



Kimberly-Clark



October 17, 2017

Dear Minister McKenna and Premiers Couillard, Notley, and Wynne:

As companies that have an interest in making sustainable purchasing decisions and rely on pulp, paper, and other forest products for our companies' needs, we write to ask you to act swiftly to protect the boreal Woodland Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus*)¹ — a species beloved across North America, and central to many Canadian Indigenous peoples' culture and traditions.

We commend the Government of Canada for calling for the protection of this majestic species and its habitat as part of the Recovery Strategy for the Woodland Caribou (Boreal Population). We urge Canada's provincial and territorial governments to immediately protect critical Woodland Caribou habitat in Canada's boreal forest. We also ask the Federal Government to step in and conserve habitat that remains unprotected.

We are concerned that the boreal forest, its species, and the communities that depend on them are threatened by unsustainable logging practices. We are particularly concerned about the decline of the Woodland Caribou. This species is listed as threatened under Canada's Species at Risk Act due primarily to the impact of industrial activities on its habitat, with logging as the main source of habitat degradation.² Recent surveys indicate that only 14 of Canada's 51 boreal Woodland Caribou ranges are self-sustaining,³ and wildlife scientists say that 30% of the country's population could disappear in the next 15 years unless action is taken.⁴

Based on our environmental commitments to our customers, we seek materials that are free of controversy and have been acquired through sustainable harvesting. While we commend individual forestry companies that have certification, such as Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), we strongly believe scientifically rigorous province-wide Woodland Caribou protection plans are needed to reassure buyers that no boreal products have been purchased at the expense of this threatened species' and their intact forest habitat.

We echo the Federal Government's request that provinces submit robust caribou habitat protection plans that are grounded in Federal science, and ask that you submit these with the consultation and consent of the Indigenous peoples whose traditional territories include Woodland Caribou habitat. We also call on the Federal Government to take strong interim

¹ Hereafter referred to as "Woodland Caribou"

² Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Assessment and Status Report on the Caribou Rangifer Tarandus. 2014 (p. 59). Accessed 8/29/17. https://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/virtual_sara/files/cosewic/sr_Caribou_NF_Boreal_Atlantic_2014_e.pdf

³ Environment Canada. Recovery Strategy for the Recovery Strategy for the Woodland Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*), Boreal population, in Canada. 2012 (p. 61). Accessed 8/29/17. https://www.registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca/virtual_sara/files/plans/rs_caribou_boreal_caribou_0912_e1.pdf

⁴ Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (p. xvii).

measures to protect critical Woodland Caribou habitat until recovery plans can be fully implemented.

We welcome the opportunity to learn about your progress in developing these plans.

Sincerely,

Renaud des Rosiers
Sustainability Manager
Amy's Kitchen, Incorporated

Christopher Miller
Activism Manager
Ben & Jerry's

Rob Sanders
Publisher, Owner
Greystone Books

Samara D'Auria
PR & Communications Manager
H&M

Lisa Morden
Senior Director, Global Sustainability
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Jeanne Troxel
Print and Resources Buyer
Liturgy Training Publications

Tonia Elrod
Sustainability Leader
The Procter & Gamble Company

Sabina Bhatia
CEO
Rose International, Inc.

CC:

Minister Melancon
Ministry of Sustainable Development, the Environment, and the Fight against Climate Change
Government of Quebec

Minister Blanchette
Ministry of Forestry, Fauna, and Parcs
Government of Quebec

Minister McGarry
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
Government of Ontario

Minister Phillips
Ministry of Environment and Parks
Government of Alberta

Minister Carlier
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
Government of Alberta



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Dear Minister Piccini,

I would like to first and foremost congratulate you on your re-appointment as Ontario's Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks. We're looking forward to working with you and your ministry as you strive to make an impact in this crucial area.

As you become reacquainted with the responsibilities of your ministry and begin to outline goals for your new tenure as Minister, we here at Procter & Gamble (P&G) wanted to take this opportunity to bring a few important issues to your attention. We'd also like to offer our assistance in helping you and your ministry make the strides necessary to ensure that future generations of Canadians continue to enjoy the boreal forest, its wildlife and biodiversity.

Currently we're concerned that the boreal forest in the Province, the species that inhabit it, and the communities that depend on it are threatened. Some habitat management practices have led to the decline of the Woodland Caribou here in Ontario and loss of intact forest landscapes (IFLs).

As for caribou, it's important to point out that this species is already listed as threatened under Canada's Species at Risk Act due primarily to the impact of industrial activities like logging, mining, and oil on its habitat. Our environmental commitment to Boreal Woodland Caribou has led us to call on the Federal and Ontario governments in the past to do more to protect this species' and keep their forest habitats intact.

As you will come to find out, Boreal Woodland Caribou require large amounts of land to roam across, as their environmental needs shift seasonally. Furthermore, Woodland Caribou prefer older, denser forests so that the forest brush can hide them from predators. The needs of Woodland Caribou are made more critical by the fact that scientists have determined them to be the least resilient deer species, as they adapt poorly to environmental changes caused by human activity. Protecting Woodland Caribou from potential extinction requires that industrial activity avoid undisturbed forests. Forests that were disturbed many decades ago that are regaining characteristics to provide benefits like undisturbed forests should also be considered for conservation.

While we applaud the recently signed Section 11 conservation agreement between the Province and the Federal government that will start the process of Ontario's Woodland Caribou's habitat moving to 65% undisturbed, we hope this is just the first step in ensuring vital conservation measures are in place and being implemented to maintain and recover self-sustaining populations of boreal-dwelling Woodland

Caribou. Our mutual commitment to saving this species requires sustained and determined efforts by everyone. Ideally, range plans would exist with guidance related to landscape-level planning, Indigenous Peoples traditional knowledge, habitat management, mortality management, population monitoring, and a 65% undisturbed caribou habitat recommendation.

As for IFLs, these should be considered for permanent protection. An Intact Forest Landscape (IFL) is a seamless mosaic of forest and naturally treeless ecosystems within the zone of current forest extent, which exhibit no remotely detected signs of human activity or habitat fragmentation and is large enough to maintain all native biological diversity, including viable populations of wide-ranging species. IFLs have [high conservation value](#) and are critical for stabilizing terrestrial carbon storage, harboring biodiversity, regulating hydrological regimes, and providing other ecosystem functions. Significant amounts of IFLs are already protected in northern Ontario allowing for the northern dwelling forest-tundra Woodland Caribou to be at less risk. Similar conservation should be considered for IFLs located in the southern Caribou ranges.

At P&G, we are committed to purchasing wood pulp that is responsibly sourced. It is essential for our business and, more importantly, for the environment and people who depend on it. By putting in place conservation plans, policies and protections that ensure these endangered species and their environment are sustained. We have committed to providing Ontarians and consumers alike with valuable reassurances that both P&G and their government are working together to protect Ontario's natural ecosystem. Through working together, your Ministry and P&G can prevent the extinction of the vulnerable Boreal Woodland Caribou and IFLs.

As you and the rest of your ministry look to build off the recently signed section 11 agreement with the Federal government and put policies in place that will ensure the long-term viability of Ontario's caribou population and IFLs, we hope to continue to be a valuable partner in these efforts through providing consultative contributions as well as continuing to practice sustainably sourcing raw materials. Our hope is that through our combined efforts the Province will see the replenishment of the Boreal Woodland Caribou population while not sacrificing the needs of everyday Ontarians, which is why the strategies developed and implemented by your Ministry must be in collaboration with consumer industries which provide Ontarians with everyday essential goods.

United under the common cause of restoring Ontario's Woodland Caribou population, we hope to work together to ensure their protection going forward. We welcome the opportunity to work in close collaboration with you and your staff as well as learn more

about your plans to protect this species and their habitat from threats for the foreseeable future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher Reeves". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Christopher Reeves
Forester