



## ECO WATCH

"Monitoring The Health Of The Algonquin Ecosystem."

Mr. Jay Nichols  
Acting Superintendent, Algonquin Provincial Park  
Box 219, Whitney, ON  
K0J2M0

August 31, 2012

RE: Membership on the Local Citizens Committee

Dear Mr. Nichols

I have been fortunate to serve as the Algonquin Eco Watch representative on the Local Citizens Committee (LCC) for the Algonquin Park Forest for 8 years.

Having the opportunity to be on the Local Citizens Committee has been a privilege and provided a chance to advocate the changes that Algonquin Eco Watch (AEW) believes are important for the long term sustainability of the Park's ecosystems. (AEW) has endeavoured to be a helpful partner in the joint effort to produce a forest management plan that would meet the most stringent definition of sustainability. Most of our discussions have been enjoyable and have required all of us to engage in careful and demanding participation.

While it is clear that a great deal of hard work has been applied to the current Forest Management Plan, my experience on the Committee has been frustrated by the lack of compromise and the failure to produce a plan that is based equally on sustainability and benefits to humans. Algonquin Eco Watch thinks that the approved plan is biased toward supplying the economic desires of the human community at the expense of the natural community. Clearly, building a forest management plan requires a commitment to both human and natural values. In the final Plan, however, the desire to supply economic markets has overshadowed the mandate to protect the integrity of the natural ecosystems in the Park. As a result, sustainability will not be achieved in the Algonquin Park Ecosystem.

While AEW will continue to advocate for better forest management in Algonquin Park, it was the recent decision of our Board of Directors that to continue membership on the LCC would be unproductive. Please accept this as my letter of resignation from the Local Citizens Committee.

This letter is being sent at this time since it is my understanding that you may wish to seek the membership of another environmental group, to achieve a balanced mix of interests within the LCC.

It is not my wish to depart from the Committee without a personal opportunity to say farewell to the members and convey best wishes for the future. Therefore, I plan to attend the next meeting and request that you include a short opportunity for me to speak on the agenda.

Yours very truly,

Mike Wilton,  
Director.