



# La Coalition pour la préservation du Mont-Kaaikop ... d'un naturel invitant !

## **NEWS RELEASE** **For Immediate Release**

Sainte-Lucie-des-Laurentides, Wednesday December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

### **LATEST NEWS ON MOUNT-KAAIKOP**

The Dispute Resolution Committee (Comité de règlement des différends : CRD) of the Commission des Ressources Naturelles et du Territoire des Laurentides (CRNTL) has filed in its report on planned Chantier Legault (Mont-Kaaikop) in Sainte-Lucie-des-Laurentides. The CRD rejects population's request for a moratorium and recommends « the wood cut scenario with mitigation ».

The Coalition for the Preservation of Mount-Kaaikop (the Coalition) recalls that its stand for a moratorium rests on the latest April 2013 requirements of the new Law on Sustainable Forest Development (Loi sur l'aménagement durable du territoire forestier) and those requirements have not been met by Québec's Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR).

The proposed wood cuts, in their latest version, are at the opposite of the local population's will and do not benefit of any social acceptance. The key players in the community, such as the Municipality of Sainte-Lucie-des-Laurentides, the city of Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts, L'Interval's outbound facility, the Mohawks et some 7 000 petitioners support the need for a moratorium.

Independent experts hired by the Coalition have confirmed major significant gaps in the forest management plans for Mount-Kaaikop. Moreover, the CRD recommends wood cuts as soon as January 2014 (phase I), directly on Kaaikop Mountain, precisely where forest, fauna, flora and water network inventories are non-existing, incomplete or superficial. However, the CRD recommends pushing cuts for Phase II (expected in 2015) by one year to allow for the completion of similar missing inventory data as for Phase I. This is irresponsible non-sense!

The CRD is recourse within the CRNTL which involves commissioner members of the CRNTL to mediate conflicts within their own members. The impartiality of the dispute settlement mechanism is faulty since the CRNTL is both judge and jury.

The Coalition notes this recommendation from the CRD and will seek for actions to ensure the preservation of Mount Kaaikop. For the Coalition, the recommended cuts are an enormous mistake and the whole process that led to this result is greatly to review.

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