

“1Voice Assists Miramichi Lumber in Wood Allocation”

On April 15th, just days after the formation of 1Voice Miramichi, Hal Raper of Miramichi Lumber Products Inc. approached Hal Somers, President of the Miramichi Chamber of Commerce, for his assistance in approaching Honourable Bruce Northrup, the Minister of Natural Resources for New Brunswick on a greater portion of crown saw logs for the Miramichi community.

As the only saw mill remaining in the Miramichi region, Miramichi Lumber Products Inc. held 13% supply of the crown saw logs allocation on Crown license 3 & 5. Miramichi is in the center of the crown wood available in the Province with over 40% of the Province’s allowable annual cut (AAC) within 100km, yet less than 4% of that wood is being processed in the region.

Together, 1Voice Miramichi along with the Village of Neguac, Village of Blackville, Village of Upper Miramichi, Village of Rogersville, New Brunswick Woodlot Federation, Northumberland Woodlot Association, the Northumberland Forest Products Marketing Board, MLA’s Honourable Robert Trevors, Jake Stewart and Serge Robichaud banded together with “1 Voice” in support of the Miramichi Lumber Products Inc. Their united effort produced a victory for the Miramichi region!

On May 10th, Miramichi Lumber Products Inc. would be receiving a substantial increase in saw log allocation for the March 2012 year, almost 30%. The allocation is a temporary allocation and is a little short of the 41% requested. This good news will allow Miramichi Lumber Products Inc. to start planning to add 50 direct jobs and an estimated 100 indirect jobs into the Miramichi community. Miramichi Lumber Products Inc. expects the increase in jobs to start by the end of the summer and will be fully implemented when the increase allocation is converted from a temporary to a permanent allocation.

City of Miramichi Mayor Gerry Cormier says: “As a result of the efforts of the City of Miramichi and the rest of the “1 Voice” committee, we have been able to support a Miramichi based company secure the resources that they require to expand their operations. The request from Miramichi Lumber Product’s is backed by a solid business plan for future growth and the decision to support this initiative was unanimous supported. We are excited about working with other organization interested in creating sustainable employment opportunities in Miramichi.”

DowntownS Miramichi’s General Manager Stephanie King says: “DowntownS Miramichi is pleased to hear that Miramichi Lumber Product’s crown wood allocation has been increased. It is certainly a step in the right direction.”

Enterprise Miramichi's Chairmen Lorne Amos says: "Enterprise Miramichi is pleased to see the efforts of a united business community can assist a local business in moving forward. We are pleased to have been a small part of this process and are encouraged by the teamwork and results we see by having 1Voice."

Miramichi Chamber of Commerce President Hal Somers says: "Miramichi Lumber has received an additional 47320 cubic meters of wood, which represents 66% of their request. This is great news as it adds an additional 8 weeks of saw log production per year for the mill. I believe the letters we sent on behalf of 1Voice had a direct impact on the decision. This shows what we can accomplish if we continue to work together."

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