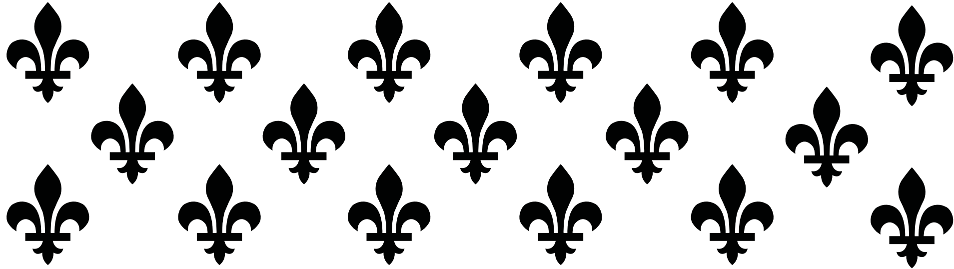

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

FIRST SESSION FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

Bill 97

An Act mainly to modernize the forest regime

Introduction

Introduced by
Madam Maïté Blanchette Vézina
Minister of Natural Resources and Forests

Québec Official Publisher
2025

EXPLANATORY NOTES

This bill introduces various measures mainly to modernize the forest regime provided for in the Sustainable Forest Development Act.

The bill allows for the division of development units in forests in the domain of the State into priority forest development zones, conservation zones and multi-purpose zones and it allows for the forest development conditions to vary according to those zones. The bill specifies that, in priority forest development zones, the carrying out of certain activities that restrict the carrying out of forest development activities, as well as the implementation of conservation measures for an area are prohibited.

The bill provides various measures concerning multi-purpose roads, including the possibility for the Minister to restrict or prohibit access to a multi-purpose road because of thawing and to authorize a person to derogate from the standards applicable to the traffic on those roads. The bill also provides for the development of multi-purpose road management plans by the Minister or by a delegatee the Minister designates and for a financing arrangement for the implementation of those plans by imposing the payment of a financial contribution, whose amount is determined by government regulation, in order for a minister or a body to issue permits and rights of use determined by the Government.

The bill assigns to the regional forest managers designated in the Ministère des Ressources naturelles et des Forêts new functions entrusted to the chief forester, in particular with regard to consultations leading up to the establishment of boundaries of priority forest development zones and with regard to the development of the 10-year plan for forest development activities in a development unit.

The bill also replaces timber supply guarantees by sustainable forest development licences and extends, from 5 to 10 years, the period of validity of forestry rights allowing for the supply of a wood processing plant as well as the interval between the revision of allowable cuts. It replaces existing forest planning tools and assigns responsibilities to the holders of those forestry rights in the forest planning for forest development activities and in the carrying out of non-commercial silvicultural treatments.

The bill requires that the holders of a sustainable forest development licence and other holders of forestry rights must enter into forest coordination agreements and timber apportionment agreements to organize their interventions. The bill allows the Minister to take any necessary measure to ensure the performance of the obligations of holders of forestry rights to supply a wood processing plant.

The bill provides measures concerning the consultation of Indigenous communities, including the drawing up of an Indigenous community consultation policy by the Minister of Natural Resources and Forests and a process harmonizing the activities pursued by Indigenous people with the forest development activities provided for by the specific forest planning. It also provides that the provisions of Chapter 3 of the Agreement Concerning a New Relationship between le Gouvernement du Québec and the Crees of Québec is to prevail over the provisions of the Sustainable Forest Development Act.

The bill abolishes the Bureau de mise en marché des bois and entrusts to the Minister the function of regulating the sale of timber on the open market and the setting of the rates applicable to the tariffing of timber harvested by the holders of a sustainable forest development licence.

The bill empowers the Minister, with the authorization of the Government, to acquire by agreement or expropriation, on the Minister's own behalf or on another's behalf, certain wood processing plants for which the sustainable forest development licence has been revoked.

The bill contains various measures, including the revision of the criteria and process for the certification of forest producers in the private domain, the revision of penal sanctions, the introduction of a system of monetary administrative penalties and the possibility for the Minister, with the authorization of the Government, to implement pilot projects in connection with the Sustainable Forest Development Act.

The bill amends the Act respecting land use planning and development to withdraw the power of local municipalities to regulate the planting and felling of trees and to give regional county municipalities the power to provide by-laws to regulate the development of private forests in their territory.

The bill amends the Act respecting the lands in the domain of the State to allow the Minister to implement pilot projects relating to new approaches concerning campgrounds and vacation resorts on lands in the domain of the State.

The bill amends the Act respecting the Société du Plan Nord to revise certain terms, the mission of the Société and elements of its governance.

Lastly, the bill contains consequential, transitional and final provisions.

LEGISLATION AMENDED BY THIS BILL:

– Sustainable Forest Development Act (chapter A-18.1);

– Act respecting land use planning and development (chapter A-19.1);

– Labour Code (chapter C-27);

– Act respecting the Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune (chapter M-25.2);

– Act respecting the Société du Plan Nord (chapter S-16.011);

– Act respecting the lands in the domain of the State (chapter T-8.1);

– Act to amend various legislative provisions concerning municipal affairs (2001, chapter 68).

ORDERS IN COUNCIL AMENDED BY THIS BILL:

– Order in Council 841-2001 dated 27 June 2001, respecting Ville de Saguenay;

– Order in Council 850-2001 dated 4 July 2001, respecting Ville de Sherbrooke;

– Order in Council 851-2001 dated 4 July 2001, respecting Ville de Trois-Rivières;

– Order in Council 1478-2001 dated 12 December 2001, respecting Ville de Rouyn-Noranda.

Bill 97

AN ACT MAINLY TO MODERNIZE THE FOREST REGIME

THE PARLIAMENT OF QUÉBEC ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

SUSTAINABLE FOREST DEVELOPMENT ACT

1. Section 1 of the Sustainable Forest Development Act (chapter A-18.1), amended by section 50 of chapter 18 of the statutes of 2024, is replaced by the following section:

"**1.** This Act establishes a forest regime designed to

(1) provide for sustainable forest development that takes into account issues related to climate change;

(2) implement forest zoning to enable prioritization of forest development activities, consideration of conservation measures for an area and harmonization of uses;

(3) implement sustainable forest management conditions according to forest zoning, in particular ecosystem-based development conditions;

(4) ensure efficient and regionalized management of forests in the domain of the State through regional forest managers and based on objectives for achieving measurable results that ensure greater predictability;

(5) determine how responsibilities under the forest regime are shared between the State, regional bodies, Indigenous communities and users of the forest;

(6) foster the collaboration of Indigenous communities in forest management;

(7) follow up and monitor forest operations in the domain of the State;

(8) govern the auction sale of timber and other forest products, in particular on the open market, and the supply of timber to wood processing plants;

(9) regulate the development of private forests and facilitate their contribution to the supply of timber to wood processing plants;

(10) allow maple syrup production in public forests by harmonizing maple syrup production with the many activities taking place on the land; and

(11) govern forest protection activities in complementarity with the provisions of the Fire Safety Act (chapter S-3.4) on forest fire protection.”

2. Section 4 of the Act, amended by section 51 of chapter 18 of the statutes of 2024, is again amended by replacing paragraph 2 by the following paragraphs:

“(2) “ecosystem-based development” means an evolving forest development that consists in ensuring the preservation of the biodiversity and viability of ecosystems and that aims to reinforce forests’ resilience to climate change;

“(2.1) “non-commercial silvicultural treatments” means the silvicultural treatments carried out after a cut and whose purpose is to restore forest productivity, tend to forests or ensure the improvement of the efficiency and quality of the forest stands, in particular land preparation, reforestation, clearing regeneration, cleaning, precommercial thinning, and pruning;”.

3. Section 6 of the Act is amended by inserting “rights,” before “interests”.

4. Section 7 of the Act is replaced by the following section:

“**7.** This Act must be construed in a manner consistent with the obligation to consult Indigenous communities.

Indigenous communities are consulted specifically to ensure that sustainable forest development and forest management take into account, and accommodate if necessary, their rights, interests, values and needs.”

5. The Act is amended by inserting the following sections after section 8:

“**8.1.** The Government may enter into an agreement with any Indigenous community represented by its band council to establish the boundaries of a priority forest development zone in a development unit or a group of development units.

Sections 17.5 and 17.6 apply to a priority forest development zone whose boundaries are established under the first paragraph.

The agreement may provide the boundaries of a conservation zone in the development unit or group of development units within which the priority forest development zone is established.

Forest development activities are prohibited on the territory covered by the conservation zone established under the third paragraph, subject to an authorization given by the Minister in accordance with what is provided for by the agreement.

An agreement entered into under this section must prescribe the conditions under which the priority forest development zone and, if applicable, the conservation zone may be changed.

The priority forest development zone and, if applicable, the conservation zone come into force either on the date of the agreement's publication in the *Gazette officielle du Québec* or the date determined in the agreement, whichever is later.

"**8.2.** The provisions of Chapter 3 of the Agreement Concerning a New Relationship between le Gouvernement du Québec and the Crees of Québec, entered into on 7 February 2002 and approved by Order in Council 289-2002 dated 20 March 2002 (French only), as well as any amendment to that chapter approved by the Government, prevail over the provisions of this Act. However, a community, enterprise or person covered by the Agreement is exempt from the application of the incompatible provisions of this Act and the regulations only to the extent that the community, enterprise or person complies with the Agreement.

The Minister prescribes, by regulation, the standards imposed on any community, enterprise or person under the first paragraph and whose violation constitutes an offence, as well as the places where they apply. The Minister also prescribes by regulation, if applicable, the standards of this Act and the regulations that are replaced and sets the minimum and maximum amounts of the fine, from among the fines prescribed in section 236, to which an offender is liable for a given offence.

A draft regulation made under the second paragraph must be submitted to the Crees of Québec and to the Cree-Québec Forestry Board for an opinion at least 45 days before the regulation is made.

A regulation made under the second paragraph is not subject to the publication requirement set out in section 8 of the Regulations Act (chapter R-18.1)."

6. The heading of Chapter III of Title I of the Act is amended by replacing "POLICY" by "POLICIES".

7. Section 9 of the Act is amended

(1) by replacing the first sentence of the second paragraph by the following sentence: "Before the general policy is published, the Minister consults the general public.";

(2) by inserting "general" before all occurrences of "consultation policy" and "policy".

8. Section 10 of the Act is replaced by the following section:

"**10.** The Minister draws up, makes public and keeps up to date an Indigenous community consultation policy on sustainable forest development and forest management, after consulting Indigenous communities.

The Minister ensures that the policy is drawn up, updated and implemented in a spirit of collaboration with the Indigenous communities."

9. The heading of Chapter IV of Title I of the Act is amended by replacing "STRATEGY" by "POLICY".

10. Section 11 of the Act is amended by replacing both occurrences of "strategy" in the first paragraph by "policy".

11. Section 12 of the Act is amended

(1) by replacing "strategy" in the first paragraph by "policy";

(2) by replacing "The strategy" in the second paragraph by "The policy determines the manner in which forest development activities will be prioritized and in which conservation measures, issues related to climate change and harmonization of uses will be taken into account. The policy";

(3) by replacing "strategy" and "by the State, the regional bodies, the Native communities and the users of the forest" in the third paragraph by "policy" and "in accordance with this Act", respectively.

12. Section 13 of the Act is amended, in the second paragraph,

(1) by inserting ", outside of development units," after "divided";

(2) by striking out the last sentence.

13. The Act is amended by inserting the following heading after the heading of Division II of Chapter I of Title II:

"§1.—*Division of development units*".

14. Section 17 of the Act is amended

(1) by striking out ", exceptionally," in the first paragraph;

(2) by inserting the following paragraph after the first paragraph:

"If the Minister intends to change the boundaries of a development unit, the Minister must first change the priority forest development zone divided under section 17.4 that is wholly or partly on the territory concerned."

15. The Act is amended by inserting the following subdivision after section 17:

"§2.—*Zoning*

"**17.1.** Development units are divided into priority forest development zones, conservation zones and multi-purpose zones.

The Minister publishes a map of the forest zoning on the department's website.

"**17.2.** For the purpose of establishing the boundaries of a priority forest development zone, the chief forester sends to the Minister a selection of lands located in a development unit or a group of development units for which a regional forest manager is designated under section 46.0.1 and that the chief forester proposes to divide into a priority forest development zone. The chief forester's proposal must pertain to lands located outside of conservation zones.

The chief forester's proposal is made from among the lands identified by the designated regional forest manager, in collaboration with the ministers, the government bodies and the Indigenous communities concerned, in particular the minister responsible for the environment, as well as the regional county municipalities whose territory is included, in whole or in part, in the development unit or group of development units concerned.

The proposal provided for in the first paragraph must be accompanied by a description of the process carried out by the regional forest manager as well as the regional forest manager's observations on the potential of prioritizing forest development activities on the lands on the basis of socioeconomic issues and the effects on local and Indigenous communities.

"**17.3.** The Government establishes the boundaries of the priority forest development zones in a development unit or a group of development units outside of conservation zones.

The boundaries of a priority forest development zone come into force on the date of their publication in the *Gazette officielle du Québec* or on any later date determined by the Government. They must be accompanied by a map of the zone.

"**17.4.** The Government may change the boundaries of a priority forest development zone if it is in the public interest and the Government is of the opinion that the change cannot be avoided.

If the effect of the decision is to decrease the total surface area of priority forest development zones in Québec or the allowable cuts in forests in the domain of the State, the Government must take any appropriate measure to compensate for that decrease, in particular by establishing the boundaries of replacement areas or by financing silvicultural treatments.

The Minister must obtain the chief forester's opinion on the repercussions of the change on the allowable cuts, on the investments in silvicultural treatments and on the possibility of establishing the boundaries of replacement areas, based on consultations held by the regional forest manager with the ministers, government bodies, Indigenous communities and regional county municipalities concerned.

“**17.5.** Despite any provision to the contrary, the carrying out of any activity that restricts the carrying out of forest development activities to supply a wood processing plant in a priority forest development zone is prohibited.

The first paragraph does not apply to

(1) activities that have been authorized by a minister or the Government before the establishment of the boundaries of the priority forest development zone;

(2) activities carried out in the exercise of a sugar bush management permit;

(3) activities carried out in the exercise of a mining right provided for in the Mining Act (chapter M-13.1);

(4) energy production, transformation, distribution, transmission or storage activities and activities related to them; or

(5) activities pursued by Indigenous people for domestic, ritual or social purposes.

Despite the first paragraph, the Government may, by regulation,

(1) determine the cases in which and the conditions under which activities restricting the carrying out of forest development activities to supply a wood processing plant may be carried out in a priority forest development zone; and

(2) subject the carrying out of such activities to the authorization of the Minister.

“**17.6.** Despite any provision to the contrary, the Government or any minister authorized to act may not, in a priority forest development zone,

(1) define the boundaries of an exceptional forest ecosystem or designate a forest area as a biological refuge or a wet forest as a wetland of interest under this Act;

(2) designate a natural setting by establishing its boundaries on a plan or an area as an Indigenous-led protected area, a protected area with sustainable use, a biodiversity reserve, an ecological reserve or a marine reserve under the Natural Heritage Conservation Act (chapter C-61.01);

(3) require that a forest development activity to supply a wood processing plant in a natural setting under the Natural Heritage Conservation Act that is not designated in accordance with that Act be submitted for the authorization of the Government or minister;

(4) set aside land in order to establish a new protected area under the Natural Heritage Conservation Act;

(5) recognize an area as a man-made landscape under the Natural Heritage Conservation Act;

(6) establish a controlled zone, a wildlife sanctuary or a wildlife preserve or set aside land in order to establish a wildlife preserve there under the Act respecting the conservation and development of wildlife (chapter C-61.1);

(7) prepare the wildlife habitat chart under the Act respecting the conservation and development of wildlife;

(8) prepare the chart of a habitat of a threatened or vulnerable plant species under the Act respecting threatened or vulnerable species (chapter E-12.01); and

(9) establish a park under the Parks Act (chapter P-9).

"**17.7.** Exceptional forest ecosystems, biological refuges, wetlands of interest as well as other areas registered in the register of protected areas in Québec and in the register of other effective conservation measures in Québec under sections 5 and 6.1 of the Natural Heritage Conservation Act (chapter C-61.01) are conservation zones.

A conservation zone is updated at the time of coming into force of a change, as applicable, to the conservation measures or to the areas referred to in the first paragraph.

"**17.8.** Any part of a development unit that is not included in a priority forest development zone or in a conservation zone is a multi-purpose zone."

16. Chapter II of Title II of the Act, comprising sections 36 and 37, is repealed.

17. Section 38 of the Act is amended by striking out the third paragraph.

18. Section 40 of the Act is amended

(1) by striking out "subject to a development plan" in the first paragraph;

(2) by replacing "persons or bodies subject to a development plan" in the second paragraph by "those persons or bodies";

(3) by replacing the third paragraph by the following paragraph:

"If all the persons or bodies concerned by the decision are subject to a forest development activities plan developed under section 116.6, the regional forest manager indicates in the plan the forest development standards imposed or authorized by the Minister under this section and specifies the places where they are applicable, any regulatory standards they replace, and the mechanisms for ensuring their application. The regional forest manager also indicates in the plan the minimum and maximum amounts of the fine determined by the

Minister, from among those prescribed in section 236, to which an offender is liable for a given offence. In other cases, the Minister specifies those elements in the decision that the Minister notifies to the person or organization concerned."

19. The Act is amended by inserting the following heading after the heading of Chapter IV of Title II:

"**DIVISION I**

"GENERAL PROVISIONS".

20. Section 42 of the Act is amended by adding the following paragraph at the end:

"The Minister may, by an order published in the *Gazette officielle du Québec*, determine, for the multi-purpose roads located in the areas the Minister identifies, a thaw period during which special traffic standards prescribed by government regulation apply."

21. The Act is amended by inserting the following section after section 42:

"**42.1.** The Minister may authorize a person, on the conditions determined by the Minister, to derogate from the standards prescribed by regulation referred to in section 42. A person so authorized is liable for any damage they cause to multi-purpose roads. The Minister issues a certificate that attests to the authorization given.

The Minister may delegate the application of this section to another person or body."

22. The Act is amended by inserting the following after section 43:

"**DIVISION II**

"MANAGEMENT OF MULTI-PURPOSE ROADS

"**43.1.** The Minister develops and keeps up to date, in accordance with the standards prescribed by government regulation, a multi-purpose road management plan for a development unit or a group of development units that the Minister determines by taking into account, in particular, forest planning, the land use plan for the land area in the domain of the State and the land use planning and development plans applicable to the area concerned.

The management plan must include

(1) objectives and policy directions relating to the management of multi-purpose roads;

(2) the strategic network of multi-purpose roads determined in collaboration with the regional forest managers designated under section 46.0.1 in the development units or groups of development units located in the area concerned;

(3) a mechanism for prioritizing the work to be carried out on multi-purpose roads according to regional issues; and

(4) the other elements determined by regulation.

The plan is published on the department's website.

"**43.2.** The Minister may delegate the development, update or implementation of a multi-purpose road management plan to another person or body.

"**43.3.** A report on the implementation of the management plan must be published on the department's website every five years.

"**43.4.** The Government may, by regulation, determine the permits, rights of use and authorizations issued by a minister or body that may involve the use of multi-purpose roads for which the applicant must pay a contribution for the financing of the costs of developing and implementing multi-purpose road management plans, including carrying out the required work. The amount of the contribution and the standards for collecting the contribution are determined by government regulation. The regulation may provide for the allocation of a remuneration to the person or body responsible for collecting the contribution under the regulation.

The Minister and, as applicable, the person or body responsible for collecting the contribution agree on the terms of payment of the contribution into the Territorial Information and Management Fund in accordance with section 17.3 of the Act respecting the Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune (chapter M-25.2).

"**DIVISION III**

"REGULATORY POWERS".

23. Section 44 of the Act is amended by replacing paragraph 2 by the following paragraphs:

"(2) prescribe the standards applicable to the development and update of a multi-purpose road management plan and determine elements the plan must contain;

"(3) prescribe the permits, rights of use and authorizations, issued by a minister or body, that may involve the use of multi-purpose roads for which the applicant must pay a contribution for the financing of the costs of developing and implementing the multi-purpose road management plan, and determine

the amount of the contribution, the standards for collecting the contribution and the remuneration that may be allocated to the person or body responsible for collecting the contribution."

24. Section 45 of the Act is amended

(1) by inserting the following paragraph after the first paragraph:

"The chief forester holds, for a term of five years, the position of associate deputy minister in accordance with the Public Service Act (chapter F-3.1.1).";

(2) by adding the following sentence at the end of the second paragraph: "The selection process does not apply to a chief forester who is reappointed at the expiry of the term.";

(3) by striking out the third paragraph.

25. Section 46 of the Act is amended

(1) in the first paragraph,

(*a*) by replacing "strategy" in the introductory clause by "policy";

(*b*) by replacing subparagraphs 3 and 4 by the following subparagraph:

"(3) making the principles of the methodology for determining allowable cuts public;";

(*c*) by inserting the following subparagraphs after subparagraph 5:

"(5.1) defining, at the time when the chief forester is determining or reviewing allowable cuts, all the silvicultural treatments to carry out to maintain allowable cuts in a development unit by taking into account the forecast of the fees that will be collected for harvesting timber;

"(5.2) proposing, pursuant to section 17.2, areas in a development unit in order to establish the boundaries of priority forest development zones;

"(5.3) implementing the preliminary identification process of areas in a development unit in order to establish the boundaries of priority forest development zones;

"(5.4) collaborating in determining the strategic network of multi-purpose roads provided for in a multi-purpose road management plan;

"(5.5) developing, for a development unit or a group of development units the chief forester determines, a 10-year plan for forest development activities according to zoning;

"(5.6) giving an opinion on the five-year plan for forest development activities for a development unit or a group of development units;

"(5.7) determining an appropriate harmonization measure under section 116.23;";

(*d*) by replacing "five" in subparagraph 6 by "10";

(*e*) by striking out "at the Minister's request," in subparagraph 7 and by replacing "an immediate change" in that subparagraph by "a change";

(*f*) by striking out ", their date of coming into force" in subparagraph 8;

(*g*) by replacing subparagraph 8.1 by the following subparagraph:

"(8.1) filing with the Minister, for the purposes of sections 86.5.2 and 91 and subparagraph 8.1 of the first paragraph of section 120, a notice concerning the repercussions, as applicable, of allocating the volumes of unharvested timber or exceeding the annual volume of timber on the allowable cut determined for the area and on the perpetuity of the resource as well as on the achievement of the objectives provided for by the sustainable forest development policy;";

(*h*) by replacing "to the Minister at the time and subject to the conditions set by the Minister" in subparagraph 9 by "every five years to the Minister";

(2) by replacing the second paragraph by the following paragraphs:

"The date of coming into force of the allowable cuts determined, changed or revised by the chief forester is set in the calendar provided for in section 116.5.

The Minister tables in the National Assembly the chief forester's analysis of the results achieved regarding sustainable forest development in the forests in the domain of the State referred to in subparagraph 9."

26. The Act is amended by inserting the following section after section 46:

"**46.0.1.** Members of the personnel of the Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune are designated as regional forester managers to exercise the functions of the chief forester set out in subparagraphs 5.3 to 5.6 of section 46 in a development unit or a group of development units."

27. Section 46.1 of the Act is replaced by the following section:

"**46.1.** For the purposes of subparagraph 8.1 of the first paragraph of section 46, sections 86.5.2 and 91 and subparagraph 8.1 of the first paragraph of section 120, "volumes of unharvested timber" are volumes of timber that were not harvested in a development unit during the 10-year preceding the ten-year review of the allowable cuts.

Such volumes of timber are considered by the chief forester as having been harvested solely for the purpose of calculating the allowable cut."

28. Section 48 of the Act is amended

(1) by striking out the first paragraph;

(2) by replacing "after 31 March 2018 correspond, for a given development unit or local forest" in the introductory clause of the second paragraph by "correspond, for a given area".

29. Section 52 of the Act is amended

(1) by striking out ", and more particularly for forest planning, the carrying out, follow-up and monitoring of forest operations, timber scaling and the granting of forestry rights" in the first paragraph;

(2) by inserting the following paragraph after the first paragraph:

"On lands divided into development units, certain elements of forest planning and of the carrying out of forest operations are entrusted to holders of forest rights in accordance with this Act.";

(3) by replacing "strategy" and "special development plans" in the second paragraph by "policy" and "special programs", respectively.

30. Division II of Chapter VI of Title II of the Act, comprising sections 53 to 61, is repealed.

31. Section 62 of the Act is amended

(1) by replacing "Planned forest" in the first paragraph by "Forest";

(2) by striking out the second and third paragraphs.

32. Section 63 of the Act is repealed.

33. The heading of subdivision 2 of Division IV of Chapter VI of Title II of the Act is amended by inserting "*, investigation*" after "*inspection*".

34. The Act is amended by inserting the following sections after section 67:

"**67.1.** The Minister or any person the Minister designates for that purpose may investigate any matter, other than a penal matter, relating to the application of this division.

Investigators must, on request, provide identification and produce a certificate of authority signed by the Minister.

For the purposes of an investigation under the first paragraph, the Minister and the person designated to conduct the investigation are vested with the powers and immunity of commissioners appointed under the Act respecting public inquiry commissions (chapter C-37), except the power to order imprisonment.

"**67.2.** The Minister may designate a person to act as a penal investigator in order to investigate any penal matter related to the application of this Act.

Penal inspectors must, on request, provide identification and produce a certificate of authority signed by the Minister.

"**67.3.** No judicial proceedings may be brought against a person authorized under section 67 or a penal inspector for an act performed or omitted in good faith in the exercise of their functions."

35. Section 68 of the Act is amended

(1) by replacing "a forest development plan" in the first paragraph by "forest planning";

(2) in the second paragraph,

(*a*) by replacing "development plan" by "forest planning";

(*b*) by replacing the second sentence by the following sentence: "The order may also, on the conditions determined in it, require the offender to reforest the site at the offender's expense or to suspend the carrying out of all or part of a forest development activity.";

(3) by adding the following sentence at the end of the third paragraph: "The Minister may also, if the order applies to the reforestation of the site and the offender refuses or neglects to comply with it within the allotted time, carry out the work at the offender's expense."

36. Subdivision 3 of Division IV of Chapter VI of Title II of the Act, comprising section 69, is repealed.

37. Section 70 of the Act is amended

(1) by replacing “determined by government regulation” in the second paragraph by “the Minister determines”;

(2) by replacing “timber marketing board established under section 119” in the third paragraph by “Minister. The manual defines the instructions applicable to each scaling method, such as the different scaling and sampling techniques, and the content and style of the various application forms and other types of forms relating to timber scaling, timber inventories and timber transportation”.

38. Section 72 of the Act is amended

(1) by replacing “Government” in the introductory clause by “Minister”;

(2) by striking out paragraph 3.

39. Section 76 of the Act is amended by replacing “set by the timber marketing board for timber purchased by holders of a timber supply guarantee” in the first paragraph by “applicable to timber harvested by holders of a sustainable forest development licence”.

40. Section 79 of the Act is amended by replacing subparagraph 3 of the first paragraph by the following subparagraph:

“(3) the holder has failed to perform the obligations set out in this Act;”.

41. Section 82 of the Act is amended by replacing “specify” and “, from among the fines prescribed in section 246, the one to which” in the third paragraph by “set” and “the minimum and maximum amounts of the fine, from among those prescribed in section 236, to which”, respectively.

42. Section 86.2 of the Act is amended by replacing “For the purposes of the second paragraph, forest biomass consists of” in the third paragraph by “For the sole purposes of the second paragraph, forest biomass consists of unmerchantable primary forest biomass, namely”.

43. Section 86.3 of the Act is amended by replacing “, if the volumes of timber available on the open market are large enough to assess the market value of timber from the forests in the domain of the State” by “, taking into account the volumes identified, if applicable, under section 119”.

44. Section 86.4 of the Act is amended by replacing “five” by “10”.

45. Section 86.5 of the Act is replaced by the following sections:

"**86.5.** The permit specifies

(1) for each species or group of species, the volumes of timber allocated to the holder from each development unit concerned;

(2) standards for the carrying out of forest development activities by the holder; and

(3) any other element determined by regulation of the Minister.

The Minister enters permits in a public register that the Minister establishes and keeps up to date.

"**86.5.1.** The holder of a permit to harvest timber to supply a wood processing plant must

(1) develop, before the start of forest development activities, the forest planning for which the holder is responsible in accordance with subdivision 1 of Division VII;

(2) carry out the forest development activities for which the holder is responsible, in particular the non-commercial silvicultural treatments, in accordance with the forest planning and the standards specified in the permit and applicable under this Act; and

(3) send the Minister the prior notices and reports on the carrying out of forest development activities prescribed by regulation of the Minister and in accordance with the terms determined by that regulation.

The non-commercial silvicultural treatments to be carried out under subparagraph 2 of the first paragraph are determined by the Minister, in accordance with the standards the Minister prescribes by regulation, from among the non-commercial silvicultural treatments defined by the chief forester in accordance with subparagraph 5.1 of the first paragraph of section 46.

The Minister may, in the cases the Minister prescribes by regulation, periodically increase or decrease, on the conditions the Minister determines, the non-commercial silvicultural treatments that the holder must carry out.

The permit holder is entitled to the reimbursement of the cost of the non-commercial silvicultural treatments on the conditions and up to the amount determined according to the method prescribed by regulation of the Minister.

“**86.5.2.** The Minister may, in accordance with the opinion of the chief forester,

(1) allocate the volumes of unharvested timber to the holder of a permit to harvest timber to supply a wood processing plant, in the cases and on the conditions the Minister prescribes by regulation; and

(2) prescribe, by regulation, the cases in which and the conditions under which a permit holder may harvest, in the course of a year, a volume of timber exceeding the annual volumes of timber specified in the permit for each species or group of species and the allowable cut.

“**86.5.3.** The Minister may revise the standards for carrying out forest development activities set out in a permit to harvest timber to supply a wood processing plant, in the cases and on the conditions the Minister determines by regulation.”

46. Section 87 of the Act is amended by replacing paragraph 6 by the following paragraph:

“(6) prescribe, for the permits to harvest timber to supply a wood processing plant,

(*a*) the cases in which and the conditions under which a permit holder may harvest, in the course of a year, a volume of timber exceeding the annual volumes of timber specified in the permit for each species or group of species and the allowable cut;

(*b*) the standards applicable to the determination of the non-commercial silvicultural treatments to be carried out;

(*c*) the prior notices and reports on the carrying out of forest development activities to be sent to the Minister and the terms applicable to them; and

(*d*) the cases in which and the conditions under which the Minister may revise the standards for the carrying out of forest development activities specified in a permit.”

47. Subdivisions i and ii of subdivision 2 of Division VI of Chapter VI of Title II of the Act, comprising sections 88 to 94, are replaced by the following subdivision:

“i. — *Granting a sustainable forest development licence, and obligations*

“**88.** The Minister may, on the conditions the Minister determines by regulation, issue a sustainable forest development licence to a person or body that is the holder of a wood processing plant operating permit, if the allowable

cut is sufficient, taking into account the volumes identified, if applicable, under section 119, and if the Minister is of the opinion that it is in the public interest and in keeping with the principle of sustainable development.

The Minister enters sustainable forest development licences in a public register that the Minister establishes and keeps up to date.

The licence takes effect on the date of its registration.

"**89.** A sustainable forest development licence awards its holder volumes of timber from forests in the domain of the State in one or more regions to supply the wood processing plant for which the licence is issued, on the condition that the holder carries out the forest development activities required by this Act.

The licence specifies,

(1) for each species or group of species, the annual volumes of timber allocated to the holder from each region concerned;

(2) standards for the carrying out of the forest development activities that the holder must carry out; and

(3) any other element determined by regulation of the Minister.

The Minister may not be held liable for the variable quantity of minor or under-represented species which, according to the best available information, should have been found in the region covered by the licence, such as eastern white cedar, white and red pine, red oak and eastern hemlock.

"**90.** The annual volumes of timber allocated by the sustainable forest development licence are residual volumes established by the Minister, taking into account

(1) the requirements of the wood processing plant;

(2) if applicable, the volumes identified under section 119; and

(3) other available sources of supply, such as timber from private forests or from outside Québec, chips, sawdust, shavings, recycled wood fibres and timber that may be harvested by holders of a permit to harvest timber to supply a wood processing plant as well as timber from local forests and from other forests in the domain of the State covered by a management delegation agreement.

For the purposes of subparagraph 3 of the first paragraph and, in particular, to assess the available timber from private forests that may be sold in a particular region, the Minister, before issuing a licence, consults the boards of producers within the meaning of the Act respecting the marketing of agricultural, food

and fish products (chapter M-35.1) or the organizations designated under section 50 of that Act. The consultation pertains, among other things, to the volumes of timber the Minister intends to specify in the licence.

The Minister makes public the criteria used to establish the allocated volumes of timber.

“**91.** The Minister may, in accordance with the favourable opinion of the chief forester,

(1) allocate to a holder of a sustainable forest development licence, in the cases and on the conditions the Minister prescribes by regulation, the volumes of unharvested timber; and

(2) prescribe by regulation the cases in which and the conditions under which a licence holder may harvest, in the course of a year, a volume of timber exceeding the annual volumes of timber specified in the licence for each species or group of species and the allowable cut.

“**92.** If substantial damage to timber stands in a private forest is caused by a natural disturbance or human interference, allowing for an additional supply of timber to a wood processing plant from that forest, the Minister may, in the cases and on the conditions the Minister determines by regulation, limit the annual volumes of timber for each species or group of species that may be harvested by holders of a sustainable forest development licence in the course of a year.

“**93.** The holder of a sustainable forest development licence must

(1) develop, before the start of forest development activities, the forest planning for which the holder is responsible in accordance with subdivision 1 of Division VII;

(2) carry out the forest development activities for which the holder is responsible, in particular the non-commercial silvicultural treatments, in accordance with the forest planning and the standards specified in the licence and applicable under this Act;

(3) send the Minister the prior notices and reports on the carrying out of forest development activities prescribed by regulation of the Minister and in accordance with the standards determined by that regulation; and

(4) comply with any other obligation or condition provided for in the licence or determined by regulation of the Minister.

The non-commercial silvicultural treatments to be carried out under subparagraph 2 of the first paragraph are determined by the Minister, in accordance with the standards the Minister prescribes by regulation, from among the treatments defined by the chief forester in accordance with subparagraph 5.1 of the first paragraph of section 46.

The Minister may, in the cases the Minister prescribes by regulation, periodically increase or decrease, on the conditions the Minister determines, the non-commercial silvicultural treatments that the holder must carry out.

The holder of a licence is entitled to the reimbursement of the cost of the non-commercial silvicultural treatments the holder carries out, on the conditions and up to the amount determined according to the method prescribed by regulation of the Minister.

"**94.** The holder of a sustainable forest development licence may, in accordance with the standards prescribed by regulation of the Minister,

(1) waive, before the date determined by the Minister, the right to the annual volumes of timber allocated in the licence; and

(2) send timber harvested according to the licence and intended for the license holder's wood processing plant for a year to other wood processing plants subject to a licence or receive such timber from another plant.

"**94.1.** The annual volumes of timber which a sustainable forest development licence holder waived the right to may, as the Minister determines, be left standing, sold at auction or sold to one or more other wood processing plants at the rates set by the Minister.

"**94.2.** The sustainable forest development licence is not transferable.

A person or body acquiring a plant that is or was subject to a licence, or acquiring the right to operate such a plant, is entitled to a licence only in accordance with the standards prescribed by regulation of the Minister."

48. Section 95 of the Act is replaced by the following section:

"**95.** The holder of a sustainable forest development licence must pay the following dues to the Minister:

(1) an annual royalty established based on the rate set by the Minister according to the annual volumes of timber allocated by the licence, unless the license holder has waived the right to them in accordance with subparagraph 1 of the first paragraph of section 94; and

(2) the price of harvested timber according to the rates applicable to the tariffing of timber set by the Minister.

The annual royalty and the price of timber are payable according to the terms and the schedule that the Minister determines by regulation."

49. Section 96 of the Act is repealed.

50. Subdivision iv of subdivision 2 of Division VI of Chapter VI of Title II of the Act, comprising sections 98 to 102, is repealed.

51. Section 103 of the Act is amended

(1) by replacing "holder of a timber supply guarantee" and "specified in the guarantee could not be sold to the holder" in the first paragraph by "holder of a sustainable forest development licence" and "allocated by the sustainable forest development licence could not be harvested", respectively;

(2) by striking out the second paragraph.

52. Subdivisions v.1 and v.2 of subdivision 2 of Division VI of Chapter VI of Title II of the Act, comprising sections 103.1 to 103.8, are repealed.

53. Section 104 of the Act is amended

(1) by replacing "timber supply guarantee is granted for a five-year period. However, it may be granted" in the first paragraph by "sustainable forest development licence is issued for a 10-year period. However, it may be issued";

(2) by replacing the second paragraph by the following paragraphs:

"Unless otherwise specified by the holder, the licence is renewed, at expiry, for 10-year periods if the holder has performed the obligations set out in this Act.

The Minister may extend the term of a licence to synchronize the renewal of the licence with the coming into force of the revision of allowable cuts."

54. Section 105 of the Act is amended

(1) by replacing "five-year", "guarantee holder" and "the guarantee holder may purchase" in the first paragraph by "10-year", "sustainable forest development licence holder" and "may be harvested by the holder", respectively;

(2) in the second paragraph,

(*a*) by replacing "five" in subparagraph 3 by "10";

(*b*) by replacing subparagraph 5 by the following subparagraph:

"(5) if applicable, the volumes identified under section 119;";

(3) by replacing "specify in the guarantee" in the third paragraph by "allocate in the licence".

55. Section 106 of the Act is amended

(1) by replacing "timber supply guarantee an opportunity to submit observations, revise, in the course of the year, the annual volumes of timber specified in the holder's guarantee for the species or group of species concerned and change the forest from which the timber may be purchased, when the allowable cut assigned to a development unit in a region covered by the guarantee" by "sustainable forest development licence an opportunity to submit observations, revise, in the course of the year, the annual volumes of timber allocated by the holder's licence for the species or group of species concerned and change the forest from which the timber may be harvested, when the allowable cut assigned to a development unit";

(2) by replacing both occurrences of "guarantee" in the second paragraph by "licence".

56. Section 107 of the Act is amended by replacing "guarantee holders of the reduction in annual volumes of timber specified in their guarantees" and "guarantee holders of the region" by "sustainable forest development licence holders of the reduction in annual volumes of timber allocated by their licences" and "licence holders of the region", respectively.

57. The Act is amended by inserting the following section after section 107:

"**107.1.** In addition to the cases provided for in sections 105 to 107, the Minister may also revise the standards for the carrying out of forest development activities specified in a sustainable forest development licence in the cases and on the conditions the Minister determines by regulation."

58. Section 108 of the Act is amended by replacing "timber supply guarantee" and "guarantee holder" by "sustainable forest development licence" and "licence holder", respectively.

59. The heading of subdivision vii of subdivision 2 of Division VI of Chapter VI of Title II of the Act is replaced by the following heading:

"vii. — *Revocation, suspension and termination of a sustainable forest development licence*".

60. Section 109 of the Act is amended

(1) in the first paragraph,

(*a*) by replacing "cancel a timber supply guarantee" in the introductory clause by "revoke a sustainable forest development licence";

(*b*) in subparagraph 1,

i. by replacing "guarantee holder" by "licence holder";

ii. by striking out “or the guarantee”;

(*c*) by replacing “guarantee holder”, “timber purchased” and “under the guarantee” in subparagraph 2 by “licence holder”, “timber harvested” and “under the licence”, respectively;

(*d*) by replacing “guarantee holder’s” and “six” in subparagraph 3 by “licence holder’s” and “four”, respectively;

(*e*) by replacing “guarantee holder”, “his guarantee” and “30” in subparagraph 4 by “licence holder”, “the licence” and “10”, respectively;

(2) by replacing “guarantee holder” and “cancel the guarantee” in the second paragraph by “licence holder” and “revoke the licence”, respectively;

(3) by replacing the third paragraph by the following paragraph:

“In the case provided for in subparagraph 3 of the first paragraph and after at least two months of inactivity, the Minister must give the holder a notice indicating that the holder has two months to send to the Minister a business plan for resuming operations. If the holder submits the business plan within the allotted time, the Minister may not revoke the licence before the expiry of 10 days following receipt of the plan.”;

(4) by replacing “one month” and “six-month” in the fourth paragraph by “four months” and “four-month”, respectively.

61. Section 110 of the Act is amended

(1) in the first paragraph,

(*a*) by replacing “timber supply guarantee” in the introductory clause by “sustainable forest development licence”;

(*b*) by replacing “guarantee holder” in subparagraph 2 by “licence holder”;

(2) in the third paragraph,

(*a*) by replacing “guarantee holder” by “licence holder”;

(*b*) by replacing both occurrences of “six” by “four”.

62. Section 112 of the Act is amended

(1) by replacing “timber supply guarantee” in the introductory clause by “holder’s sustainable forest development licence”;

(2) by replacing “guarantee holder’s wood processing plant” in paragraph 1 by “wood processing plant covered by the licence”;

(3) by replacing “guarantee holder” in paragraph 2 by “licence holder”.

63. Section 113 of the Act is amended

(1) by replacing “timber supply guarantee” in the first paragraph by “sustainable forest development licence”;

(2) by replacing “purchase” in the second paragraph by “harvest”;

(3) by replacing all occurrences of “the guarantee holder” and “the holder” by “the licence holder”.

64. Section 114 of the Act is replaced by the following section:

“**114.** If the Minister terminates a sustainable forest development licence, the Minister may, for the time remaining before the next 10-year review of allowable cuts, decide that the timber allocated to the licence holder be left standing, sell the timber at auction or sell the timber by agreement.”

65. The Act is amended by inserting the following section after section 114:

“**114.1.** The Minister may, with the authorization of and on the conditions determined by the Government, acquire by agreement or expropriation, on the Minister’s own behalf or on another’s behalf, any wood processing plant for which the sustainable forest development licence has been revoked under subparagraphs 3 or 4 of the first paragraph of section 109 and that the Minister considers necessary to ensure the processing of the timber of the domain of the State.

The acquisition of a plant provided for in the first paragraph may also cover the land on which the plant is built as well as any other property that is incidental to the plant or that is used in the course of wood processing activities.

The Minister disposes of the property acquired under this section on the conditions determined by the Government.”

66. Subdivision viii of subdivision 2 of Division VI of Chapter VI of Title II of the Act, comprising sections 115 and 116, is repealed.

67. Section 116.1 of the Act is amended

(1) by replacing “timber supply guarantee” and “under a plan developed by the Minister if, pursuant to a statute or for reasons of public interest,” in the first paragraph by “sustainable forest development licence” and “if”, respectively;

(2) by replacing “guarantee” in the second paragraph by “licence”.

68. Section 116.2 of the Act is amended

(1) by replacing "guarantee holders" in the first paragraph by "sustainable forest development licence holders";

(2) by replacing "guarantee holder in a lump sum, credited to the purchase of volumes of timber under the holder's guarantee" in the second paragraph by "licence holder in the form of a credit at the time of payment for the timber harvested under the holder's licence".

69. The Act is amended by inserting the following division after section 116.3:

"**DIVISION VII**

"FOREST MANAGEMENT IN DEVELOPMENT UNITS

"§1.—*Forest planning*

"i.—*General provisions*

"**116.4.** A development unit or a group of development units is subject to forest planning in accordance with this division in order to organize the carrying out of forest development activities in that development unit or group of development units.

Forest planning is developed on the basis of a development that varies according to the zones established in accordance with subdivision 2 of Division II of Chapter I.

Forest planning must comply with the general objectives and targets to be achieved determined by the Minister regarding forest development, for each development unit or group of development units concerned, with the allowable cuts and with the sustainable forest development policy.

Holders of a sustainable forest development licence and, if applicable, holders of a permit to harvest timber to supply a wood processing plant, whose rights are exercised in the same development unit or the same group of development units, are responsible for developing the programs and sector selections provided for in this division.

For the purposes of this division, "development unit" means a development unit or a group of development units for which a regional forest manager has been designated under section 46.0.1.

"**116.5.** The Minister determines the timetable of the coming into force of the plans, developed under section 116.6, and the programs, developed under sections 116.10 and 116.12, as well as the changes made to them.

“ii. — *Ten-year plan for forest development activities*

“**116.6.** For each development unit, the regional forest manager develops the 10-year plan for forest development activities, according to the zoning established, in accordance with the standards prescribed by government regulation.

The plan must contain

(1) the development strategies adopted to ensure that the general objectives and targets determined by the Minister are achieved and to allow for the respect and maintenance of allowable cuts according to the issues specific to the development unit;

(2) the perimeters within which boundaries may be established for sectors where forest development activities will be carried out;

(3) if applicable, the perimeters within which boundaries may be established for sectors, selected in accordance with the criteria determined by the Minister, where the volumes of timber identified under section 119 will be put up for auction or sold by agreement;

(4) the network of main multi-purpose roads to maintain and develop for the carrying out of forest development activities; and

(5) the other elements determined by government regulation.

“**116.7.** To develop the plan for forest development activities, the regional forest manager must hold consultations, in particular a consultation with each regional county municipality whose territory is included, in whole or in part, within the territory of the development unit concerned.

“**116.8.** The plan for forest development activities is made public not later than 30 days before its coming into force.

“**116.9.** The regional forest manager makes changes to the plan for forest development activities in the following cases:

(1) a change is made to the zoning of the forest of the development unit;

(2) the chief forester determines new allowable cuts applicable to the development unit;

(3) the regional forest manager considers that a change is necessary to comply with the general objectives and targets determined by the Minister; and

(4) the other cases prescribed by regulation.

Sections 116.7 and 116.8 apply, with the necessary modifications, to a change to the plan for forest development activities.

“iii. — *Program for forest development activities in a priority forest development zone*

“**116.10.** The holders responsible under the fourth paragraph of section 116.4 must develop and periodically review a program for forest development activities to be carried out in a priority forest development zone, in accordance with the plan developed by the regional forest manager and the standards prescribed by government regulation, which sets out the following elements:

(1) the sectors where the forest development activities will be carried out and the applicable silvicultural prescriptions;

(2) the multi-purpose roads to be built, improved or decommissioned;

(3) the infrastructure to be implemented, other than roads, in order to carry out forest development activities;

(4) a timetable for the carrying out of forest development activities;

(5) the applicable measures to harmonize uses; and

(6) the other elements determined by government regulation.

The program is changed in accordance with the standards prescribed by government regulation.

“**116.11.** The responsible holders submit to the Minister a preliminary version of the program developed, changed or reviewed in accordance with the standards prescribed by government regulation.

The Minister determines the harmonization measures concerning Indigenous communities applicable according to the program’s impacts on the communities. The measures are integrated into the program.

The program in force is published on the department’s website.

“iv. — *Program for forest development activities in a multi-purpose zone*

“**116.12.** The holders responsible under the fourth paragraph of section 116.4 must develop a five-year program for forest development activities to be carried out in a multi-purpose zone, in accordance with the plan developed by the regional forest manager and the standards prescribed by government regulation, which sets out the following elements:

(1) the sectors where the forest development activities will be carried out and the applicable silvicultural prescriptions;

(2) the multi-purpose roads to be built, improved or decommissioned;

(3) the infrastructure to be implemented, other than roads, in order to carry out forest development activities;

(4) the applicable measures to harmonize uses; and

(5) the other elements determined by government regulation.

“**116.13.** To develop the five-year program for forest development activities, the responsible holders must hold consultations, in particular a public consultation in the region of the development unit concerned and a consultation with each regional county municipality whose territory is included, in whole or in part, within the territory of the development unit concerned.

The report on the public consultation is sent to the Minister not later than 60 days after the consultation.

“**116.14.** The responsible holders submit to the Minister a preliminary version of the five-year program in accordance with the standards prescribed by government regulation.

The Minister approves the five-year program, with or without changes, after obtaining the regional forest manager’s opinion on the compliance of the program with the ten-year plan for forest development activities.

When approving the five-year program, the Minister determines the harmonization measures concerning Indigenous communities applicable according to the five-year program’s impacts on the communities. The measures are integrated into the program.

The five-year program is published on the department’s website at least 30 days before its coming into force.

“**116.15.** The responsible holders make changes to the five-year program in the following cases:

(1) a change is made to the forest zoning of the development unit;

(2) the chief forester determines new allowable cuts applicable to the development unit; or

(3) the other cases prescribed by regulation.

Sections 116.13 and 116.14 apply, with the necessary modifications, to a change to the five-year program.

“**116.16.** The sectors referred to in paragraph 1 of section 116.12 are subject to a selection by the responsible holders in accordance with the standards prescribed by government regulation.

The holders submit to the Minister a preliminary version of the sector selection on the conditions prescribed by government regulation.

The Minister determines the harmonization measures concerning Indigenous communities applicable according to the sector selection's impacts on the communities.

"v. — *Program for forest development activities in a conservation zone*

"**116.17.** If forest development activities may be carried out under the Acts applicable to the conservation measures for an area concerned, the Minister may, after holding consultations, develop a program for forest development activities to be carried out in a conservation zone.

The program is published on the department's website at least 30 days before its coming into force.

"vi. — *Special program*

"**116.18.** If substantial damage to timber stands in a forest area in the domain of the State is caused by a natural disturbance or human interference, or if a forest area is required for hydroelectric or wind power development and designated for that purpose by the Government, the Minister may develop a special program to ensure that the timber is salvaged and that forest development activities are carried out or require responsible holders referred to in the fourth paragraph of section 116.4 to prepare such a program on the conditions the Minister determines.

The special program may, in particular, set out conditions that may depart from the forest development standards prescribed by government regulation if the departure is necessary to salvage the timber. The special program may provide that the allowable cut be exceeded if the Minister considers it necessary so as not to lose timber that could be salvaged.

The special program has precedence, for the period specified in it, over the plan, the program or the selection of incompatible sectors in force in a development unit.

A special program may be changed if the Minister considers it necessary.

"**116.19.** Special programs and any changes to them must be the object of consultations.

However, a special program is not the object of consultations if the Minister considers that there is an urgent need for its application, in particular to avoid the deterioration or loss of timber.

"**116.20.** The special program is published on the department's website before its coming into force.

"§2.—*Coordination of forest development activities*

"**116.21.** The holders responsible under the fourth paragraph of section 116.4 must, in accordance with the standards prescribed by government regulation, enter into a forest coordination agreement.

The agreement must, in particular,

(1) designate a representative to act as mandatary of the parties to the agreement in their relations with the Minister for the purposes of the agreement;

(2) determine a process to develop, as applicable, programs for forest development activities, five-year programs for forest development activities and sector selections;

(3) divide the roles and responsibilities between the parties to the agreement and coordinate the carrying out of forest development activities, in particular the non-commercial silvicultural treatments; and

(4) provide a dispute-settlement mechanism.

The Minister may require being a party to a coordination agreement or require that a person to whom the Minister sells timber be a party to a coordination agreement.

"**116.22.** Holders of a sustainable forest development licence and, if applicable, holders of a permit to harvest timber to supply a wood processing plant, whose rights are exercised in the same region, must, in accordance with the standards prescribed by regulation of the Minister, enter into a timber apportionment agreement to apportion the annual volumes of timber to be harvested and the non-commercial silvicultural treatments to be carried out in different development units covered by their licence or permit.

"§3.—*Interventions of the regional forest manager and the Minister*

"**116.23.** The holders responsible under the fourth paragraph of section 116.4 and, if applicable, the Minister or the person to whom the Minister has sold timber must, in accordance with the standards prescribed by government regulation, agree with the users of the land on the measures to harmonize uses applicable on the development unit, except measures concerning Indigenous communities.

If they are unable to agree, the responsible holder or the user of the land concerned may ask the regional forest manager designated for the development unit where the harmonization measure must apply to determine an appropriate harmonization measure.

“**116.24.** The Minister may take any measure the Minister considers necessary to ensure the performance of the obligations of holders of a sustainable forest development licence and holders of a permit to harvest timber to supply a wood processing plant, in accordance with forest planning, or of persons to whom the Minister has sold timber, in particular,

(1) designating a licence or permit holder responsible for coordinating the carrying out of the elements referred to in section 116.21, on the conditions the Minister determines at the time of the designation, to replace the obligation to enter into a coordination agreement;

(2) imposing the implementation of the coordination agreement or the apportionment agreement referred to in sections 116.21 and 116.22 between all the responsible holders and the persons to whom the Minister has sold timber, despite the disagreement of some of them, on the conditions the Minister determines;

(3) changing a program for forest development activities developed under section 116.10 or 116.12 or a sector selection developed under section 116.16;

(4) providing that timber subject to forest planning be put up for auction or sold by agreement;

(5) performing or causing the performance of the obligations of a licence or permit holder at the holder’s expense by another holder or person; and

(6) requiring the payment, on the conditions the Minister determines, of a financial guarantee by a licence or permit holder for the performance of the holder’s obligations.

“**116.25.** No indemnity may be claimed from the Minister, even for damages, by a sustainable forest development licence holder, by a holder of a permit to harvest timber to supply a wood processing plant or by a person to whom the Minister has sold timber if the holder or person is unable to harvest the annual volume of timber specified in their licence, permit or contract because another holder or buyer has failed to fulfil their obligations, because of a dispute regarding the application of agreements referred to in sections 116.21 and 116.22 or because of an intervention of the Minister or the regional forest manager under sections 116.23 and 116.24.”

70. Section 119 of the Act is replaced by the following section:

“**119.** The Minister may, each time the allowable cuts are revised or changed, identify volumes of timber exempted from the allocation, in particular to offer business opportunities to a variety of enterprises on the open market.”

71. Section 120 of the Act is amended

(1) in the first paragraph,

(*a*) by replacing "The timber marketing board" in the introductory clause by "For the marketing of timber, the Minister";

(*b*) by replacing subparagraphs 2 and 3 by the following subparagraphs:

"(2) to identify the criteria according to which the regional forest manager selects the perimeters within which boundaries may be established for sectors where timber will be put up for auction or sold by agreement;

"(3) to see to the forest planning of sectors where timber will be put up for auction or sold by agreement, including the harmonization of forest development activities in those sectors with the other land uses and the carrying out of forest development activities, in particular non-commercial silvicultural treatments;";

(*c*) by striking out "fees and" in subparagraph 5;

(*d*) by replacing ", the reserve price and the minimum bid for" in subparagraph 6 by "and the conditions of";

(*e*) by replacing "sell timber and other forest products from the forests in the domain of the State on the open market" and "the board" in subparagraph 7 by "put timber and other forest products from the forests in the domain of the State up for auction or sell them by agreement" and "the Minister", respectively;

(*f*) by replacing subparagraph 8 by the following subparagraphs:

"(8) to sell timber by agreement according to the price and the conditions the Minister determines;

"(8.1) to put volumes of unharvested timber up for auction or sell them by agreement in accordance with the opinion of the chief forester;";

(*g*) by replacing "assess both the market value of timber and other forest products from the forests in the domain of the State and" in subparagraph 10 by "set the tariffing of timber and other forest products from the forests in the domain of the State and assess" and by striking out ", as well as the cost of forest protection activities" in that subparagraph;

(*h*) by replacing subparagraphs 11 and 12 by the following subparagraphs:

"(11) to assess the value and cost of forest development activities, in particular non-commercial silvicultural treatments;

"(12) to set, for each species or group of species, based on quality, size and tariffing zone, the rates applicable to the tariffing of timber harvested by the holders of a sustainable forest development licence, through a residual value approach ensuring a minimum revenue to restore production of harvested areas, according to the methods and frequency determined by government regulation;";

(*i*) by replacing "holder of a timber supply guarantee must pay according to the method determined by government regulation" in subparagraph 13 by "holder of a sustainable forest development licence must pay according to the method determined by government regulation";

(*j*) by replacing ", if required by the Minister, the market value of other" in subparagraph 14 by "the market value of";

(*k*) by striking out subparagraphs 15 and 19;

(2) by replacing the second paragraph by the following paragraph:

"The marketing manual, the value and the cost of forest development activities, the rates used to set the annual royalty that must be paid by the holder of a licence and the price of timber under the licence as well as the conversion factors are all made public by the Minister."

72. Section 121 of the Act is repealed.

73. Section 122 of the Act is amended by replacing "timber marketing board may require that holders of timber supply guarantees, holders of permits to harvest timber to supply a wood processing plant" and "of its functions. The guarantee holders or" by "Minister may require that holders of a sustainable forest development licence or of a forestry permit, any person who purchases timber from the Minister" and "of the functions provided for in section 120. The licence or permit holders, the persons or the", respectively.

74. Section 123 of the Act is amended by replacing "timber marketing board", "the board" and "its functions" by "Minister", "the Minister" and "the functions referred to in section 120", respectively.

75. Sections 124 and 125 of the Act are repealed.

76. Section 125.1 of the Act is amended by replacing "purchases made on the open market" by "timber sold at auction or by agreement by the Minister".

77. Section 126 of the Act is amended

(1) by replacing "timber marketing board must assess the market value of timber purchased under a timber supply guarantee" in paragraph 1 by "Minister must set the rates applicable to the tariffing of timber harvested under a sustainable forest development licence";

(2) by replacing “timber marketing board” and “holder of a timber supply guarantee” in paragraph 2 by “Minister” and “holder of a licence”, respectively;

(3) by adding the following paragraph at the end:

“(3) require any document or information for the purposes of this section.”

78. Section 130 of the Act, amended by section 52 of chapter 18 of the statutes of 2024, is again amended

(1) in the first paragraph,

(*a*) by replacing “is not less than four hectares” in subparagraph 1 by “complies with the conditions prescribed by regulation of the Minister”;

(*b*) by inserting “and with the regulation of the Minister” at the end of subparagraph 2;

(*c*) by replacing “the Minister or with any person or body designated for that purpose by the Minister” in subparagraph 3 by “a forest engineer and in accordance with the standards prescribed by regulation of the Minister”;

(2) by replacing the second paragraph by the following paragraphs:

“The certified forest producer must provide to the Minister the information the Minister determines by regulation, in the manner prescribed by regulation, to confirm compliance with the conditions set out in the first paragraph and indicate any changes to the certified forest producer’s situation. The regulation may require that the information be sent through a forest engineer.

The Minister issues a certificate to the certified forest producer attesting the forest producer’s status as regards the forest area in question, on receiving the information referred to in the second paragraph.”

79. Section 138 of the Act is amended by replacing “and 147” in the third paragraph by “to 147”.

80. The Act is amended by inserting the following section after section 146:

“**146.1.** To optimize private forest development services, the Minister may join the territories of agencies that are adjacent and form a new agency.

For the purposes of the first paragraph, the agencies concerned jointly propose to the Minister, within the time the Minister determines, the following elements:

(1) the name of the new agency;

(2) the designation of the persons who will represent the municipalities, the organizations certified under section 132 and the holders of a wood processing plant operating permit on the new agency’s first board of directors;

(3) the designation of the person who will chair the board of directors of the new agency;

(4) the by-laws that will govern the new agency; and

(5) an integration plan for the agencies whose territories are joined.

If the agencies fail to send the proposal in accordance with the second paragraph, the Minister may establish the new agency and determine the elements referred to in subparagraphs 1 to 4 of the second paragraph.

The Minister gives notice of the creation of the new agency in the *Gazette officielle du Québec*.

The agencies whose territories are joined cease to exist and their members, rights and obligations become members, rights and obligations of the new agency."

81. Section 148 of the Act is amended by replacing "proposed in the application that gave rise to a new agency resulting from an amalgamation or division of territory" in the first paragraph by "of a new agency resulting from an amalgamation or division of territory in accordance with sections 146 to 147".

82. Section 157 of the Act is replaced by the following section:

"**157.** The agency determines, by by-law and in accordance with the policy directions and directives of the Minister, the form and content of the forest development plan that a certified forest producer must have.

The by-law made under the first paragraph must be submitted to the Minister for approval before coming into force. The Minister may approve it with or without changes."

83. Section 173 of the Act is amended

(1) by striking out paragraphs 1 to 4;

(2) by replacing "by the timber marketing board" in paragraph 6 by "under subparagraph 11 of the first paragraph of section 120".

84. Section 178 of the Act is amended by replacing "this Title" in subparagraph 1 of the first paragraph by "the obligations set out in this Act".

85. Section 180 of the Act is amended by striking out paragraph 7.

86. Section 195 of the Act, amended by section 58 of chapter 18 of the statutes of 2024, is again amended by striking out paragraph 5.

87. Section 198 of the Act is amended by replacing "timber supply guarantee" and "guarantee" in subparagraph 1 of the first paragraph by "sustainable forest development licence" and "licence", respectively.

88. Section 210 of the Act is amended by striking out paragraph 3.

89. Section 211 of the Act is amended by inserting ", investigating" after "inspecting" in the first paragraph.

90. Section 224 of the Act is amended, in the first paragraph,

(1) by replacing "and more specifically on the separate consultation procedure established for Native communities" in subparagraph 1 by ", the Indigenous communities' consultation policy under section 10 and the sustainable forest development policy";

(2) by striking out subparagraphs 2 and 3.

91. The Act is amended by inserting the following chapter after section 226:

"**CHAPTER I.1**

"MONETARY ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTIES

"**DIVISION I**

"GENERAL FRAMEWORK AND IMPOSITION OF PENALTIES

"**226.1.** The Minister develops and makes public a general framework for applying monetary administrative penalties, specifying the following elements in particular:

(1) the purposes of the penalties, such as urging a non-compliant person to rapidly take measures required to remedy the failure to comply and deter its repetition;

(2) the categories of offices held by the persons designated to impose the penalties;

(3) the criteria that must guide designated persons when a failure to comply has been ascertained, including the type of failure, its repetitive nature, the benefits derived from it, the seriousness of the harm or potential harm resulting from it and the measures taken by the person to remedy the failure;

(4) the circumstances in which priority will be given to penal proceedings; and

(5) the other procedures connected with such penalties, such as the fact that they must be preceded by notification of a notice of non-compliance.

“**226.2.** A person designated by the Minister may impose a monetary administrative penalty in the cases and on the conditions provided for by this Act or the regulations.

“**226.3.** A monetary administrative penalty of $250 in the case of a natural person and $750 in any other case may be imposed on anyone who fails to send to the Minister a document required for the purposes of this Act or the regulations in cases where no other monetary administrative penalty is provided for in this chapter or by a regulation under this Act.

“**226.4.** A monetary administrative penalty of $500 in the case of a natural person and $1,500 in any other case may be imposed on a holder of a forestry permit or of a sustainable forest development licence who

(1) fails to carry out a forest development activity in accordance with the conditions or the standards relating to that activity prescribed by this Act or the regulations or provided for in the permit or licence; or

(2) carries out forest development activities before developing a program for forest development activities or selecting sectors for which the holder is responsible in accordance with subdivision 1 of Division VII of Chapter VI of Title II.

“**226.5.** A monetary administrative penalty of $1,000 in the case of a natural person and $3,000 in any other case may be imposed on anyone who fails to

(1) take the corrective measures required by the Minister under section 65;

(2) prepare a special program required by the Minister under the first paragraph of section 116.18 or to do so in accordance with the conditions determined by the Minister; or

(3) pay the financial guarantee required by the Minister under paragraph 6 of section 116.24.

“**226.6.** The Government or the Minister, as applicable, may, in a regulation made under this Act, specify that a failure to comply with the regulation may give rise to a monetary administrative penalty. The regulation may set out conditions for applying the penalty and prescribe the amounts or the methods for determining them. The amounts may vary according to the seriousness of the failure to comply, among other things.

The amounts of the monetary administrative penalties prescribed under the first paragraph may not exceed the following amounts:

(1) $1,000 in the case of a natural person; and

(2) $3,000 in any other case.

“**226.7.** No monetary administrative penalty may be imposed on a person for failure to comply with a provision of this Act or of the regulations if a statement of offence has already been served on the person for contravention of the same provision on the same day and based on the same facts.

“**226.8.** No accumulation of monetary administrative penalties may be imposed on the same person for failure to comply with the same provision if the failure occurs on the same day and is based on the same facts. In cases where more than one failure to comply is committed, the Minister determines which monetary administrative penalty is most appropriate in light of the circumstances and the purposes of the penalties.

“**226.9.** If a failure to comply for which a monetary administrative penalty may be imposed continues for more than one day, it constitutes a new failure for each day it continues.

“**226.10.** If a failure to comply with this Act has been ascertained, a notice of non-compliance may be notified to the person concerned informing the person of the failure in question and the possibility of submitting observations and, if applicable, producing any documents to complete the record. The notice urges the person to take the necessary measures to remedy the failure. The notice must mention that the failure may give rise to a monetary administrative penalty or penal proceedings.

“**226.11.** The imposition of a monetary administrative penalty for failure to comply with this Act or the regulations is prescribed by two years from the date on which the failure to comply is ascertained.

“**226.12.** A monetary administrative penalty is imposed by the notification of a notice of claim.

The notice must state

(1) the amount of the claim;

(2) the reasons why the amount is owing;

(3) the time from which it bears interest, if applicable; and

(4) the right to obtain a review of the decision to impose the penalty and the time allotted for exercising that right.

The notice must also include information on the procedure for payment and recovery of the amount claimed. The debtor is also informed, if applicable, that the facts on which the claim is founded could also result in an order or in civil or penal proceedings.

Unless otherwise provided, the amount owing bears interest at the rate set for a debt owed to the State under section 28 of the Tax Administration Act (chapter A-6.002) from the 31st day after notification of the notice.

"**DIVISION II**

"REVIEW AND PROCEEDING

"**226.13.** Anyone on whom a monetary administrative penalty is imposed may apply, in writing, to the Minister for review of the decision to impose a monetary administrative penalty within 30 days after the notification of the notice of claim.

The persons responsible for the review are designated by the Minister and must not come under the same administrative authority as the persons responsible for imposing such penalties.

"**226.14.** The application for review must be dealt with promptly. After giving the applicant an opportunity to submit observations and, if applicable, produce any documents to complete the record, the person responsible for the review renders a decision on the basis of the record, unless that person deems it necessary to proceed in some other manner.

"**226.15.** The review decision must be written in clear and concise terms with reasons given, must be notified to the applicant and must state the applicant's right to contest the decision before the Administrative Tribunal of Québec and the time limit for bringing such a proceeding.

If the review decision is not rendered within 30 days of receipt of the application or, if applicable, of the time granted to the applicant to submit observations or produce documents, the interest provided for in the fourth paragraph of section 226.12 on the amount owing ceases to accrue until the decision is rendered.

"**226.16.** A review decision that confirms the imposition of a monetary administrative penalty may be contested by the person concerned by the decision before the Administrative Tribunal of Québec within 30 days after notification of the review decision.

When rendering its decision, the Tribunal may make a ruling with respect to interest accrued between the date the contestation was brought and the date of the Tribunal's decision.

"**DIVISION III**

"RECOVERY

"**226.17.** The directors and officers of a legal person that has defaulted on payment of an amount owed are solidarily liable, with the legal person, for payment of the amount, unless they establish that they exercised due care and diligence to prevent the failure which led to the claim.

In the case of a partnership or an association without legal personality, all partners, except the special partners of a limited partnership, are presumed to be directors of the partnership or association, unless there is evidence to the contrary that one or more of them, or a third person, has been appointed to manage the affairs of the partnership or association.

"**226.18.** The payment of a monetary administrative penalty is secured by a legal hypothec on the debtor's movable and immovable property.

"**226.19.** The Minister and the debtor may enter into an agreement with regard to the payment of a monetary administrative penalty. The agreement or the payment of the penalty does not constitute, for the purposes of any other monetary administrative penalty or penal proceedings, an acknowledgement of the facts giving rise to it.

"**226.20.** If the monetary administrative penalty owing is not paid in its entirety or the payment agreement is not adhered to, the Minister may issue a recovery certificate as of the date on which the decision imposing the penalty becomes final.

However, the recovery certificate may be issued before that date if the Minister is of the opinion that the debtor is attempting to evade payment.

The recovery certificate states the debtor's name and address and the amount of the debt.

"**226.21.** When the Minister of Revenue allocates, after a recovery certificate has been issued and in accordance with section 31 of the Tax Administration Act (chapter A-6.002), a refund owed to a person by reason of the application of a fiscal law to the payment of the amount referred to in the certificate, the allocation interrupts the prescription provided for in the Civil Code as regards the recovery of that amount.

"**226.22.** On the filing of the recovery certificate at the office of the competent court, together with a copy of the final decision stating the amount of the debt, the decision becomes enforceable as if it were a final judgment of that court not subject to appeal and has all the effects of such a judgment.

"**226.23.** The debtor is required to pay a recovery charge in the cases, under the conditions and in the amount determined by regulation of the Minister.

"**DIVISION IV**

"REPORTING

"**226.24.** The Minister keeps a register of information related to monetary administrative penalties imposed under this Act or the regulations.

The register must contain the following information:

(1) the date the penalty was imposed;

(2) the date and nature of the failure for which the penalty was imposed and the legislative and regulatory provisions under which it was imposed;

(3) the name of the municipality in whose territory the failure occurred;

(4) if the penalty was imposed on a legal person, its name, the address of its head office and, where applicable, the business number assigned under the Act respecting the legal publicity of enterprises (chapter P-44.1);

(5) if the penalty was imposed on a partnership or association without legal personality, the name and address of the partnership or association;

(6) if the penalty was imposed on a natural person, the person's name, the name of the municipality in whose territory the person resides and, if the failure occurred during the ordinary course of business of the person's enterprise, the name and address of the enterprise;

(7) the amount of the penalty imposed;

(8) if applicable, the date of receipt of an application for review and the date and conclusions of the Minister's decision;

(9) if applicable, the date a proceeding was brought before the Administrative Tribunal of Québec, and the date and conclusions of the Tribunal's decision, as soon as the Minister is made aware of the information;

(10) if applicable, the date any proceeding was brought against the Administrative Tribunal of Québec's decision, the nature of the proceeding and the date and conclusions of the decision rendered by the court concerned, as soon as the Minister is made aware of the information; and

(11) any other information the Minister considers of public interest.

The information is entered in the register as of the time the decision imposing the penalty becomes final."

92. Section 227 of the Act is amended by replacing "$450" in paragraph 1 by "$700".

93. Section 230 of the Act is amended

(1) in the first paragraph,

(*a*) by inserting "or of a sustainable forest development licence" after "forestry permit";

(*b*) by inserting “or licence” after “the permit”;

(2) by striking out the second paragraph.

94. Sections 231 to 250 of the Act are replaced by the following sections:

“**231.** A person who contravenes the first paragraph of section 66, paragraph 3 of section 75, paragraph 3 of section 86.5.1 or 93, the first paragraph of section 116.11, the second paragraph of section 116.13, the first paragraph of section 116.14, the second paragraph of section 116.16, section 116.23, paragraphs 2 to 5 of section 176, or section 192, 202.2 or 206 is guilty of an offence and is liable to a fine of $1,000 to $50,000 in the case of a natural person and $3,000 to $150,000 in any other case.

“**232.** A person who

(1) carries out an activity or operates a plant under a permit, sustainable forest development licence, authorization or certificate issued under this Act and does not meet the conditions or prescriptions provided for in the permit, licence, authorization or certificate or prescribed by this Act and the regulations, in cases where no other penalty is provided for in this chapter or by a regulation under this Act;

(2) uses fire as a silvicultural treatment and fails to comply with the instructions the forest fire protection organization designated under section 150.1 of the Fire Safety Act (chapter S-3.4) may give them; or

(3) prevents a person from having access to the lands in the domain of the State to carry out forest development activities authorized under this Act

is guilty of an offence and is liable to a fine of $2,500 to $125,000 in the case of a natural person and $7,500 to $325,000 in any other case.

“**233.** A person who

(1) carries out an activity prohibited under this Act or carries out an activity or operates a plant without obtaining the permit, sustainable forest development licence, authorization or certificate required by this Act, in cases where no other penalty is provided for in this chapter or by a regulation under this Act;

(2) damages or taps a tree on lands in the domain of the State without being duly authorized;

(3) damages, destroys or alters a multi-purpose road on lands in the domain of the State;

(4) ships outside Québec incompletely processed timber from Québec’s public domain without the authorization of the Government under section 118 or contravenes a condition determined in that authorization;

(5) makes a fire in or near a forest without holding the permit referred to in section 190 issued by the forest fire protection organization designated under section 150.1 of the Fire Safety Act (chapter S-3.4), if such a permit is required;

(6) submits a document or information comprising elements the person knows to be false or misleading to the Minister or the public servant responsible for enforcing this Act;

(7) hinders the work of any of the persons listed below, impedes them, misleads them by an act, concealment, omissions or false declarations, refuses or neglects to obey an order that such a person may give under this Act or refuses or neglects to lend them assistance:

(*a*) an auditor, an inspector or an investigator designated under this Act;

(*b*) the chief forester when carrying out an investigation;

(*c*) a public servant responsible for enforcing the law under Title VII;

(*d*) a representative of a forest protection organization; or

(8) without the authorization of the public servant who has custody of timber seized during an inspection, investigation, verification or search, uses that seized timber or removes it or allows it to be removed

is guilty of an offence and is liable to a fine of $5,000 to $250,000 in the case of a natural person and $15,000 to $750,000 in any other case.

“**234.** A person who

(1) fails to comply with a restriction or prohibition concerning access to a multi-purpose road imposed by the Minister under the second paragraph of section 42;

(2) fails to comply with an order made by the Minister under the second paragraph of section 65 or section 68;

(3) refuses or neglects to apply or develop a special program required by the Minister under the first paragraph of section 116.18;

(4) fails to comply with a measure imposed by the Minister under section 116.24; or

(5) owns, offers for sale, sells or uses a tree seedling affected by a disease or insects that may cause an epidemic

is guilty of an offence and is liable to a fine of $10,000 to $500,000 in the case of a natural person and $30,000 to $1,500,000 in any other case.

“**235.** The Government or the Minister may determine, from among the provisions of a regulation the Government or Minister makes or of a pilot project the Government or the Minister develops under this Act, those whose contravention constitutes an offence and renders the offender liable to a fine the minimum and maximum amounts of which are set by the Government or the Minister from among the following:

(1) $10 to $750 for each tree in respect of which an offence is committed;

(2) $40 to $200 for each cubic metre of timber in respect of which an offence is committed;

(3) $4,000 to $50,000 for each hectare or part of a hectare in respect of which an offence is committed; or

(4) $2,500 to $125,000 in the case of a natural person and $7,500 to $375,000 in any other case if the fine cannot be calculated per tree, cubic metre of timber or hectare, given the standard involved.

This section does not apply to a regulation enacted under section 8.2.

“**236.** A person who contravenes a standard imposed or authorized by the Minister in accordance with section 40 or 82 or prescribed by regulation in accordance with section 8.2 is guilty of an offence and is liable to a fine. The Minister sets the minimum and maximum amounts of the fine from among the following:

(1) $20 to $1,400 for each tree in respect of which an offence is committed;

(2) $80 to $400 for each cubic metre of timber in respect of which an offence is committed;

(3) $8,000 to $100,000 for each hectare or part of a hectare in respect of which an offence is committed; or

(4) $10,000 to $500,000 in the case of a natural person and $30,000 to $1,500,000 in any other case if the fine cannot be calculated per tree, cubic metre of timber or hectare, given the standard involved.

“**237.** A person who is found guilty of an offence where the amount of the fine is calculated per tree, cubic metre of timber or hectare under this chapter may not be sentenced to a fine of less than $1,000 in the case of a natural person and $3,000 in any other case.

“**238.** If an offence under this chapter is committed in an exceptional forest ecosystem, a wetland of interest, a biological refuge, the riparian zone of a salmon river or a conservation zone established by an agreement under section 8.1, the fines are doubled.

“**239.** The fines provided for in this chapter are doubled for a second conviction and tripled for a subsequent conviction.

“**240.** In determining the amount of the fine, the court takes into account aggravating factors, in particular

(1) the fragility of the forest environment or the resources affected;

(2) the pecuniary value of trees, shrubs and forest biomass in respect of which an offence is committed, in particular on the basis of their diameter or species;

(3) the fact that the offender acted intentionally, or was negligent or reckless;

(4) the foreseeable character of the offence or the failure to follow recommendations or warnings to prevent it;

(5) the cost to society of repairing the harm or damage;

(6) the lasting or irreparable damage caused by the offence;

(7) the offender’s behaviour after committing the offence, in particular, whether the offender attempted to cover up the offence or omitted to take rapid measures to prevent or limit the damage or to remedy the situation;

(8) the fact that the offender has previously failed to comply with legislation, regulations or by-laws aimed at conserving or protecting human health or the environment, including vegetation and wildlife;

(9) the fact that, by committing the offence or omitting to take measures to prevent it, the offender

(*a*) increased their revenue;

(*b*) decreased their expenses;

(*c*) obtained any other benefit by committing the offence; or

(*d*) intended to obtain the benefits mentioned in subparagraphs *a*, *b* or *c*; and

(10) the fact that the offender failed to take reasonable measures to prevent the commission of the offence or mitigate its consequences despite the offender’s financial ability to do so, given, in particular, the size of the offender’s undertaking and the offender’s assets, turnover and revenues.

A judge who, despite the presence of an aggravating factor, decides to impose the minimum fine must give reasons for the decision.

“**241.** In the judgment, the judge may order an offender who has been found guilty under this Act

(1) to refrain from any action or activity that could lead to the continuation or repetition of the offence;

(2) to carry out any action or activity to prevent the offence from being continued or repeated;

(3) to take the appropriate measures to remedy the failures that were ascertained;

(4) to take one or more of the following measures, with priority given to those determined by the judge as being best for attaining the objective of the Act:

(*a*) to restore things to the state they were in prior to the offending act;

(*b*) to restore things to a state approaching their original state;

(*c*) to repair or mitigate damage resulting from the commission of the offence;

(*d*) to perform community service in favour of the environment, living species, the safety of persons or property or the conservation of biodiversity, subject to the conditions determined by the judge;

(*e*) to pay compensation, in a lump sum or otherwise, for repair of damage resulting from the commission of the offence; or

(*f*) to implement any other compensatory measure;

(5) to provide security or deposit an amount of money to guarantee performance of the offender’s obligations; and

(6) to make public, under the conditions determined by the judge, the conviction and the imposition of any prevention or repair measures.

Moreover, if the Minister, in carrying out this Act, has taken measures in the offender’s place and stead, the judge may order the offender to reimburse the Minister for the direct and indirect costs of such measures, including interest.

“**242.** The prosecutor must give the offender at least 10 days’ prior notice of any application concerning subparagraphs 3 and 4 of the first paragraph of section 241, unless the parties are in the presence of a judge. The judge must, before issuing an order concerning those applications and on the request of the offender, grant the offender what the judge considers a reasonable period of time in which to present evidence with regard to the prosecutor’s application.

When someone refuses or neglects to do something ordered by the court, the Minister may cause the thing to be done at the expense of the offender and may recover the costs from the offender, with interest and other charges."

95. The Act is amended by inserting the following section after section 251:

"**251.1.** In any penal proceedings related to an offence under this Act, proof that the offence was committed by an agent, mandatary or employee of any party is sufficient to establish that it was committed by that party, unless the party establishes that it exercised due diligence and took all necessary precautions to prevent the offence."

96. Section 254 of the Act is amended by replacing "section 242" in the second paragraph by "subparagraph 6 of the first paragraph of section 233".

97. The Act is amended by inserting the following title after section 254:

"**TITLE IX.1**

"PILOT PROJECTS

"**254.1.** The Government may authorize the Minister to implement a pilot project relating to any matter within the scope of this Act or the regulations with a view to studying, improving or defining standards applicable to those matters or to experiment or innovate in those matters.

The Government determines the standards and obligations applicable within the framework of a pilot project, which may differ from the standards and obligations provided for in this Act or the regulations. The Government also determines the monitoring and reporting mechanisms applicable within the framework of a pilot project, and the information that is necessary for the purposes of those mechanisms and that must be sent to the Government by any person.

A pilot project is established for a period of up to five years, which the Government may, if the Government considers it necessary, extend by up to two years. The Government may modify or terminate a pilot project at any time.

The results of a pilot project must be published on the department's website not later than one year after the pilot project ends.

"**254.2.** The Minister may delegate the management of a pilot project to a person or body in an agreement entered into under section 17.22 of the Act respecting the Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune (chapter M-25.2)."

98. The Act is amended by replacing all occurrences of “guarantee holder”, “timber guarantee”, “timber supply guarantee” and “timber supply guarantees” by “sustainable forest development licence holder”, “sustainable forest development licence”, “sustainable forest development licence” and “sustainable forest development licences”, respectively.

ACT RESPECTING LAND USE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

99. Section 6 of the Act respecting land use planning and development (chapter A-19.1) is amended by inserting “of the by-law referred to in section 79.3 and” after “content” in the first paragraph.

100. Section 53.7 of the Act, amended by section 4 of chapter 4 of the statutes of 2025, is again amended by inserting “or that has failed to make a concordance amendment to the by-law referred to in section 79.3” at the end of the fifth paragraph.

101. Section 53.11.4 of the Act is amended

(1) by inserting the following sentence after the second sentence of the first paragraph: “It must also specify the amendments the regional county municipality will be required to make to the by-law referred to in section 79.3.”;

(2) by inserting “, as well as the amendments the regional county municipality will actually be required to make to the by-law referred to in section 79.3” at the end of the second paragraph.

102. Section 58 of the Act is amended by replacing the third paragraph by the following paragraph:

“In the case of the amendment of an RCM plan, “concordance by-law” means any by-law that is needed to take account of the amendment of the RCM plan and by which

(1) the municipality amends its planning program;

(2) the municipality adopts or amends any planning by-law; or

(3) the regional county municipality amends the by-law provided for in section 79.3.”

103. Section 59 of the Act is amended, in the first paragraph,

(1) by inserting “the council of the regional county municipality and” after “RCM plan,”;

(2) by replacing “doit” in the French text by “doivent”.

104. Section 64 of the Act is amended by adding the following sentence at the end of the second paragraph: "The council may also, in a by-law pertaining only to that subject, prescribe special rules in the matters of the management of private forests, in accordance with section 79.3, with the necessary modifications."

105. Section 68 of the Act is amended by inserting "or a regional county municipality" after "municipality" in the first paragraph.

106. Section 71 of the Act is amended by adding the following sentence at the end: "However, a by-law pertaining only to the management of private forests shall cease to have effect in the territory of a regional county municipality, if not repealed previously, from the date of coming into force of the by-law by which the council of the regional county municipality makes concordance amendments to the by-law referred to in section 79.3."

107. Section 71.0.2 of the Act is amended by adding the following paragraph at the end:

"Despite subparagraph 2 of the first paragraph, a by-law pertaining only to the management of private forests ceases to have effect in the territory of a regional county municipality on the day of coming into force of the by-law by which the council of the regional county municipality makes concordance amendments to the by-law referred to in section 79.3 to take account of the amendment made to its RCM plan, under section 58.1, as a consequence of the revision of the metropolitan plan."

108. Section 72 of the Act is amended by adding the following paragraph at the end:

"However, a by-law pertaining only to the management of private forests shall cease to have effect in the territory of a regional county municipality, if not repealed previously, from the date of coming into force of the by-law by which the council of the regional county municipality makes concordance amendments to the by-law referred to in section 79.3."

109. Section 79.3 of the Act is replaced by the following section:

"**79.3.** The council of the regional county municipality must maintain in force at all times a by-law on the management of private forests. The by-law may prescribe any standard to regulate the forest development activities, and those standards may vary according to the parts of the territory it determines."

110. The Act is amended by inserting the following section after section 79.14:

"**79.14.1.** A draft of a by-law referred to in section 79.3 must be the subject of a consultation with any regional agency for private forest development that has jurisdiction in the territory of the regional county municipality, any marketing board within the meaning of the Act respecting the marketing of

agricultural, food and fish products (chapter M-35.1) or any organization designated under section 50 of that Act responsible for the administration of a joint plan on products from private forests in the territory of a regional county municipality as well as any other stakeholder from the forest sector determined by the council of the regional county municipality."

111. Section 79.15 of the Act is amended by adding the following sentence at the end of the second paragraph: "In the case of a draft of a by-law referred to in section 79.3, the consultation period may end only after the consultation provided for in section 79.14.1."

112. The heading of subdivision C of subdivision 3 of Division I of Chapter II.1 of Title I of the Act is amended by replacing "*planting or felling of trees*" by "*management of private forests*".

113. Section 79.19.11 of the Act, amended by section 23 of chapter 4 of the statutes of 2025, is again amended by adding the following paragraph at the end:

"As soon as practicable after the adoption of the by-law, the secretary of the regional county municipality must notify to the Minister a certified copy of the by-law and of the resolution adopting it."

114. Section 79.19.16 of the Act is amended by replacing "section 79.1 or 79.2" by "sections 79.1 to 79.3".

115. Section 79.19.17 of the Act is replaced by the following section:

"**79.19.17.** The council of a municipality whose territory is included in that of a regional county municipality that adopted the by-law referred to in section 79.3 may not set out provisions to regulate the forest development activities in private forests in its planning by-laws."

116. Section 79.19.18 of the Act is repealed.

117. Section 113 of the Act is amended by striking out subparagraph 12.1 of the second paragraph and the fourth paragraph.

118. Section 119 of the Act is amended by striking out "12.1," in paragraph 2.

119. Section 233.1.0.1 of the Act is amended by striking out "or subparagraph 12.1 of the second paragraph of section 113" in the introductory clause.

120. Section 233.1.1 of the Act is amended by striking out ", subparagraph 12.1 of the second paragraph of section 113".

121. Sections 264, 264.0.1, 264.0.2 and 264.0.6 of the Act, amended by sections 40, 41, 42 and 46 of chapter 4 of the statutes of 2025, are again amended

by replacing “by-laws other than the by-law provided for in section 79.1” in the first paragraph by “the by-law referred to in section 79.2”.

LABOUR CODE

122. Section 111.23 of the Labour Code (chapter C-27) is amended

(1) by replacing “purchased under the timber supply guarantee” in the first paragraph by “harvested under the sustainable forest development licence”;

(2) by replacing the second paragraph by the following paragraph:

“Despite the first paragraph, where two or more sustainable forest development licence holders must enter into a forest coordination agreement under section 116.21 of the Sustainable Forest Development Act (chapter A-18.1), they must identify, by an accord and within the time allotted to send the agreement to the Minister of Natural Resources and Wildlife determined by regulation under that section, the deemed employer or employers, for the purposes of Chapters II and III, of the employees assigned to logging operations involving the volumes of standing timber which the licence holders harvested under their respective licences for the development unit or group of development units covered by the agreement. To that end, they may allocate responsibilities by specific forest operations zones or by the logging operations for which they assume responsibility, as long as each employee is able to identify his deemed employer. In all cases, the deemed employer may be one of the holders carrying out forest development activities, a group comprising some or all of the holders concerned, or an employers’ association.”;

(3) in the third paragraph,

(*a*) by replacing “referred to in” and “same time period,” by “reached under” and “allotted time determined by regulation under section 116.21 of the Sustainable Forest Development Act”, respectively;

(*b*) by replacing both occurrences of “guarantee holders” by “licence holders”;

(4) by replacing “purchased, in accordance with section 103.5 or subparagraph 2 of the third paragraph of section 103.7” in the fourth paragraph by “harvested under the provisions”.

ACT RESPECTING THE MINISTÈRE
DES RESSOURCES NATURELLES ET DE LA FAUNE

123. Section 12 of the Act respecting the Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune (chapter M-25.2), amended by section 61 of chapter 18 of the statutes of 2024, is again amended by inserting the following subparagraph after subparagraph 6.1 of the first paragraph:

“(7) developing and implementing multi-purpose road management plans on the lands in the domain of the State;”.

124. The heading of subdivision 1 of Division II.1 of the Act is amended by inserting “*and Management*” after “*Information*”.

125. Section 17.2 of the Act is amended by inserting “and Management” after “Information”.

126. Section 17.3 of the Act is amended by inserting the following paragraph after paragraph 1.1:

“(1.2) the contributions for the financing of the costs of developing and implementing multi-purpose road management plans, including carrying out the required work, collected under section 43.4 of the Sustainable Forest Development Act (chapter A-18.1);”.

127. Section 17.4 of the Act is amended by inserting “7,” after “6.1,” in the first paragraph.

128. Section 17.12.12 of the Act, amended by section 62 of chapter 18 of the statutes of 2024, is again amended by replacing “increasing timber production” in subparagraph 2 of the first paragraph by “silvicultural treatments”.

129. Section 17.12.15 of the Act, amended by section 64 of chapter 18 of the statutes of 2024, is again amended

(1) in the first paragraph,

(*a*) in subparagraph 2,

i. by inserting “sustainable forest development licences,” after “paid for the examination of applications for”;

ii. by striking out “, or for the examination of applications for a forest producer’s certificate issued under that Act, including the fees paid for copies of those certificates”;

(*b*) by inserting the following subparagraph after subparagraph 7:

“(7.1) the amounts from the imposition of monetary administrative penalties under Chapter I.1 of Title IX of the Sustainable Forest Development Act;”;

(2) in the second paragraph,

(*a*) by striking out “and of activities related to increasing timber production” in the introductory clause;

(*b*) by inserting ", sustainable forest development licences" after "forestry permits" in subparagraph 2.

130. Section 17.19 of the Act is amended

(1) by replacing the first paragraph by the following paragraph:

"The Minister may divide land areas into local forests in order to foster the carrying out of forest development activities within the framework of socio-economic development projects in a particular region or community.";

(2) by replacing "Before the policy is published, the Minister consults Native communities and the rest of the population. Before the division into local forests is carried out, the Minister also" in the second paragraph by "Before the division into local forests is carried out, the Minister";

(3) by inserting "published in the *Gazette officielle du Québec* and" after "maps" in the third paragraph.

131. The Act is amended by inserting the following section after section 17.21:

"**17.21.1.** The management delegatee of a land area divided into local forests is responsible for, in particular, forest planning and the carrying out of forest operations on that land in accordance with the annual development objectives and targets set by the Minister for the local forest.

The delegation is revoked on the conditions provided for in the agreement if the delegatee does not meet the annual development targets.

Despite the second paragraph, the Minister may maintain the delegation, on the conditions the Minister determines, if the delegatee proves that the measures necessary to remedy the failure have been taken."

ACT RESPECTING THE SOCIÉTÉ DU PLAN NORD

132. Section 3 of the Act respecting the Société du Plan Nord (chapter S-16.011) is amended by replacing "area covered by the Northern Plan" and "James Bay–Eeyou Istchee" in the second paragraph by "northern territory" and "Eeyou Istchee James Bay", respectively.

133. Section 4 of the Act is amended

(1) by replacing the first paragraph by the following paragraph:

"In accordance with the Government's policy directions relating to the northern territory, the Company's mission, in keeping with the principle of sustainable development and an integrated vision, is to contribute to the coherent development of the northern territory, in collaboration with the

representatives of the regions, the First Nations and the Inuit concerned as well as the private sector.”;

(2) by replacing “area covered by the Northern Plan” in the third paragraph by “northern territory”.

134. Section 5 of the Act is amended

(1) by replacing “area covered by the Northern Plan to be used, by 2035, for purposes other than industrial purposes, for the protection of the environment and for the preservation of biodiversity” in paragraph 5 by “northern territory to be used, by 2035, for the primary purposes of conservation allowing various development activities which must be compatible with the conservation objectives established for that portion of territory”;

(2) by replacing “area covered by the Northern Plan” in paragraph 6 by “northern territory”;

(3) by adding the following paragraph at the end:

“(9) communicate to local and regional enterprises as well as to all other Québec enterprises the supply and equipment needs of ordering parties operating in the northern territory.”

135. Section 6 of the Act is repealed.

136. Section 14 of the Act is amended by striking out “setting out, in particular, the objectives it is pursuing and the priorities it has established in accordance with the Government’s policy directions relating to the Northern Plan. The strategic plan must include the activities of the Company’s subsidiaries” in the first paragraph.

137. Sections 19 and 30 of the Act are repealed.

138. Section 52 of the Act is amended by replacing “James Bay–Eeyou Istchee” in the first paragraph by “Eeyou Istchee James Bay”.

139. The Act is amended by replacing all occurrences of “area covered by the Northern Plan” by “northern territory”.

ACT RESPECTING THE LANDS IN THE DOMAIN OF THE STATE

140. The Act respecting the lands in the domain of the State (chapter T-8.1) is amended by inserting the following chapter after section 71:

“CHAPTER VII.1

“PILOT PROJECT

“**71.1.** The Minister may, by order, develop and implement a pilot project relating to vacation resorts or campgrounds with a view to studying, improving or defining standards applicable to those matters or to experiment or innovate in those matters.

The Minister determines the standards and obligations applicable within the framework of a pilot project, which may differ from the standards and obligations provided for by this Act or the regulations. The Minister also determines the monitoring and reporting mechanisms applicable within the framework of a pilot project, and the information that is necessary for the purposes of those mechanisms and that must be sent to the Minister by any person.

A pilot project is established for a period of up to five years, which the Minister may, if the Minister considers it necessary, extend by up to two years. The Minister may modify or terminate a pilot project at any time. The Minister may also determine the provisions of an order made under this section whose violation constitutes an offence and set the minimum and maximum amounts to which the offender is liable. That amount may not be less than $100 or greater than $200.

The results of a pilot project must be published on the department’s website not later than one year after the pilot project ends.

“**71.2.** The Minister may delegate the management of a pilot project to a municipality in an agreement entered into under section 17.22 of the Act respecting the Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune (chapter M-25.2).”

ACT TO AMEND VARIOUS LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS CONCERNING MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

141. Section 253 of the Act to amend various legislative provisions concerning municipal affairs (2001, chapter 68), amended by section 46 of chapter 68 of the statutes of 2002, by section 114 of chapter 7 of the statutes of 2021 and by section 88 of chapter 4 of the statutes of 2025, is again amended by replacing “by-laws other than the by-law provided for in section 79.1” in the first paragraph by “the by-law referred to in section 79.2”.

OTHER AMENDING PROVISIONS

142. Section 51 of Order in Council 841-2001 dated 27 June 2001, respecting Ville de Saguenay, amended by section 47 of chapter 68 of the statutes of 2002, by section 116 of chapter 7 of the statutes of 2021 and by section 93 of chapter 4 of the statutes of 2025, is again amended by replacing “by-laws other than the

by-law provided for in section 79.1” in the second paragraph by “the by-law referred to in section 79.2”.

143. Section 48 of Order in Council 850-2001 dated 4 July 2001, respecting Ville de Sherbrooke, amended by section 48 of chapter 68 of the statutes of 2002, by section 117 of chapter 7 of the statutes of 2021 and by section 94 of chapter 4 of the statutes of 2025, is again amended by replacing “by-laws other than the by-law provided for in section 79.1” in the second paragraph by “the by-law referred to in section 79.2”.

144. Section 25 of Order in Council 851-2001 dated 4 July 2001, respecting Ville de Trois-Rivières, amended by section 49 of chapter 68 of the statutes of 2002, by section 118 of chapter 7 of the statutes of 2021 and by section 95 of chapter 4 of the statutes of 2025, is again amended by replacing “by-laws other than the by-law provided for in section 79.1” in the first paragraph by “the by-law referred to in section 79.2”.

145. Section 12 of Order in Council 1478-2001 dated 12 December 2001, respecting Ville de Rouyn-Noranda, amended by section 51 of chapter 68 of the statutes of 2002, by section 119 of chapter 7 of the statutes of 2021 and by section 96 of chapter 4 of the statutes of 2025, is again amended by replacing “by-laws other than the by-law provided for in section 79.1” in the first paragraph by “the by-law referred to in section 79.2”.

TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

146. As of the coming into force of section 10 of this Act, the sustainable forest development strategy in force on (*insert the date of assent to this Act*) becomes the sustainable forest development policy provided for in section 11 of the Sustainable Forest Development Act (chapter A-18.1), amended by section 10 of this Act.

147. Until a regional forest manager is designated for a development unit or a group of development units under section 46.0.1 of the Sustainable Forest Development Act (chapter A-18.1), enacted by section 26 of this Act, the chief forester exercises the functions of the designated regional forest manager for that unit or group.

148. Until the coming into force of the first regulation made under the third paragraph of section 17.5 of the Sustainable Forest Development Act (chapter A-18.1), enacted by section 15 of this Act, the carrying out of any activity referred to in subparagraph 1 of the first paragraph of that section 17.5 in a priority forest development zone is subject to the authorization of the minister responsible for forests.

149. Until the coming into force of paragraph 3 of section 18 of this Act, the third paragraph of section 40 of the Sustainable Forest Development Act (chapter A-18.1) is to be read as if the last sentence were replaced by the following sentence: “The Minister also specifies, in the plan, the minimum and

maximum amounts of the fine, from among the fines prescribed in section 236, to which an offender is liable for a given offence."

150. Until the coming into force of section 48 of this Act, section 95 of the Sustainable Forest Development Act (chapter A-18.1) is to be read as follows:

"**95.** The holder of a timber supply guarantee must pay the following dues to the Minister

(1) an annual royalty established based on the rate set by the timber marketing board according to the volumes of timber specified in the timber supply guarantee; and

(2) the price of timber purchased under the timber supply guarantee according to the rates applicable to the tariffing of timber set in accordance with this Act.

The annual royalty and the price of timber are payable according to the terms and the schedule that the Minister determines by regulation."

151. Until the coming into force of section 60 of this Act, section 109 of the Sustainable Forest Development Act (chapter A-18.1) is to be read

(1) as if "six" in subparagraph 3 of the first paragraph were replaced by "four";

(2) as if "30" in subparagraph 4 of the first paragraph were replaced by "10";

(3) as if the third and fourth paragraphs were replaced by the following paragraphs:

"In the case provided for in subparagraph 3 of the first paragraph and after at least two months of inactivity, the Minister must give the guarantee holder a notice indicating that the guarantee holder has two months to send to the Minister a business plan for resuming operations. If the guarantee holder submits the business plan within the allotted time, the Minister may not cancel the timber supply guarantee before the expiry of 10 days following receipt of the plan.

The resumption of a wood processing plant's operations for a continuous period of less than four months does not interrupt the four-month period referred to in subparagraph 3 of the first paragraph."

152. Until the coming into force of section 88 of the Sustainable Forest Development Act (chapter A-18.1), enacted by section 47 of this Act, section 114.1 of the Sustainable Forest Development Act, enacted by section 65 of this Act, is to be read as if "sustainable forest development licence has been revoked" in the first paragraph were replaced by "timber supply guarantee has been cancelled".

153. Until the coming into force of section 66 of this Act, section 115 of the Sustainable Forest Development Act (chapter A-18.1), repealed by section 66, is to be read as if paragraph 3 were struck out.

154. Until the coming into force of section 88 of the Sustainable Forest Development Act (chapter A-18.1), enacted by section 47 of this Act, subparagraph 12 of the first paragraph of section 120 of the Sustainable Forest Development Act, amended by section 71 of this Act, is to be read as if "harvested by the holders of a sustainable forest development licence" were replaced by "purchased by holders of timber supply guarantees".

155. Until the coming into force of section 88 of the Sustainable Forest Development Act (chapter A-18.1), enacted by section 47 of this Act, section 122 of the Sustainable Forest Development Act, enacted by section 73 of this Act, is to be read as if both occurrences of "Minister","holders of a sustainable forest development licence or" and "The licence" were replaced by "timber marketing board", "holders of timber supply guarantees, holders" and "The guarantee", respectively.

156. Until the coming into force of section 88 of the Sustainable Forest Development Act (chapter A-18.1), enacted by section 47 of this Act, section 126 of the Sustainable Forest Development Act, enacted by section 77 of this Act, is to be read as if "Minister" and "harvested under a sustainable forest development licence" in paragraph 1 were replaced by "timber marketing board" and "purchased under a timber supply guarantee", respectively.

157. Until the coming into force of section 88 of the Sustainable Forest Development Act (chapter A-18.1), enacted by section 47 of this Act, section 231 of the Sustainable Forest Development Act, replaced by section 94 of this Act, is to be read as follows:

"**231.** A person who contravenes the first paragraph of section 66, paragraph 3 of section 75, paragraphs 2 to 5 of section 176 or section 192, 202.2 or 206 is guilty of an offence and is liable to a fine of $1,000 to $50,000 in the case of a natural person and $3,000 to $150,000 in any other case."

158. Until the coming into force of section 88 of the Sustainable Forest Development Act (chapter A-18.1), enacted by section 47 of this Act, section 232 of the Sustainable Forest Development Act, replaced by section 94 of this Act, is to be read as if "sustainable forest development licence" in paragraph 1 were replaced by "timber supply guarantee".

159. Until the coming into force of section 88 of the Sustainable Forest Development Act (chapter A-18.1), enacted by section 47 of this Act, section 233 of the Sustainable Forest Development Act, replaced by section 94 of this Act, is to be read as if "sustainable forest development licence" in paragraph 1 were replaced by "timber supply guarantee".

160. Unless the context indicates otherwise or this Act provides otherwise, in any Act, regulation or other document, "timber supply guarantee" and "holder of a timber supply guarantee" are replaced by "sustainable forest development licence" and "holder of a sustainable forest development licence", respectively, with the necessary modifications.

161. Every regional county municipality must, not later than two years after the coming into force of the first revised land use planning and development plan adopted after (*insert the date that is three months after the date of assent to this Act*), adopt, for its entire territory, the by-law referred to in section 79.3 of the Act respecting land use planning and development (chapter A-19.1), as replaced by section 109 of this Act.

The first paragraph also applies to any local municipality having jurisdiction with regard to such a by-law.

162. Section 79.15 of the Act respecting land use planning and development (chapter A-19.1) continues to apply, as it reads on (*insert the date preceding the date that is three months after the date of assent to this Act*), with respect to a by-law referred to in section 79.3 of that Act whose draft was adopted not later than that date.

Section 79.14.1 of the Act respecting land use planning and development, enacted by section 110 of this Act, does not apply to a by-law referred to in the first paragraph.

163. Section 79.19.18 of the Act respecting land use planning and development (chapter A-19.1) continues to apply, as it reads on (*insert the date preceding the date that is three months after the date of assent to this Act*), with respect to a by-law referred to in section 79.3 of that Act in force on that date.

The first paragraph ceases to apply on the coming into force of the by-law referred to in section 161 of this Act.

164. A by-law adopted under section 79.3 of the Act respecting land use planning and development (chapter A-19.1), as replaced by section 109 of this Act, before the coming into force of the first revised land use planning and development plan adopted after (*insert the date that is three months after the date of assent to this Act*) may not come into force before the plan's consistency with the government policy directions described in section 1.2 of that Act is established according to this section.

Within 45 days after receiving copies of the by-law and of the resolution sent under the third paragraph of section 79.19.11, as amended by section 113 of this Act, of the Act respecting land use planning and development, the Minister must give an opinion as to the consistency of the by-law with government policy directions.

The Minister notifies the opinion to the regional county municipality. If the Minister is of the opinion that the by-law is not consistent with government policy directions, the opinion must include reasons and may include the Minister's suggestions on how to ensure such consistency.

If the Minister fails to give an opinion within the time prescribed in the second paragraph, the by-law is deemed to be consistent with government policy directions.

If the Minister is of the opinion that the by-law is not consistent with government policy directions, the council of the regional county municipality may, within 120 days after notification of the opinion, replace the by-law.

The provisions of sections 79.7 to 79.15 of the Act respecting land use planning and development, as amended by sections 110 and 111 of this Act, do not apply to the new by-law if it differs from the one it replaces only so as to take account of the Minister's opinion.

165. Any regulatory provision adopted under subparagraph 12.1 of the second paragraph of section 113 of the Act respecting land use planning and development (chapter A-19.1), repealed by section 117 of this Act, remains in force until the coming into force of the by-law referred to in section 161 of this Act.

Sections 233.1.0.1 and 233.1.1 of the Act respecting land use planning and development continue to apply, as they read on (*insert the date preceding the date that is three months after the date of coming into force of this Act*), with respect to a regulatory provision referred to in the first paragraph.

166. Unless the context indicates otherwise or this Act provides otherwise, in any Act, regulation or other document, a reference to the area covered by the Northern Plan is a reference to the northern territory.

167. The Government may, by regulation, enact any other transitional measure necessary for the purposes of this Act.

Such a regulation must be made not later than the date of coming into force of section 116.4 of the Sustainable Forest Development Act (chapter A-18.1), enacted by section 69 of this Act and may, if it so provides, apply from any date not prior to (*insert the date of assent to this Act*).

168. The provisions of this Act come into force on (*insert the date of assent to this Act*), except

(1) those of sections 2 and 9 to 11, paragraph 3 of section 18, subparagraphs *a*, *b* and *c*, insofar as it enacts subparagraphs 5.1, 5.5 and 5.6 of the first paragraph of section 46 of the Sustainable Forest Development Act (chapter A-18.1), and subparagraphs *d*, *f* and *g* of paragraph 1 and paragraph 2, as concerns the second paragraph of section 46 of the Sustainable Forest Development Act, of section

25, sections 27 to 32, paragraph 1 and subparagraph *a* of paragraph 2 of section 35, paragraph 2 of section 37, sections 39, 43 to 48 and 50 to 60, paragraph 1 and subparagraph *a* of paragraph 2 of section 61, sections 62 to 64 and 66 to 70, subparagraphs *a*, *b*, *e*, *f* and *h*, insofar as it replaces subparagraph 11 of the first paragraph of section 120 of the Sustainable Forest Development Act, and subparagraphs *i* and *k* of paragraph 1 and paragraph 2 of section 71, sections 72 and 74 to 76, paragraph 2 of section 77, section 87, paragraph 1 and paragraph 2, insofar as it strikes out subparagraph 2 of the first paragraph of section 224 of the Sustainable Forest Development Act, of section 90, sections 91, 93, 98, 122 and 128, and subparagraph i of subparagraph *a* and subparagraph *b* of paragraph 1 and paragraph 2 of section 129, which come into force on the date or dates to be set by the Government;

(2) those of sections 4 and 6 to 8, which come into force on the date of coming into force of the Indigenous community consultation policy drawn up under section 10 of the Sustainable Forest Development Act, replaced by section 8 of this Act;

(3) those of section 5, insofar as it enacts the second, third and fourth paragraphs of section 8.2 of the Sustainable Forest Development Act, which come into force on the date of coming into force of the first regulation made under the second paragraph of section 8.2 of that Act, enacted by section 5 of this Act;

(4) those of section 19 and section 22, except insofar as it enacts section 43.4 of the Sustainable Forest Development Act, section 23, insofar as it enacts paragraph 2 of section 44 of the Sustainable Forest Development Act, subparagraph *c*, insofar as it enacts subparagraph 5.4 of section 46 of the Sustainable Forest Development Act, of paragraph 1 of section 25, and sections 123 to 125 and 127, which come into force on the date of coming into force of the first regulation enacted under paragraph 2 of section 44 of the Sustainable Forest Development Act, amended by section 23 of this Act;

(5) those of section 20, which come into force on the date of coming into force of the first regulation enacted under paragraph 1 of section 44 of the Sustainable Forest Development Act;

(6) those of section 22, insofar as it enacts section 43.4 of the Sustainable Forest Development Act, section 23, insofar as it enacts paragraph 3 of section 44 of the Sustainable Forest Development Act, and section 126, which come into force on the date of coming into force of the first regulation enacted under paragraph 3 of section 44 of the Sustainable Forest Development Act, amended by section 23 of this Act;

(7) those of subparagraphs *g* and *h*, insofar as it replaces subparagraph 12 of the first paragraph of section 120 of the Sustainable Forest Development Act, of paragraph 1 of section 71, paragraph 1 of section 77, and sections 154 and 156, which come into force on the date of coming into force of the first regulation enacted under paragraph 1 of section 126 of the Sustainable Forest Development Act, amended by section 77 of this Act;

(8) those of sections 78 and 83, and subparagraph ii of subparagraph *a* of paragraph 1 of section 129, which come into force on the date of coming into force of the first regulation enacted under section 130 of the Sustainable Forest Development Act, amended by section 78 of this Act; and

(9) those of sections 99 to 121 and 141 to 145, which come into force on (*insert the date that is three months after the date of assent to this Act*).