



April 25, 2016

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The Honourable Diana C. Whalen, M.L.A.  
Chair, Law Amendments Committee  
c/o Gordon Hebb, Q.C.  
Chief Legislative Counsel  
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Dear Minister:

I am writing to express my support for the Nature Conservancy of Canada and Nova Scotia Nature Trust and their proposed amendment to the Mineral Resources Act, currently before the Law Amendments Committee. Private land conservation, through the work of non-government land trusts, is widely recognized as making a significant and irreplaceable contribution to conservation in Nova Scotia.

Likewise, mineral development is recognized as an important economic activity and opportunity for Nova Scotia. However, the proposed Act, in not dealing with this issue so critical to these conservation organizations, both valued partners of the Province, leaves problematic uncertainty unaddressed that negatively impacts their ability to do good conservation work.

I have reviewed the materials provided to your Committee and believe the proposed amendment and suggested process to be balanced and fair. It would provide for transparent and defensible decision making, bring these private conservation lands with the same treatment as government protected areas (provincial Wilderness Areas and Nature Reserves have a similar withdrawal available to them) and reduce the potential for future conflict.

The "Now or Never" report calls for bold, innovative approaches to expand economic growth while ensuring environmental sustainability. I encourage the Province to seize the opportunity to create such balance with the new Mineral Resources Act by accepting the amendments proposed by Nature Conservancy of Canada and Nova Scotia Nature Trust.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allan C. Shaw".

Allan C. Shaw, CM  
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