



Notice of Public Consultation – FSC® & SFI Certification

Notice Issued on September 4, 2026

Audited Organization: Ontario Model Forests
Area in the Audit Scope: Kemptville, Ontario, Canada
Audit Dates: October 15-23, 2026

Introduction

Preferred by Nature, an accredited Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) and Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) certification body, will conduct a annual surveillance FSC & SFI audit of the forest management activities and chain of custody of Ontario Model Forests located in Kemptville, Ontario, Canada. This audit will take place October 15-23, 2026.

The audit will be conducted by James Hallworth, R.P.F.

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 and Certificate Manager at Preferred by Nature, James Hallworth (249-358-9844, jhallworth@preferredbynature.org).

Audit Scope

The FSC & SFI annual surveillance audits of forest management activities will include verification of the environmental, silvicultural and socio-economic aspects of Ontario Model Forests,

using the FSC Standard for Small Scale Low-Intensity and Community Forests:

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

and using the SFI Small-Scale Forest Management Module for Indigenous Peoples and Families and the group requirements:

https://forests.org/wp-content/uploads/Small-Scale-Module_REWORK_June-2021.pdf

Information on this FSC certificate holder is available on FSC's website:

<https://search.fsc.org/en/certificate/a0240000005sV9pAAE/>

Information on this SFI certificate holder is available on SFI's website:

<https://sfidatabase.org/org/eastern-ontario-forest-group>

Audit Process

The audit team will begin its consultation with stakeholders and Indigenous communities immediately. During October 15-23, 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 of December 2026. A public summary of the audit report will be published on the FSC Search website: <https://search.fsc.org/en/> and on the SFI website: <https://sfidatabase.org/>

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>