



Press Release---January 22, 2007

Open House to Stop Logging Provincial Parks

Tonight the Wilderness Committee in Manitoba is taking action by hosting their own Open House to Stop Logging Provincial Parks, in the room beside multinational logging corporation Tembec's Open House at Place Louis Riel Hotel.

Tembec is presenting their "Forestry Stewardship Plan" for the next couple years. Clearcut logging Nopiming Provincial Park, on the eastern edge of Manitoba, is one part of Tembec's stated plan. Tembec is expecting the government to sign a contract allowing Tembec to clearcut provincial parks through 2028.

Overwhelmingly citizens in Manitoba are opposed to logging in provincial parks, and tonight Tembec is going to find out how apposed people are to their forestry activities.

The brazen plans which show Tembec's disregard for the wishes of the people of Manitoba include:

-using a loophole to log a section of the Manigotagan River, which citizens worked hard to be protected as a new provincial park in 2004.

- logging the habitat of a high-risk herd of threatened woodland caribou.

- logging all of the mature forests left in Nopiming Park in the next two years.

- logging in a proposed Ecological Reserve after stating they wouldn't.

"Tembec's plans are outrageous, an affront to the citizens of this province. We want parks to be protected areas that preserve our biodiversity and wilderness, not tree plantations as a result of logging. We want a healthy environment, which forests help provide. We want areas to hike and canoe that don't end up in clear cuts," said Eric Reder, Manitoba Director of the Wilderness Committee.

Tembec has a poor track record of forest mismanagement, which includes a fine in November 2006 for over cutting.

The confrontation tonight will be a vocal and passionate display of citizens opposed to giving Manitoba's wilderness away.

Thee Wilderness Committee's Open House is on January 22, from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. at Place Louis Riel Hotel, 190 Smith Street.

The Wilderness Committee is Canada's largest member-based wilderness protection group, with 70,000 members and supporters. We work on protecting wild spaces and wild species through strategic research and grassroots public education.

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