March 13, 2019

Dear Applicant:

Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act FLR/15/2019

On February 13, 2019, the Department of Fisheries and Land Resources (FLR) received your request for access to the following records:

“Any messaging or draft messaging prepared for the Department or Minister since January 1st, 2019. In addition, any benchmarks/status updates/lists outlining levels of completion of "The Way Forward" initiatives.”

Clarified on February 14, 2019 to include:

“Executive level and comms staff. Draft messaging or finalized messaging that is public facing. For example, the department is aware of an issue that may get media attention so they prepare messaging for the department and minister.”

Please be advised that a decision has been made by the Deputy Minister for FLR to provide full access to the requested information. You will find a copy of responsive material attached.

Please be advised that you may appeal this decision and ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review the decision to provide partial access to the requested information, as set out in section 42 of the Act (a copy of this section of the Act has been enclosed for your reference). A request to the Commissioner must be made in writing within 15 business days of the date of this letter or within a longer period that may be allowed by the Commissioner. Your appeal should identify your concerns with the request and why you are submitting the appeal.

The appeal may be addressed to the Information and Privacy Commissioner as follows:

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner  
2 Canada Drive  
P.O. Box 13004, Stn. A  
St. John’s, NL A1B 3V8

Telephone: (709) 729-6309  
Toll-Free: 1-877-729-6309  
Facsimile: (709) 729-6500

You may also appeal directly to the Supreme Court Trial Division within 15 business days after you receive the decision of the public body, pursuant to section 52 of the Act (a copy of this
section of the Act has been enclosed for your reference).

Please be advised that this letter will be published following a 72 hour period after the response is sent electronically to you or five business days in the case where records are mailed to you. It is the goal to have the responsive records posted to the Office of Public Engagement's website within one business day following the applicable period of time. Please note that requests for personal information will not be posted online.

If you have any further questions, please contact me by telephone at 709.729.3730 or by email at hollywarford@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Holly Warford
ATIPP Coordinator

Right of access

8. (1) A person who makes a request under section 11 has a right of access to a record in the custody or under the control of a public body, including a record containing personal information about the applicant.

(2) The right of access to a record does not extend to information excepted from disclosure under this Act, but if it is reasonable to sever that information from the record, an applicant has a right of access to the remainder of the record.

(3) The right of access to a record may be subject to the payment, under section 25, of the costs of reproduction, shipping and locating a record.

Access or correction complaint

42. (1) A person who makes a request under this Act for access to a record or for correction of personal information may file a complaint with the commissioner respecting a decision, act or failure to act of the head of the public body that relates to the request.

(2) A complaint under subsection (1) shall be filed in writing not later than 15 business days

(a) after the applicant is notified of the decision of the head of the public body, or the date of the act or failure to act; or

(b) after the date the head of the public body is considered to have refused the request under subsection 16 (2).

(3) A third party informed under section 19 of a decision of the head of a public body to grant access to a record or part of a record in response to a request may file a complaint with the commissioner respecting that decision.
(4) A complaint under subsection (3) shall be filed in writing not later than 15 business days after the third party is informed of the decision of the head of the public body.

(5) The commissioner may allow a longer time period for the filing of a complaint under this section.

(6) A person or third party who has appealed directly to the Trial Division under subsection 52 (1) or 53 (1) shall not file a complaint with the commissioner.

(7) The commissioner shall refuse to investigate a complaint where an appeal has been commenced in the Trial Division.

(8) A complaint shall not be filed under this section with respect to

(a) a request that is disregarded under section 21;

(b) a decision respecting an extension of time under section 23;

(c) a variation of a procedure under section 24; or

(d) an estimate of costs or a decision not to waive a cost under section 26.

(9) The commissioner shall provide a copy of the complaint to the head of the public body concerned.

Direct appeal to Trial Division by an applicant

52. (1) Where an applicant has made a request to a public body for access to a record or correction of personal information and has not filed a complaint with the commissioner under section 42, the applicant may appeal the decision, act or failure to act of the head of the public body that relates to the request directly to the Trial Division.

(2) An appeal shall be commenced under subsection (1) not later than 15 business days

(a) after the applicant is notified of the decision of the head of the public body, or the date of the act or failure to act; or

(b) after the date the head of the public body is considered to have refused the request under subsection 16 (2).

(3) Where an applicant has filed a complaint with the commissioner under section 42 and the commissioner has refused to investigate the complaint, the applicant may commence an appeal in the Trial Division of the decision, act or failure to act of the head of the public body that relates to the request for access to a record or for correction of personal information.

(4) An appeal shall be commenced under subsection (3) not later than 15 business days after the applicant is notified of the commissioner’s refusal under subsection 45 (2).
KEY MESSAGES

Fisheries and Land Resources
Forestry Sector Work Plan Launch – Cabinet Committee on Jobs
January 28, 2019

• Our government has established a “Cabinet Committee on Jobs,” which will make our government more responsive to the needs of industries with untapped potential.

• This cabinet committee is comprised of eight members:
  o Premier;
  o Minister of Finance;
  o Minister of Advanced Education, Skills, and Labour;
  o Minister of Fisheries and Land Resources;
  o Minister of Health and Community Services;
  o Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment;
  o Minister of Natural Resources (and Responsible for the Status of Women);
    and
  o Minister of Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation.

• The committee meets regularly to place private sector job creation and economic development at the center of our government’s decision making, and to promote discussions across departments.

• The committee is supported by existing staff within Executive Council. No new positions were created.

• These staff partner with specific industries to identify industry challenges and opportunities, with a view to holding sector development summits between Cabinet members, business leaders, and community stakeholders.

• These summits result in the release of joint government and industry work plans aimed at stimulating new development, strengthening the economy, and creating jobs for residents throughout the province.
KEY MESSAGES

Fisheries and Land Resources
Forestry Sector Work Plan Launch - Environmental Considerations
January 28, 2019

• We have committed to developing economic opportunities in the province, yet we take the responsibility to protect the environment very seriously.

• The Provincial Government, through its comprehensive environmental assessment process, often imposes important terms and conditions to ensure against negative environmental impacts.

• Expansion projects must pass environmental review, and all aspects of the project are fully considered.

• It is also subject to our ISO 14 001 registered Environmental Management System, which is subject to all Acts, regulations and legislation.

• All forestry operations administered by the Department of Fisheries and Land Resources maintain International Organization for Standardization (ISO) certification for the department’s Environmental Management System, keeping Newfoundland and Labrador on the leading edge of environmentally responsible forest management.

• ISO14001:2015 certification is an environmental management standard used in all industry sectors to demonstrate commitment to environmental protection and to assure public confidence in management activities. The updated standard emphasizes environmental performance improvement and focuses on organizational context and relevant stakeholders. To maintain registration, the department must demonstrate continuous improvement in implementing its Environmental Management System and ensure all Crown forest land operators continue to operate within system guidelines.
KEY MESSAGES

Fisheries and Land Resources
Forestry Sector Work Plan Launch
January 28, 2019

Summary
The Provincial Government, in partnership with the Newfoundland and Labrador Forest Industry Association and forest sector stakeholders, is launching the Forestry Sector Work Plan, a roadmap of 32 actions intended to diversify the forest industry in Newfoundland and Labrador and to meet the Way Forward commitment to increase timber allocations and harvest levels by 20 per cent by 2020.

Participants at the Forestry Summit held at Grenfell Campus, memorial University include: Premier Dwight Ball, Ministers Gerry Byrne, Bernard Davis, and Christopher Mitchelmore; Ministers of the Cabinet Committee on Jobs; and representatives from Indigenous governments and organizations; the forest sector; and community, academic, and business leaders.

Forest Sector Overview

- We continue to make progress to further develop the forest sector to assist in diversifying the forest industry in Newfoundland and Labrador while meeting the Way Forward commitment to increase timber allocations and harvest levels by 20 per cent by 2020.
- Since setting our targets, the forestry industry has already grown by 12 per cent. In 2017, the forest industry employed approximately 2,200 people directly and was valued at $380 million.
- In a challenging time for the forestry sector, we have fought some tough battles and seen some victories. Following months of fierce and public advocacy, in August 2018 the Provincial Government welcomed the decision of the International Trade Commission to eliminate debilitating tariffs imposed on Corner Brook Pulp and Paper Ltd. We have also successfully maintained the exclusion to softwood lumber duties imposed by the U.S. Department of Commerce.
- The forestry industry has the potential to return to previous levels through diversification, including a focus on secondary processing and developing markets for small diameter wood, which will support healthy and prosperous futures for residents, and strong sustainable communities.
- The Provincial Government has partnered with the forestry industry in unprecedented collaboration to develop actions that will realize the forestry industry’s potential.
- Over the next two years, we will focus our research on innovation and diversification of the forest industry, with emphasis on expansion of the sawmill industry and use of small-diameter wood.
A recent agreement to issue permits to Timberlands International (NL) to support a pellet plant operation is expected to help revitalize the Northern Peninsula’s forest industry by providing long-term fibre security and fully utilizing the region’s fibre resource, which has been underutilized and limited to 30 per cent of the total Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) for the past 10 years due to limited markets for sawlogs and pulpwood.

TIL’s pellet plant operation will provide an opportunity to restart a sawmill operation on the Northern Peninsula by creating a new market for small diameter timber and waste – a market that was lost when Corner Brook Pulp and Paper Ltd. stopped purchasing timber from the Northern Peninsula due to the downturn in the newsprint industry.

To ensure timber is available to the sawmill sector that depends on the forests of the Northern Peninsula, a minimum of 25 per cent of the permit volume must be utilized as sawlogs and made available to the local sawmill industry. This is more than required by the one sawmill currently operating in the region, but could sustain additional sawmills on the Northern Peninsula in the future.

The Provincial Government is not providing any financial assistance to TIL (NL)’s project.

Secondary messages:

• Our forests are a highly valued driver of Newfoundland and Labrador’s economy – working in partnership with industry, we are working to revitalize this rich and storied industry and the treasured resource that sustains it – to support a better future for Newfoundland and Labrador.

• We have established a new Centre for Agriculture and Forestry Development at Wooddale, which allows for expanded use of a valuable facility to advance growth in two of the province’s renewable resource sectors.

• In cooperation with the Newfoundland and Labrador Forest Industry Association, we anticipate the opportunity to leverage funding from the federal government, which will allow developers to explore the many products and technologies that are emerging and match our forest resources.

• A new Cutting Permit Allocation policy designed to increase resource usage and provide more opportunities to promote forest industry growth ensures that traditionally underutilized timber will be available to new entrants and contractors who are able to meet the increased capacity.

• Timber Sale Agreements provide qualifying businesses with new access to forested Crown land through an open, fair, and competitive bidding process. These contractual agreements between government and a business will see firms secure new access to harvest five per cent of the provincial Annual Allowable Cut.

• Five-year Commercial Cutting Permits will be issued to permit holders who consistently harvest annual volumes of 5,000 cubic metres to 50,000 cubic metres to provide long-term security and improved resource access to qualifying forest operators, which encourages industry investment and growth.
Industry Summit and Forestry Sector Work Plan

- Our government is focused on supporting new economic activity and job creation. Creating private sector jobs for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians gives them opportunities they can build their futures on, and makes our communities and our economy stronger.

- We created a Cabinet Committee on Jobs to work with industries with high potential and find ways to create new opportunities for meaningful development throughout the province. Together with industry, our committee is:
  1. supporting new private sector employment that delivers brighter futures for residents throughout the province, and
  2. fostering the economic activity we need to make communities throughout our province ideal places to live, work, and raise a family.

- Through unprecedented collaboration between the Provincial Government and industry players, actions have been developed to grow the provincial forestry industry, stimulate the economy, and create brighter futures for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians.

- All actions presented in the sector work plan are responsive to needs advanced to our government by industry, and in completing these actions, we will advance our goal of increasing timber allocations and harvest levels by 20 per cent over the previous five-year period by 2020.

Timelines for Completion of Goals Outlined in The Way Forward

- All initiatives our government created with industry to advance the sector **will be completed within 20 months.**

- We are focused on increasing timber allocations and harvest levels by 20 per cent over the previous five-year period by 2020.

Recent Industry Partnerships through the Cabinet Committee on Jobs and Industry Development Goals

- Our government has partnered with the forestry, aquaculture, agriculture, and technology sector to strengthen the economy and foster growth in private sector jobs.

- Specifically, we are partnered with:
  - The Newfoundland Aquaculture Industry Association;
- The Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture;
- The Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Technology Industries (NATI);
- The Newfoundland and Labrador Environmental Industry Association (NEIA);
- The Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters (CME); and
- The Atlantic Canada Aerospace and Defense Association (ACADA).

- Newfoundland and Labrador Forest Industry Association

- **Tech sector goal:** Working collaboratively via the Cabinet Committee on Jobs, the Provincial Government and technology industry have set a goal to support the scaling of 20 firms in the technology sector per year.

- **Aquaculture sector goal:** Working collaboratively with the aquaculture sector, we have set a goal to grow salmon production to 50,000 metric tonnes annually, and grow mussel production to 10,750 metric tonnes annually.

- **Agriculture sector goal:** Working the agriculture sector, we are working to achieve the industry’s goals of doubling provincial food self-sufficiency, and increasing the number of year round jobs in agriculture by 500.

- **Initial food security goal:** Working with both the agriculture and aquaculture sectors, we will double our provincial food self-sufficiency, and then continue to make improvements in that area.

- Achieving all the targets outlined in The Way Forward vision will support approximately 14,000 person years of employment annually in the province.

**Other Economic and Jobs Initiatives by the Provincial Government**

- With respect to encouraging entrepreneurship, The Way Forward includes commitments to support entrepreneurship among youth, women, and new immigrants by providing loans, educational initiatives, and new entrance pathways for immigrant entrepreneurs.

- With respect to increasing exports, a great deal of work continues in this regard. For example, Premier Ball was in Washington in summer 2018 with a number of other Canadian Premiers to build and enhance trade relations with key American political leaders, and to underscore Canadian contributions to American security and prosperity. This past November the Premier and Minister Byrne were in China as part of the Atlantic Growth Strategy to explore opportunities there.
• We have also recently joined the Federal Government and all provincial and territorial governments to release the Canadian Free Trade Agreement.

• The Canadian Free Trade Agreement came into force on July 1, 2017, and is designed to reduce barriers to trade, open new markets for businesses, increase choice for consumers, and create opportunities for economic growth and diversification.

Environmental Considerations

• We have committed to developing economic opportunities in the province, yet we take the responsibility to protect the environment very seriously.

• The Provincial Government, through its comprehensive environmental assessment process, often imposes important terms and conditions to ensure against negative environmental impacts.

• Expansion projects must pass environmental review, and all aspects of the project are fully considered.

• It is also subject to our ISO 14 001 registered Environmental Management System, which is subject to all Acts, regulations and legislation.

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We created a Cabinet Committee on Jobs to work with industries with high potential and find ways to create new opportunities for meaningful development throughout the province. Together with industry, our committee is:

1. supporting new private sector employment that delivers brighter futures for residents throughout the province, and

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Through unprecedented collaboration between the Provincial Government and industry players, actions have been developed to grow the provincial forestry industry, stimulate the economy, and create brighter futures for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians.

All actions presented in the sector work plan are responsive to needs advanced to our government by industry, and in completing these actions, we will advance our goal of increasing timber allocations and harvest levels by 20 per cent over the previous five-year period by 2020.
KEY MESSAGES

Fisheries and Land Resources
Forestry Sector Work Plan Launch - Other Economic and Jobs Initiatives by the Provincial Government
January 28, 2019

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January 28, 2019

• Our government has partnered with the forestry, aquaculture, agriculture, and technology sector to strengthen the economy and foster growth in private sector jobs.

• Specifically, we are partnered with:
  o The Newfoundland Aquaculture Industry Association;
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• Tech sector goal: Working collaboratively via the Cabinet Committee on Jobs, the Provincial Government and technology industry have set a goal to support the scaling of 20 firms in the technology sector per year.

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• Initial food security goal: Working with both the agriculture and aquaculture sectors, we will double our provincial food self-sufficiency, and then continue to make improvements in that area.

• Achieving all the targets outlined in The Way Forward vision will support approximately 14,000 person years of employment annually in the province.
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Forest Sector Overview

- We continue to make progress to further develop the forest sector to assist in diversifying the forest industry in Newfoundland and Labrador while meeting the Way Forward commitment to increase timber allocations and harvest levels by 20 per cent by 2020.
- Since setting our targets, the forestry industry has already met 16 per cent of our 20 per cent target to increase timber allocations and harvest levels. In 2017, the forest industry employed approximately 5,000 people in direct and indirect employment, and was valued at $380 million.
- In a challenging time for the forestry sector, we have fought some tough battles and seen some victories. Following months of fierce and public advocacy, in August 2018 the Provincial Government welcomed the decision of the International Trade Commission to eliminate debilitating tariffs imposed on Corner Brook Pulp and Paper Ltd. We have also successfully maintained the exclusion to softwood lumber duties imposed by the U.S. Department of Commerce.
- The forestry industry has the potential to return to previous levels through diversification, including a focus on secondary processing and developing markets for small diameter wood, which will support healthy and prosperous futures for residents, and strong sustainable communities.
- The Provincial Government has partnered with the forestry industry in unprecedented collaboration to develop actions that will realize the forestry industry’s potential.
- Over the next two years, we will focus our research on innovation and diversification of the forest industry, with emphasis on expansion of the sawmill industry and use of small-diameter wood.
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### Diversifying the Forestry Sector

#### Lead Dept
- **FLR**

#### Milestones (Timelines)
- **2016 Baseline - 40% of harvest**
- **2017 - increased to 12%**
- **2018 - increased to 16%**
- **2019 - increase to 20%**

#### Current Status of Action
- **Significant Progress**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action Title, Deliverable and Target Completion Date</th>
<th>Lead Dept</th>
<th>Milestones (Timelines)</th>
<th>Current Status of Action</th>
<th>Internal Description of Progress</th>
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<td>Diversifying the Forestry Sector</td>
<td>FLR</td>
<td>2016 Baseline - 40% of harvest</td>
<td>Significant Progress</td>
<td>There have been 5 TSA's advertised on FLR website. One TSA was awarded in May 2018 a second was awarded in Nov 2018. Crown Annual Allowable Cut of 1,000,000 is advertised. Commitment to Award 15% for $20,000 (45%). Amount Awarded 20,000 (15%).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doubling Provincial Food Self-Sufficiency by 2022</td>
<td>FLR</td>
<td>2016 Baseline - 10%</td>
<td>Significant Progress</td>
<td>The Department has awarded two large-scale land development pilots for agriculture production in the Town of Raffyde and Connec. The pilot year for production of transplants for industry is complete and all transplant orders have been fulfilled, with 26 farmers participating during the pilot year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doubling Provincial Food Self-Sufficiency by 2022</td>
<td>FLR</td>
<td>2018 Baseline - 25%</td>
<td>Significant Progress</td>
<td>In 2018 we invested into 55 new entrants in the agriculture and aquaculture sector.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identifying Market Access and Value-Added Opportunities for Fish and Seafood</td>
<td>FLR</td>
<td>Phase 1: Assess feasibility - recommendations developed for a feasible Farm to Health Care pilot initiative, including identification of a region to host the pilot initiative.</td>
<td>Significant Progress</td>
<td>FLR is working with the Labrador institute to develop a plan to incorporate a small abattoir into their mentorship pilot farm (PYE).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identifying Market Access and Value-Added Opportunities for Fish and Seafood</td>
<td>FLR</td>
<td>Phase 2: Develop Pilot Initiative - Pilot Farm to Health Care Initiative design including a detailed work plan, budget, and evaluation plan.</td>
<td>Significant Progress</td>
<td>Work is ongoing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identifying Market Access and Value-Added Opportunities for Fish and Seafood</td>
<td>FLR</td>
<td>Phase 1: Implement, Evaluate, &amp; Scale - Evaluation report of implemented pilot initiative, and strategy developed for scaling Farm to Health Care in NL.</td>
<td>Significant Progress</td>
<td>In 2018 we invested into 55 new entrants in the agriculture and aquaculture sector.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identifying Market Access and Value-Added Opportunities for Fish and Seafood</td>
<td>FLR</td>
<td>Phase 3: Finalize the Canadian Fish and Seafood Program agreement.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>DFO launched the CFSSOF on December 5, 2018. Further stakeholder engagement is planned.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identifying Market Access and Value-Added Opportunities for Fish and Seafood</td>
<td>FLR</td>
<td>Phase 1: Implement, Evaluate, &amp; Scale - Evaluation report of implemented pilot initiative, and strategy developed for scaling Farm to Health Care in NL.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Work is ongoing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implement More Effective Business Financing</td>
<td>FIN; FLR; TCI</td>
<td>Phase 1: Assess feasibility - recommendations developed for a feasible Farm to Health Care pilot initiative, including identification of a region to host the pilot initiative.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action Title, Deliverable and Target</td>
<td>Lead Dept</td>
<td>Milestones (Timelines)</td>
<td>Current Status of Action</td>
<td>Internal Description of Progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increasing Aquaculture-Related Employment to 1,100 Person-Years (2018-19)</td>
<td>FLR</td>
<td>Funding provided through the Atlantic Fisheries Fund to the aquaculture sector to address innovation, research and infrastructure (ongoing throughout the year)</td>
<td>On-going</td>
<td>The Atlantic Fisheries Fund (AFF) is considering applications to support this.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increasing Aquaculture-Related Employment to 1,100 Person-Years (2018-19)</td>
<td>FLR</td>
<td>Determined multi-year licence duration in consultation with NAIA (2017-18)</td>
<td>Significant Progress</td>
<td>A 6-year licence term for all aquaculture licensees has been approved.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategically Attracting Investment in Priority Sectors</td>
<td>TCI, FLR, NR</td>
<td>Report to identify potential opportunities and gaps in the Aquaculture service and supply sector (March 2019)</td>
<td>On-going</td>
<td>Work is ongoing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transition to Groundfish</td>
<td>FLR</td>
<td>The department has been working with the Fisheries Advisory Council (FAC) on important issues such as adjacency and securing access to the resource to provide the best advice to the Minister as the industry transitions to a groundfish-focused industry. The cod revitalization plan will not be one comprehensive document, but rather a compilation of individual pieces of work. (March 2019)</td>
<td>Significant Progress</td>
<td>The Council is currently developing a Roadmap for a Cod Action Plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase Timber Allocations and Harvest Levels by 20 per cent by 2020</td>
<td>FLR</td>
<td>3% offered in 2018 / 3% offered in 2019</td>
<td>Significant Progress</td>
<td>There have been 5 TSA’s advertised on FLR website. One TSA was awarded in May 2018 a second was awarded in Nov 2018. Three TSA’s now remain advertised.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase Timber Allocations and Harvest Levels by 2020</td>
<td>FLR</td>
<td>Engage in negotiations with existing contractors to determine if they are interested in entering into FMA’s</td>
<td>On-going</td>
<td>FLR continues to engage with potential companies for Forest Management Agreements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase Timber Allocations and Harvest Levels by 20 per cent by 2020</td>
<td>FLR</td>
<td>Two 5-year permits in 2017-18 / Two 5-year permits in 2018-19</td>
<td>On-going</td>
<td>In 2019, 1 5-year commercial cutting permit has been issued to date.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>