

For the Ouispamsis Environment Committee and the Campaign for Pesticide Reduction- NB

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Since your report came out we have eagerly read and listened to everything that has been published on this subject. Combing the web, listening to the evening news, and reading the newspaper, eagerly searching for one good reason why these 12 areas should not be protected. Out of this search conflicting information has flowed and discussions have flourished both privately and at a committee level. And we can not find one compelling reason why jobs are more important than the earth that sustains us. We am only left with more questions. What good are jobs if their are no healthy workers? What good are forests if our children, and grandchildren, can not enjoy them?

With over 7 million hectares of land to harvest, these 12 areas, along with the 1.4% presently protected, add up to just over 300,000 hectares of land. Much of it is considered to be either non-productive or unsuitable for timber harvesting. However, industry has claimed that jobs will be gone and forestry will suffer immeasurable losses if they can't harvest the timber. If they are not succeeding with what they have then maybe it is time they looked at themselves to find out why. Adding more chemical agents to an already suffering industry will not bring back the trees. Healthy forests consist of uniquely diverse balanced ecosystems that are vital to our survival because if you poison one part of the food chain it affects us all.

Do we have any more right to these lands than the plants or animals that call it home. How arrogant of us to think that we are more important than nature's other creatures or that we have the right to usurp anothers home.

If forestry practices were more ecologically sound then there would be no debate. It is because of "the indiscriminate use of clearcutting, the current rate of harvest", and the prolific use of noxious pesticides that our forests are in trouble, and jobs are being lost.

How long does industry think that the forests can withstand such an onslaught without devastation. When you clearcut one hectare, removing all indigenous life forms, plant it

with only one species and then force the forest not to grow anything else with chemicals,

you are asking for trouble. On top of this they expect, that which feeds on this one plant

not to prolifically breed and multiply when they are surrounded by their main food source. And when they do reproduce and threaten their cash crop, they turn from herbicides to insecticides. Industry has projected that the spruce bud worm is on the rise

and I see that as being caused by a lack of farsighted ecologically based harvesting practices and the misapplication of pesticides. In the 70's the spruce bud worm spray program killed off most of our Province's bird population, and now that we are seeing the

return of many previously indigenous species, we can not allow this to happen again by

clearcutting their nesting grounds.

Pesticides are biocides that kill indiscriminately, and in the long term, we all suffer from

there misuse. In NB's population we are seeing the rate of Cancer and Environmental Illness growing beyond rate's in other Provinces. We need to ask ourselves why this is happening and take the necessary steps forward, in both health care and forestry management, to prevent the rapid spread of disease. And to achieve this we must preserve natural ecosystems at all cost. And if we give up these area's we should expect a

blanket of pesticides to reduce us to limited growing space, just like what is happening to

the vital habitats that are currently being destroyed.

For a sustainable forest industry what we need is more diversified planting strategies and

ecologically sound harvesting practices to ensure that the unique biodiversity of our lands

is protected for the next generation, and so that there is a next generation.

Therefore, we support Dr. LaPierre's report and call on the Government of NB to get in

line with the rest of Canada and do something now to save our jobs and our lives by setting aside these 12 unique areas.

We call on the Government of NB to give interim protection to the pristine forests and wetlands outlined in Dr. LaPierre's report, against mining, logging, road building, hydroelectric or any major industrial developments, until a final decision can be reached.

We call on the Government of NB to act in a farsighted manner with regard's to other crown lands and the way they are currently harvested.

We call on the Government of NB to consider our health a viable resource and act accordingly so that more people will not develop Cancer and Environmental Illness.

We call on the Government of NB to listen to what the majority of New Brunswickers want, and that is a healthy, sustainable forest for future jobs and the health of us all.

And we call on Dr. LaPierre to take all of these considerations into account when producing his final report.

Because when all is said and done, we are what sustains us.