

**INFORMATION FOR RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 55-19(2):
PUBLIC ACCESS TO FORESTRY DECISIONS AND DECISION-MAKING**

To better understand what information is currently public and the number of authorizations and decisions made under existing legislation, please provide the following:

1. The number of instances where decisions and authorizations have been made under the *Forest Management Act* for each of the last five years related to:
 - a) Section 2 appointments of a Forest Management Supervisor: **2** (Deputy Minister)
 - b) Section 4 appointments of Forest Management Officers: **35** (Forest Officers, Managers of Forests, Renewable Resource Officers)
 - c) Section 8 transfer of forests to Canada: **None**
 - d) Section 9 forest management agreements: **None**
 - e) Section 10 permits and licences: **4,828** (includes 2 Licences)
 - f) Section 19 suspension of a permit or licence: **None**
 - g) Section 21 written reasons for the suspension of a permit or licence: **None**
 - h) Section 22 notices of appeal: **None**
 - i) Section 28 ministerial decisions on appeals: **None**
 - j) Section 30 enforcement orders: **None**

2. The number of instances where decisions and authorizations have been made under the *Forest Protection Act* for each of the last five years related to:
 - a) Section 16 appointments of a forest supervisor: **2** (same as Forest Management Supervisor under the *Forest Management Act*)
 - b) Section 17 appointments of forest officers: **35** (same as Forest Management Officers under the *Forest Management Act*)
 - c) Section 19 directions, demands, and notices issued by the forest supervisor: **None**
 - d) Section 21 permits issued: **261**

3. For each of the items listed in 1 and 2, please indicate where these documents are publicly available without resort to the Access to Information and Protection and Privacy Act and where the public can access them.
 - Information on Free Timber Cutting Permits are shared with Renewable Resource Boards (RRBs) and Renewable Resource Councils (RRCs) in areas where they exist.
 - The 2 Timber Cutting Licences issued in the past 5 years are publicly available through the Mackenzie Land and Water Board's website.
4. An explanation of how the department intends to implement the provisions of the Open Government Policy (approved by the Executive Council January 8, 2018) as part of the new Forest Act, especially regarding open-by-design information and decision-making, increased transparency, and public participation in decision-making.

The following points and provisions under the Forest Act Bill follow the intent and principles of the GNWT's Open Government Policy:

- In settled land claim areas, forest permit and licence information are shared at a regional level with RRBs and at a local level with RRCs in areas where they exist.
- The new Forest Act will allow for the establishment of forest co-management committees in areas where land claims are not settled and permit and licence information can be shared as part of those committees.
- All commercial operations are approved by RRBs and RRCs in areas where they are established. It is anticipated that the forest co-management committees will pursue a similar process.
- Any commercial forestry operation of significant size requires a Land Use Permit. These permits are publicly available through the Land And Water Board's website.
- Regional or local Forest Ecosystem Management Plans are an option under the new Forest Act, and provisions for reporting permits and licences can be included in that co-management process.