meets all criteria for sustainable forest management, that they have received the green light from the Public Hearings Office on Environment (BAPE) regarding access to the island and areas to be protected, and that the work is performed in consultation with other users of the resource.

Protecting the environment and biodiversity are the fundamental principles that guide all of Kruger's forest activities. In the specific case of Île René-Levasseur, these principles are rigorously respected, and have resulted in various innovative initiatives regarding environmental and biodiversity protection. Also, a research and knowledge acquirement protocol was agreed upon with the Québec Ministry of Natural Resources, in cooperation with the Environment Ministry, to verify the existence of exceptional forest ecosystems and, where applicable, to protect such sites should they be discovered. "To date, nothing indicates that the type of forest that we are finding on the island is different from that found elsewhere on the North Shore. However, if such were the case, we have firm commitments regarding their protection," said Mr. Jean Majeau, the Company Vice President of Corporate Affairs.

The forest activities are subject to some sixty laws, regulations, standards and policies that are intended to ensure sustainable development of the forest resource. As well, our work received favorable mention from BAPE, at the public hearings regarding access ramps for the Island.

Quite recently, during regional consultations on Québec's protected areas by BAPE, the BAPE made recommendations to the Environment Minister regarding protection of Île René-Levasseur and Monts Groulx. Among these recommendations, BAPE selected the proposal put forward in 2002 by Kruger Inc., in consultation with various environmental and outdoors groups, to the effect of doubling the proportion of protected areas on the island, bringing it to 22%, and to protect 100% of Monts Groulx. "We are happy about the consensus on the areas to protect, which received strong regional and national support, and we are open to suggested adjustments concerning the catchment area", Mr. Majeau added.

Finally, all of Kruger's activities on Île René-Levasseur are planned with an Advisory Committee that includes more than 20 organizations representative of the area: native peoples, fishers, hunters, cottagers, tourists, environmental groups, and Wildlife and Parks. "We have acted with the utmost transparency, in consultation with the other users of the resource and we have the support of the vast majority of the North Shore's stakeholders," Mr. Majeau concluded.

Île René-Levasseur is an integral part of the supply contract that the Québec government granted to Kruger Inc. in 1997. It represents 35% of the forest volume attributed to Kruger on the North Shore.

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**INFORMATION:**

Jean Majeau  
Vice President, Corporate Affairs  
Kruger Inc.  
Tel.: (514) 343-3213  
E-mail: [jmajeau@kruger.com](mailto:jmajeau@kruger.com)  
Web site: [www.kruger.com](http://www.kruger.com)

