

Sirs and Madams:

Last Saturday's (Jan. 28th) front page article on the forestry industry and JDI's Jim Irving's perspective has some disturbing misinformation in it.

As members of the Editorial Board, you are all well-informed people, yet the same article continued on p.2 states, "He said that if the government of New Brunswick had managed the Crown Lands the same way his company oversees its freehold properties (ie. privately –owned lands) the province could be collecting in the order of 235 million a year instead of losing \$30 million." This statement leads us to believe the government is mismanaging the public forests.

In fact, JDI and two other forestry companies are themselves the MANAGERS of these public forests, which are half the area of NB, and that according to legislation as outlined in the Crown Lands and Forests Act (1982).

A 2-page interview style second article quotes Mr. Irving as saying that the Crown Lands and Forests Act (1982) is good legislation. As you also well know, this legislation has been cut and molded for the last 27 years to best serve the industrial forestry companies. The original legislation also addressed the economic needs of the 40,000 private woodlot owners by the primary source of supply (ie. to oblige industry to buy wood from them before they could cut on Crown lands. Primary

source of supply was eliminated from the legislation in 1992.)

Mr. Irving contends that he needs more wood – yet he manages those public forests.

As members of the editorial board, who are you serving by publishing such slanted articles?

Yours very truly,

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PS. Is Mr. Irving laughing up his sleeve while twisting the arm of this and previous governments? Change the Act and manage the Crown Lands ourselves. Let Irving use his well-managed Freehold for 50 years.

CC: Editor, TJ, T&T (for the Editorial Board - not for publication)

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