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**Wilderness Committee says Tembec should not be hosting meeting to plan Provincial Park management.**

*Government abrogating responsibility of managing provincial parks, putting control in hands of logging corporation.*

The Wilderness Committee is condemning the government's inaction on phasing logging out of provincial parks. Multinational corporation Tembec is instead running a management planning process on the people of Manitoba's provincial park and public lands.

Tonight, Tembec is hosting a meeting in Pine Falls to plan provincial park logging. The Wilderness Committee was invited to speak, but has chosen not to present. The Terms of Reference for tonight's meeting clearly state that Tembec is not required to follow any recommendations brought forward. Further, Tembec has twice recently told the Wilderness Committee that they will not stop logging provincial parks, which makes presenting at this meeting pointless. The Wilderness Committee is calling on the government to initiate a process of public consultations to devise a timeline to end, once and for all, the antiquated act of logging provincial parks.

"Manitobans have spoken very clearly on this issue," said Eric Reder, Manitoba Campaign Director for the Wilderness Committee. "Scientists have spoken very clearly on this issue. The Manitoba government's Environment Commission has spoken very clearly on this issue. Park logging must be stopped. And the Manitoba government must stop ignoring their responsibility to the people of this province--they must initiate a process to end park logging"

In most other jurisdictions in Canada, a logging corporation would not be allowed to run a stakeholder meeting on how to manage a provincial park. The government of Manitoba is failing in their responsibility to manage our parks and forests for our future.

"Logging in parks is a relic from the past--the distance past" stated Joe Foy, National Campaign Director for the Wilderness Committee. "Every Canadian knows in their heart that logging parks is plain wrong."

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