



Notice of Public Consultation – FSC® Certification

Notice Issued on August 13, 2026

Audited Organization: Nova Scotia Association for Woodland Certification

Area in the Audit Scope: Port Hawkesbury, Nova Scotia, Canada

Audit Dates: September 29-30 & October 1, 2026

Introduction

Preferred by Nature, an accredited Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) certification body, will conduct an FSC re-assessment audit of the forest management activities and chain of custody of Nova Scotia Association for Woodland Certification located in Port Hawkesbury, Nova Scotia, Canada. This audit will take place during the week of September 28, 2026.

The audit will be conducted by Jeremy Williams, B.Sc.F., RPF.

We invite stakeholders and Indigenous communities to share with us their comments on forest management practices on the area audited. **We welcome any comments, whether public or confidential.** **The source of the information provided will be kept confidential.** Comments may be forwarded to the Audit Team Leader Jeremy Williams (647-883-1704, jeremy.w@sympatico.ca) or to the Certificate Manager at Preferred by Nature, James Hallworth (249-516-1655, jhallworth@preferredbynature.org).

Audit Scope

The FSC re-assessment audit of forest management activities will include verification of the environmental, silvicultural and socio-economic aspects of Nova Scotia Association for Woodland Certification using the FSC Canadian Forest Management Standard for Small, Low-Intensity Management and Community Forests (FSC-STD-CAN-01-2024-SIR):

<https://ca.fsc.org/ca-en/forest-management/small-community-forest-standard>

Information about this FSC certificate holder, include public summaries of audit reports, is available on the FSC Search website at the following address:

<https://search.fsc.org/en/certificate/a0240000005sVajAAE/>

Audit Process

The audit team will begin its consultation with stakeholders and Indigenous communities immediately. During the week of September 28, 2026, the audit team will carry out a field visit to recent or ongoing forestry operations in the area in the audit scope. It will also conduct consultations with stakeholders and Indigenous communities, including private interviews, discussions and, if necessary, public meetings. At the end of the audit, the auditors will hold a closing meeting with the audited Organization to present the preliminary results. Approximately one month after the closing meeting, a confidential preliminary

report will be sent to the certificate holder for comment. Preferred by Nature will then make a certification decision, considering the comments received and the review process, by end-November. A public summary of the audit report will be published on the FSC Search website: <https://search.fsc.org/en/>

Other Information

- Preferred by Nature's dispute resolution procedure is available to stakeholders and Indigenous communities at <https://www.preferredbynature.org/library/document/preferred-nature-dispute-resolution-procedure>
- About Preferred by Nature: <https://www.preferredbynature.org/about-us>