



DEC 12 2019

354-2019-1639

Her Worship June Caul, Mayor
Mr. Andrew Hallikas, Councillor
Mr. John McTaggart, Councillor
Town of Fort Frances
320 Portage Avenue
Fort Frances ON P9A 3P9

Dear Mayor Caul and Colleagues:

Thank you for meeting with me at the 2019 Association of Municipalities of Ontario Conference. I understand your Town's concerns about the economic impact caused by the closure of the Fort Frances pulp and paper mill, and subsequent sale by Resolute FP Canada Inc. to Riversedge Developments.

Ontario supports forestry workers and values the contribution a strong forest sector makes to the prosperity of communities in Northwestern Ontario. My ministry is working to develop a forest sector strategy to reduce barriers, create jobs, promote economic growth and make Ontario open for business. Growing the forest sector will create more jobs, opportunity and prosperity for thousands of Ontario families, while also encouraging innovation and investment in the industry.

I understand you and members of Town Council recently met with ministry representatives and my colleague the Honourable Greg Rickford, Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines, and Minister of Indigenous Affairs, to share information and perspectives on historic wood use, future wood supply projections, and the enhanced sustainable forest licence process associated with the Fort Frances mill and the Crossroute-Sapawe Forest. I understand, as an outcome of the meeting, staff from my ministry are investigating available wood supply to support forestry opportunities in the Fort Frances area.

I look forward to working together into the future.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of John Yakabuski, written in a cursive style.

John Yakabuski
Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry

c: The Honourable Greg Rickford, Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines; Minister of Indigenous Affairs