Notice of Public Consultation – FSC Certification®

Issued October 10, 2026

Audited organization: Groupe Crête
Territory in scope of audit: FMU 06471
Audit dates: December 8 to 11, 2026

Introduction

Preferred by Nature, a Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC)® accredited certification body, will conduct an annual FSC audit of Groupe Crête's forest management activities and chain of custody located in Mont-Laurier, Québec, Canada for FMU 06471. This audit will take place during the week of December 7, 2026. A map of the territory within the scope of the audit is provided on the following pages.

The audit will be led by Marie-Pier Dubé, ing.f., accompanied by Elaura Martel.

We invite Indigenous stakeholders and communities to provide us with their comments on forest management practices on the territory within the scope of the audit. **We welcome any comments, whether public or confidential. The source of the information provided will be kept confidential.** Comments can be shared with the audit team leader Marie-Pier Dubé (mdu@pbn.org) or the certificate management manager at Preferred by Nature, Yves Bouthillier (yb@pbn.org)

Audit Scope

The annual FSC Scope Change Audit of Forest Management Activities will include verification of environmental, silvicultural and socio-economic aspects using the FSC Canadian Forest Management Standard (FSC-STD-CAN-01-2018 V1): https://ca.fsc.org/ca-fr/amenagement-forestier

Information about this FSC certificate holder, including public summaries of audit reports, is available on the FSC Search website at: https://search.fsc.org/fr/certificate/a0240000009ED7XAAW/

Conduct of the audit

The audit team will begin its consultation with Indigenous stakeholders and communities immediately. During the week of December 7, 2026, the audit team will conduct a field visit to recent or ongoing forestry operations in the affected territory. It will also conduct consultations with stakeholders and Indigenous communities, including private interviews, discussions, and if necessary, public meetings. Prior to their departure, 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 comments. Preferred by Nature will then make a certification decision, considering the comments received and the review process, by February 14, 2027. A public summary of the audit report will be published on the FSC Search website: https://search.fsc.org/fr/certificate/a0240000009ED7XAAW/

Other information

- Preferred by Nature's dispute resolution process 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/fr/about-us

Map of the territory in the scope of the audit

Forest management plans available here: https://www.quebec.ca/agriculture-environnement-et-ressources-naturelles/forets/planification-forestiere/plans-regionaux-consultations/laurentides

