

[REDACTED]

From: Paul Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: March 16, 2021 10:54 AM
To: chuck@chuckporter.ca
Cc: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: RE: Biodiversity Act

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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Dear Minister

I read Bill No. 4 today with horror! As a former government employee in your Department, I have been supportive of each Provincial Government and the implementation of their various policies throughout my 33 years of service. However, after examining the wording of this Bill I can no longer sit back and be silent.

This is the first time that I have contacted any government to air my objections regarding their intent. The proposed Biodiversity Act legislation as written is bad for Nova Scotians and I object to its content in the strongest terms ... please rewrite this legislation taking into account the long-term consequences of your actions on hard-working citizens.

If you're attempting to drive working families out of Nova Scotia then this document will escalate that event even further. If you're suggesting the only people who should reside in this province are those who want to watch the birds, bees, and furry creatures, and live happily with either their pensions or government handouts, then this Bill will succeed.

Although I've been a strong supporter of Stephen McNeil and the Liberal Party in the past, if this legislation in its current form is successful then I will reconsider my future voting bias.

If you're truly interested in recommendations that can fix this Bill and not jeopardize some of the more beneficial clauses then please reach out to me and I will gladly offer some specific recommendations.

Kind Regards

*Paul K. Smith (P.Geog)
Kings County, NS*

[REDACTED]

From: kris akin [REDACTED]
Sent: March 17, 2021 1:25 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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This isn't what the people want!!! its completely bullshit taking away our rights on our land we payed for and than pay tax on year after year NOT ACCEPTABLE!!!!

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Legislative Counsel](#)
Subject: Bill 4
Date: March 18, 2021 9:10:16 PM

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I do not support Bill 4. It is taking rights away from private landowners and people who use the land. Forestry in Nova Scotia is already under incredible pressure and this bill will only hurt the industry more. All private land owners have the right to manage their land how they see fit.

Jonathan Sarson

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: Derick canning [REDACTED]
Sent: March 18, 2021 5:30 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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To whom it my concern,

I am writing to let you know that I am very concerned about Bill 4. I own about 500 acres in Colchester County. I use my land now for farming, forestry and recreation. I have plans to use it for these necessary reasons in the future. Nobody cares more about my land than I do. If Bill 4 passes, I am worried that government will try to tell me what I can or cannot do with my own land. My family has owned this land for 80 years, we pay our taxes and take care of our land.

As my MLA, I want you to know that I don't want government telling me what I can and can not do with my land. I don't want activists on my property looking for certain plants and animals, declaring they must be protected and shutting down activity. I let my neighbours on my property to enjoy themselves on trails or in the woods. Bill 4 will force me to limit all access on my land so that I don't risk having activists finding a reason to shut it down.

This Act is not voluntary – there are triggers in the Act that will allow a Minister, under pressure from activists, to issue an order limiting what I can and can't do on my land.

Bill 4 threatens the peaceful enjoyment of my land and must not become law.

Thank you,

Derick Canning

Canning Farm Ltd.

[REDACTED]

From: Diana Hilchie [REDACTED]
Sent: March 18, 2021 5:22 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4

** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE **

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I don't think this bill should go through. Landowners should be responsible for their own land. And not to be subject to some other persons perception of a particular biodiversity issue. Everyone's view is different. Most Private landowners aren't going to destroy anything unnecessarily. More that governments will do this before private landowners.

Sent from my iPad Bill /Diana

[REDACTED]

From: Brandon Goudey [REDACTED]
Sent: March 18, 2021 9:12 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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To whom this may concern

I am writing to let you know that I am very concerned about Bill 4. I own 6 hectares in Yarmouth County. I use my land now for firewood and have trails for me and surrounding neighbors to enjoy . I have plans to use it for a house in the future. Nobody cares more about my land than I do. If Bill 4 passes, I am worried that government will try to tell me what I can or cannot do with my own land. My family has owned for 30+ years, we pay our taxes and take care of our land.

As my MLA, I want you to know that I don't want government telling me what I can and can not do with my land. I don't want activists on my property looking for certain plants and animals, declaring they must be protected and shutting down activity. I let my neighbours on my property to enjoy themselves on trails or in the woods. Bill 4 will force me to limit all access on my land so that I don't risk having activists finding a reason to shut it down.

Sent from my iPhone

March 18, 2021

Dear Law Amendments Committee, Minister Delorey, and Minister Porter,

As I reviewed the Biodiversity Act and Bill 4 and realized the vagueness of the wording, as well as the overreaching powers that this Act would empower the Minister of Lands and Forestry if passed as is, I was disappointed as a land owner and resident of the province. I admire the goal of protecting species, however the failure of the government to widely consult, as well as provide specifics with respect to regulations is not acceptable.

Without any form of regulations aside from what a current or future Minister of Lands and Forestry may determine, this proposed legislation is overreaching and may limit what current land owners, including farmers, are able to do with their land, or when they are able to do it. I am particularly bothered by the failure to allow for wide spread consultation with private land owners in particular on this Act in advance of its development.

As a dairy farmer for several decades, I take tremendous pride in my ability to manage the resources with which I have been entrusted, as well as those nearby my properties that could be affected by my actions and decisions. Throughout my farming career, I have worked tirelessly to ensure the property that I own and manage is invested in and improved, not just for financial success for my business but so that future generations may have the same opportunity to align their desire to be a steward of the environment with their agriculture endeavours. As such, it is bothersome to me as a property owner that my commitment to the resources- soil, water, air and species, with which I have been a steward of is not recognized in this legislation. It is more concerning that there is no specific or regulations surrounding this Act with which a land owner such as myself could work within and that decisions made solely by the Minister of Lands and Forestry could affect my family business and use of the property

I would ask that the Law Amendments Committee and Ministers and Departments responsible for this Bill reconsider the far-reaching power this Act places on the Minister, and the consequences it will have to our agriculture community. As a life long farmer, I understand the requirement to manage farm and woodland, and in fact all resources, in a manner that reflects the importance of biodiversity and environmental stewardship. That requirement must be done in a manner that also permits food production for our province without undue hardship or interference, which is not able to be concluded as the current Bill is presented. I ask that the Law Amendments Committee as well MLAs in the province apply this Act to Crown Lands only, and work collaboratively with land owners and the public to develop any further regulations that could have serious consequences to our ability to farm in this province.

Sincerely,
Jack Thomson
West River Holsteins
Antigonish, Nova Scotia



March 18, 2021

Dear Law Amendments Committee, Minister Delorey, and Minister Porter,

I was disappointed to read the recent Biodiversity Act - Bill 4 and learn of the overreaching powers that this Act would empower the Minister of Lands and Forestry with should it be passed in its current state. The regulations surrounding this Act are not presented, but it would suggest that this will have serious consequences to Nova Scotia's Agriculture Industry, as well as other industries and individuals who are private land owners. In the absence of accompanying regulations, it is still very obvious that the Minister of Lands and Forestry will have broad discretion to determine what happens to the majority of Nova Scotia's farm land.

As a university student, months away from graduating in Dairy Business Management, from Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture, I am concerned about how this affects my future, as well as the future of Nova Scotians. My goal is to become a farm owner, and continue a family tradition of producing food for our province. My university courses have taught me the importance of biodiversity and environmental management. But more important, living on a farm for 20 years that has allowed me to see first hand current farmers approaching their management decisions with a reflection on sustainability, environmental awareness, and biodiversity. Farmers pride themselves on being stewards of the land. This Act suggests that the current government, and those that wrote the Act, believe otherwise. As Nova Scotians who understand the importance of caring for the land, and reinvesting in the resources that provide our livelihood and your food supply, farmers are well aware of the significance of biodiversity to our future. Furthermore, they operate their farm businesses in a manner that demonstrates such collaboratively with numerous government departments and organizations with a mandate to protect and enhance our natural environments.

I encourage you to reconsider the far-reaching power this Act places on the Minister, and the consequences it will have to our agriculture community. It is my goal to farm in a manner that reflects the importance of biodiversity and environmental stewardship, but my success in producing food for Nova Scotians will depend on being able to do so without undue hardship or interference from government. As a young Nova Scotian looking to become a private land owner and successful farm operator producing food in a sustainable manner, I ask that the Law Amendments Committee as well MLAs in the province, apply this Act to Crown Lands only. I would also recommend that any regulations relating to this Bill and Act are collaboratively written with wide reaching public input, especially with the private land owners of this province.

Sincerely,

Shamus Thomson
Antigonish, Nova Scotia



March 18, 2021

Dear Law Amendments Committee, Minister Delorey, and Minister Porter,

As the son of a dairy farmer, I am writing to ask that the Law Amendments Committee, and Government of Nova Scotia take the necessary measures to have Bill 4 and the Biodiversity Act less intrusive of private land owner's properties and to focus their attention on managing Crown Lands in Nova Scotia in this currently overreaching Bill.

The Biodiversity Act - Bill 4 may be well intended but it fails in providing any regulations or clarification on how this would affect private land owners, especially farmers. It gives the Minister of Lands and Forestry broad powers that could have negative consequences to Nova Scotia's farms, as almost all farm land is privately owned.

I am a grade 12 student who has applied to both UPEI and USask for Environmental Studies. I am passionate about this topic and understand the importance of a diverse and healthy environment as it relates to farming and food production, and as such, the province's future. I believe private land owners take pride in their land and want it to be there for the use and enjoyment of future generations, as well as financial success of the province. These private lands are important to farming, forestry, and tourism, and thus the economic well being of the province. Land owners need to be able to manage their lands and continue to reinvest in that land. This is something that will happen best if there is less over- arching power to the Minister of Lands and Forestry of that land. The current regulations that land owners must adhere to regarding Endangered Species and Species At Risk allows for a more collaborative approach than the proposed Bill 4. There must be consultation by those that own and manage private lands in Nova Scotia for success for all Nova Scotians on this topic. I feel a collaborative approach is lacking from this legislation, and I think that reflects poorly on this Act, but also on the current government.

Please take the time to ensure the Biodiversity Act and Bill 4 has a collaborative approach with those who manage and contribute to Nova Scotia's agriculture industry, as well as other natural resource industries in this province. As a young person in Nova Scotia, I am disappointed by the failure of this government to consult on this important topic. I encourage MLAs to reconsider the consultation process and seek more input from those most directly affected. As a young Nova Scotian who fully intends to be a private land owner in Nova Scotia, I expect to work collaboratively with government departments to ensure biodiversity was maintained on my land. I feel I will have the passion and knowledge to ensure this, as I think most current land owners have, but I feel the far-reaching approach of this Bill suggests otherwise. I encourage you to refocus the Act, and ensure adequate consultation with all stakeholders.

Sincerely,
Bryce Thomson
Antigonish, Nova Scotia

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: March 18, 2021 12:07 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: bill 4 sucks

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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FROM LANDOWNER

Dear Minister or who ever else that can stop this stupid bill.

I am writing to let you know that I am very concerned about Bill 4. I own xx acres in Pictou County. I use my land now for xxxxx. I have plans to use it for xxxx in the future. Nobody cares more about my land than I do. If Bill 4 passes, I am worried that government will try to tell me what I can or cannot do with my own land. My family has owned for xxx years, we pay our taxes and take care of our land.

As my MLA, I want you to know that I don't want government telling me what I can and can not do with my land. I don't want activists on my property looking for certain plants and animals, declaring they must be protected and shutting down activity. I let my neighbours on my property to enjoy themselves on trails or in the woods. Bill 4 will force me to limit all access on my land so that I don't risk having activists finding a reason to shut it down.

This Act is not voluntary – there are triggers in the Act that will allow a Minister, under pressure from activists, to issue an order limiting what I can and can't do on my land.

Bill 4 threatens the peaceful enjoyment of my land and must not become law.

Thank you,

MIKE MOSER

Administration/CAO
Administration Building
46 Municipal Drive, Pictou
Phone: (902) 485-4311
Fax: (902) 485-6475



Building Inspection: (902) 485-4588
By-Law Enforcement: (902) 485-8640
Fire Inspection: (902) 485-8350
GIS/Civic Addressing: (902) 485-1201
Public Works: (902) 485-4085
Recreation: (902) 485-8528
Active Comm. Coord. (902) 485-2247
Fax: (902) 485-6475

Municipality of Pictou County

P.O. BOX 910, PICTOU, N.S.
BOK 1H0
All Offices:(902) 752-1530

March 17, 2021

Honourable Chuck Porter
Minister of Lands and Forestry
PO Box 698
Halifax, NS
B3J 2T9

Dear Minister Porter:

The Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou is expressing concern regarding the speed with which Bill No. 4, the "Biodiversity Act" is moving through the Legislature to become law. We understand that 1st and 2nd readings have already occurred and that the Bill has been referred to the Law Amendments Committee. At this rate there will be little opportunity for stakeholders to adequately prepare to present to Law Amendments or brief their MLAs on issues of concern.

The Biodiversity Act gives Government broad and unprecedented authority over private lands with aggressive fines as part of the enforcement act. Agriculture, forest management, livestock, Christmas tree, housing, road construction and many other developments could be widely impacted. Greater education and consultation at the grass roots level should take place before this act comes into effect. Consequently, the Municipality respectfully asks that the approval process for this bill be prolonged to allow time for stakeholders to complete a review of the documents and its potential impacts and properly address their concerns to Government.

I look forward to hearing from on this matter so that I may share your comments with Council.

Yours truly,

Brian Cullen
Chief Administrative Officer

/cm
p.c. Hon. Iain Rankin, Premier
Randy Delorey, Chair, Law Amendments Committee
Tim Houston, MLA, Pictou East
Karla MacFarlane, MLA, Pictou West
Pat Dunn, MLA, Pictou Centre
NSAMA CAO Listserv

Administration/CAO
Administration Building
46 Municipal Drive, Pictou
Phone: (902) 485-4311
Fax: (902) 485-6475



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Public Works: (902) 485-4085
Recreation: (902) 485-8528
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Yours truly,

Brian Cullen
Chief Administrative Officer

/cm
p.c. Hon. Iain Rankin, Premier
Randy Delorey, Chair, Law Amendments Committee
Tim Houston, MLA, Pictou East
Karla MacFarlane, MLA, Pictou West
Pat Dunn, MLA, Pictou Centre
NSAMA CAO Listserv

McDonald, David S

From: Tamsen Allana [REDACTED]
Sent: March 18, 2021 7:27 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill4 concerns

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To whom it may concern

I am writing in regards to the Bill 4 and concerns me and my family.

I own 167 acres, some blueberries and forestry. This has been in our family for many many generations and take so much pride in our property.

We enjoy it fully, we work on it for ourselves, we hike on it and enjoy our wildlife and privacy. This is our pure joy and happiness.

The idea of someone coming in and telling us how to use our land is not acceptable..we pay our taxes and this is ours.

I hope that this Bill 4 is dismissed it is wrong and immoral. What ever happened to our Home of Native land ..glorious and free.

Respectfully
Allana Moore
Cumberland County

[REDACTED]

From: Brandon Bonnell [REDACTED]
Sent: March 18, 2021 3:13 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: New bill 4

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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I am writing to you today to express my concern around Bill 4 – The Biodiversity Act. Landowners in my area are afraid that this bill takes away their rights to manage their own land. I understand from private landowners in my area that the threat of big fines and lack of clear rules will force them shut down public access to their land. That is a shame. I'm from Nova Scotia and use a lot of private land to (hike, cycle, hunt, fish snowmobile and/or ATV).

Landowners have been great, they let us use their land as long as we don't leave a mess. My fear is that Bill 4, will force my neighbours to restrict access to their land because this bill creates too big of a risk for them.

Please stop this from becoming law so that we can continue to enjoy the land in this area. As a land user I oppose Bill 4.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

From: Michael corkum [REDACTED]
Sent: March 18, 2021 8:18 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel

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I am very concerned with bill 4 and feel that it has become overreach. I believe in biodiversity but not giving government allowance to step foot on our property and taking it away nor do I want them taking it upon themselves and entering our private property (camps) at their discretion

[REDACTED]

From: Kirk Wilkins [REDACTED]
Sent: March 18, 2021 8:15 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel

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No to bill 4

[REDACTED]

From: Rod Resch [REDACTED]
Sent: March 18, 2021 3:30 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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I do not want Bill 4 to be implemented. It is not required and it should be stopped now.

[REDACTED]

From: Morgan [REDACTED]
Sent: March 19, 2021 7:05 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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Dear _____

I am writing to you today to express my concern around Bill 4 – The Biodiversity Act. Landowners in my area are afraid that this bill takes away their rights to manage their own land. I understand from private landowners in my area that the threat of big fines and lack of clear rules will force them shut down public access to their land. That is a shame. I'm from Bridgewater Nova Scotia and use a lot of private land to (hike, cycle, hunt, fish snowmobile and/or ATV). Landowners have been great, they let us use their land as long as we don't leave a mess. My fear is that Bill 4, will force my neighbours to restrict access to their land because this bill creates too big of a risk for them.

Please stop this from becoming law so that we can continue to enjoy the land in this area. As a land user I oppose

Bill 4.

Thank you, Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: vernon martell [REDACTED]
Sent: March 19, 2021 9:30 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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I am a private landowner in Nova Scotia and I wish to voice my opinion against bill 4 The government has no right to infringe on private land owners land I urge you to reconsider and retract this bill Sincerely J vernon martell

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: conradvick [REDACTED]
Sent: March 19, 2021 7:09 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: bill 4

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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Dear

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Please stop this from becoming law so that we can continue to enjoy the land in this area. As a land user I oppose Bill 4.

Thank you,

Sent from my Galaxy

[REDACTED]

From: Brody Bonnell [REDACTED]
Sent: March 19, 2021 7:03 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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Please stop this from becoming law so that we can continue to enjoy the land in this area. As a land user I oppose Bill 4.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

From: Megan Stark [REDACTED]
Sent: March 19, 2021 7:02 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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You have no rights to lands we purchase with our hard worked money's. You get no rights to our lands that we are HIGHLY taxed on for even OWNING it! The government already controls enough of what we can do...now our own land ?? What next our air !?!?!
I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS BILL AND NEITHER SHOULD YOU

[REDACTED]

From: conradphilip [REDACTED]
Sent: March 19, 2021 6:59 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: bill 4

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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Dear _____

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Thank you

Sent from my Galaxy

[REDACTED]

From: Kathy Young [REDACTED]
Sent: March 19, 2021 2:54 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel; lunenburgmla@eastlink.ca; pictoueastamanda@gmail.com; garyburrilla@gmail.com
Subject: Bill 4

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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Please note I oppose Bill 4 and would like this expressed to the provincial government of Nova Scotia.

This act/bill puts my land in the hands of Activists and Politicians and this is not acceptable.

My land rights are not being honored, this bill is not clear and therefore is of concern to myself as a land owner of approximately 60 acres of 2 seperate wood lots.

I would also like to mention that as a co-owner of these lots I will encounter additional challenges as I will be dealing with others.

Please bring my concerns forward to the appropriate platform.

Sincerely Kathy Young

From: Janice Boudreau [REDACTED]
Sent: March 19, 2021 10:26 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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Dear Members of the Amendments Committee

I am writing to let you know that I am very concerned about Bill 4. I own 6 acres in Hants County. I use my land now for my horse and my privacy. I have plans to continue in the future. Nobody cares more about my land than I do. If Bill 4 passes, I am worried that government will try to tell me what I can or cannot do with my own land. My family has owned this land and the neighboring land for over 70 years, we pay our taxes and take care of our land.

As my MLA, I want you to know that I don't want government telling me what I can and can not do with my land. I don't want activists on my property looking for certain plants and animals, declaring they must be protected and shutting down activity. Bill 4 will force me to limit all access on my land so that I don't risk having activists finding a reason to shut it down.

This Act is not voluntary – there are triggers in the Act that will allow a Minister, under pressure from activists, to issue an order limiting what I can and can't do on my land.

Bill 4 threatens the peaceful enjoyment of my land and must not become law.

Thank you,

Janice Boudreau

[REDACTED]

From: Chris Wilber [REDACTED]
Sent: March 19, 2021 8:54 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4

** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE **

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we elect people to govern not rule!

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: Greg Mcculloch [REDACTED]
Sent: March 19, 2021 7:52 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4

** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE **

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Throw this bill out it does nothing but take away our rights as a land owner. Signed Greg McCulloch.

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: Randolph DeMone [REDACTED]
Sent: March 19, 2021 3:15 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: bill4

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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I own 40 acres of woodland that I use for personal use. I cut my firewood and logs for lumber. If I'm not able to cut my own firewood I would not be able to afford to heat my house. You encourage people to get outside and now your trying to take that away from us. I have made my living in and around the forest all my life as almost everybody I know. This is not something that should even be discussed. I suspect those that are pushing for this have probably not lived in the country where incomes are lower, so we have to make ends meet wherever possible and for me that means cutting my own wood, also it gives me a place to go and enjoy nature at it's best not a manufactured park that costs thousands of dollars to create and operate. So please don't let this bill go through and ruin the livelihood of thousands of people. We have maintained our forests for all these years and I think we are capable of continuing to maintain them.

McDonald, David S

From: Alexander Feix [REDACTED]
Sent: March 19, 2021 6:11 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Biodiversity Act

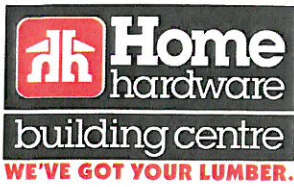
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As a concerned land owner and forestry professional, this act gives too much power to the government dictating what can or cannot be done on private land. We currently have enough regulations telling us what we can or cannot do.

The current private landowners have enough diversity on their lands, this is done by having various objectives for their land and doing various activities on their land.

Kindly
Alex Feix CFT



C.E. HARRISON HOME HARDWARE



404 MACDONALD ROAD
UPPER NAPPAN, NS B4H 3Y4
Tel: (902) 667-3306
Fax (902) 667-7750

719 MAIN STREET, P.O. BOX 427
PARRSBORO, NS B0M 1S0
Tel: (902) 254-3306
Fax (902) 254-3781

10256 DURHAM ST., P.O. BOX 419
PUGWASH, NS B0K 1L0
Tel: (902) 243-3306
Fax (902) 243-2947

March 19, 2021

Attention: Law Amendments Committee

My family has been in the Woodland and Lumber Industry since 1932. It was started by my grandfather Charles Ernest Harrison and has continued with his sons, grandsons and today has fifth generation Harrisons working in the industry.

During those years he purchased land whenever an opportunity presented itself and money was available to do so. Today we own over 25000 acres of woodland and farmland (blueberry) in Cumberland County.

With a forester on staff who uses best practice silviculture management strategies our woodlands are doing extremely well and improving every year.

I am writing this letter today to express my deep concerns regarding the Biodiversity Act (Bill 4) presented by the Nova Scotia Liberal Government on March 12, 2021.

Initially my understanding of this Act was it would be restricted to Crown Land only.

Now, the government plans to include private land as well.

This will force us to restrict all access to our property moving forward. We have over 65 camps on our land used for recreational purposes, a walking trail that is used by hundreds of people every year and many trails used for recreational vehicles. This will come to an end because it would leave us open to scrutiny from everyone.

The Nova Scotia Government should not be able to dictate what we can and cannot do on our private land.

I do believe we need to pay close attention to our environment and endangered species but there should be input from the landowners before this bill is passed.

Please accept this letter as my official vote:

No, I am not in favor of Bill 4 and the Biodiversity Act as it was written and presented on March 12, 2021.

Roderick Harrison

C.E. Harrison & Sons Ltd.

Cc: Elizabeth Smith McCrossin/MLA

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Legislative Counsel](#)
Subject: NO to Bill 4
Date: March 19, 2021 11:06:20 AM

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FROM LANDOWNER

Dear _Kim Masland _____

We are writing to let you know that we are very concerned about Bill 4. We own 1300+acres in Queens County NS . We use our land now for recreation , firewood ,logging. We have plans to use it for the same in the future. Nobody cares more about our land than we do. If Bill 4 passes, we are worried that government will try to tell us what we can or cannot do with our own land. My family has owned for 100+ years, we pay our taxes and take care of our land.

As our MLA, I want you to know that we don't want government telling us what we can and can not do with our own land. We don't want activists on our property looking for certain plants and animals, declaring they must be protected and shutting down activity. We let our neighbours on our property to enjoy themselves on trails or in the woods. Bill 4 will force us to limit all access on our land so that we don't risk having activists finding a reason to shut it down.

This Act is not voluntary – there are triggers in the Act that will allow a Minister, under pressure from activists, to issue an order limiting what we can and can't do on our land.

Bill 4 threatens the peaceful enjoyment of our land and must not become law.

Thank you, Danny & Diana Hirtle ,concerned landowners !

Sent from my iPad

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: March 19, 2021 10:31 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Stop Bill 4

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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To whom it may concern

I am writing to you today about my concerns for bill 4. There is no, clear stated purpose for the Act. Why does this Act exist? A bill to “protect biodiversity” is so vague that it could mean anything. Unlike Acts to protect “Species at Risk” or establish “Parks and Protected Places”, this Bill speaks of nothing specific and threatens all sorts of specific consequences for landowners without clear goals to follow. It mentions animals, plants and organisms as comprising our biodiversity without indicating any priority or value to them based on any factor such as ecological importance or prevalence. Is one spore the same as another spore? Are some spores worth protecting while others aren't? Who get's to decide?

This act puts the control of private landowners in the hands of activist and politicians which is un acceptable.

Thank you for reading my letter I hope you take my thoughts into consideration.

Have a good day

Sincerely,

Jamie Maclean

Freeman Scalehouse
scalehouse@freemanlumber.com
(902) 685 3388 ext 247

From: Gilles Theriault [REDACTED]
Sent: March 19, 2021 3:18 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: stop bill 4

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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AS a private land owner and a young entrepreneur with a young family we would like to put a stop on the bill as we are all concern to leave nova scotia in a better place. As we do be taking care of our own land. We don't need government to do that for us.

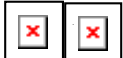


Gilles Theriault | President

1 d'Entremont Road
Meteghan River, NS B0W 2L0 Canada

Office: 902.645.2327 Fax: 902.645.2174
Cell: 902.778.0006
Email: gilles@aft.ns.ca

Web: www.aftheriaultboatyard.com



NB: As of July 31, 2020, it is mandatory to wear a non-medical face mask in all of our indoor public places.

[REDACTED]

From: Emily MacGregor [REDACTED]
Sent: March 19, 2021 2:58 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Stop Bill 4!

** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE **

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Being a land owner, I'm appalled that the Liberals would even consider such a pathetic bill!

It's time our representatives in the legislature stopped bowing to "debt creating" environmentalists who live in a dream world funded by activists, and paid attention to our tax burdened residents who have studied the science and understand forestry!

For God sake, show some common sense leadership!

Absolutely STOP BILL 4 🙀🙀🙀🙀

Emily MacGregor

Sent from my iPad

[REDACTED]

From: Stewart Bezanson [REDACTED]
Sent: March 19, 2021 9:05 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel

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Stop Bill4 I say no to Bill4

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Legislative Counsel](#)
Subject: B-4
Date: March 20, 2021 2:24:19 PM

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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To whom it may concerned, my wife and I are card carrying Liberals. I/we voted as a delegate in the last Provincial Premiers election for Premier Rankin: and he knows it. I/We canvased door to door for David Wilton. All concerned know who I/we are!!! If this Bill is passed, as a major land owner of 9 different property's 5 of which are on the Bras d'or Lakes I will never vote or """"SUPPORT A LIBERAL In MY LIFE"""". We will actively work against any Liberal who runs in my district: With the hardest Sincerety: Terry and Anne MacNeil.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

[REDACTED]

From: Andy Shand [REDACTED]
Sent: March 20, 2021 7:28 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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We don't need yet more government control.

Andy Shand
President - Maritime Diamond Drilling Ltd.

[REDACTED]

From: Floyd [REDACTED]
Sent: March 20, 2021 3:38 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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I am opposed to Bill 4. As a landowner and land user I am afraid Bill 4 will infringe on my landownership rights. Say No to Bill 4.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

[REDACTED]

From: Floyd [REDACTED]
Sent: March 20, 2021 3:20 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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Stop Bill 4.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

[REDACTED]

From: sandra spicer [REDACTED]
Sent: March 20, 2021 1:35 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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Dear MLA'S,

I am writing to you today to express my concern around Bill 4 – The Biodiversity Act. Landowners in my area are afraid that this bill takes away their rights to manage their own land. I understand from private landowners in my area that the threat of big fines and lack of clear rules will force them shut down public access to their land. That is a shame. I'm from Pictou County and use a lot of private land to (hike, cycle, hunt, fish snowmobile and/or ATV). Landowners have been great, they let us use their land as long as we don't leave a mess. My fear is that Bill 4, will force my neighbors to restrict access to their land because this bill creates too big of a risk for them.

Please stop this from becoming law so that we can continue to enjoy the land in this area. As a land user I oppose Bill 4.

Thank you,

Sandra Spicer

Concerns with Bill 4

1. THERE IS NO CLEAR, STATED PURPOSE FOR BILL 4

There is no, clear stated purpose for the Act. Why does this Act exist? A bill to "protect biodiversity" is so vague that it could mean anything. Unlike Acts to protect "Species at Risk" or establish "Parks and Protected Places", this Bill speaks of nothing specific and threatens all sorts of specific consequences for landowners without clear goals to follow. It mentions animals, plants and organisms as comprising our biodiversity without indicating any priority or

value to them based on any factor such as ecological importance or prevalence. Is one spore the same as another spore? Are some spores worth protecting while others aren't? Who gets to decide?

TAKE ACTION

2. BILL 4 APPLIES TO ALL LAND IN NOVA SCOTIA, NOT JUST THE CROWN LAND.

There are three parts to the Bill that impact private land ownership.

1.

1. **Establishment of Biodiversity Management Zones (BMZ).** The bill says the Minister can establish a BMZ with the consent of the private landowner. It then says the BMZ “may include” a series of elements including compensation but doesn't compel them to be part of every agreement.
2. **Issue an Emergency Order.** There are no details about what circumstances or reasons could trigger an Emergency Order. The Minister could issue one at anytime, for any piece of private land for any reason under the umbrella of “conservation of biodiversity in the Province”. This undefined power could be used by Activists to pressure the Minister to issue an Emergency Order for any sort of perceived biodiversity risk which would limit a landowner's use of their property and result in costs and loss of land use for the landowner.
3. **Limitless Power to Regulate Private Lands.** The bill gives the government unlimited power to prohibit any activities that affect natural living things on privately owned lands. These activities could require a permit or be banned altogether. This can be done through blanket regulations that apply province-wide: no BMZ or Emergency Order is required.

3. BILL 4, THE BIODIVERSITY ACT IS A DREAM OF THE HALIFAX ACTIVISTS.

They have been trying for a decade to gain full control of any land use activities in Nova Scotia. That's what this is all about. They want to stop all natural resource economic activity and this will give them a tool to do so. If you use your land now for a productive activity such as farming or forestry or would like to in the future, Bill 4 will make it a lot more difficult and costly.

4. RESTRICTING PUBLIC ACCESS

Nova Scotia's landowners have a long tradition of letting the public use their land for recreation. Whether that's for hiking or cycling, hunting or fishing, ATV'ing or snowmobiling, recreational users have always respected the landowner's generosity. Sadly, Bill 4 will force many landowners to restrict access to their land out of fear that

unlimited public access will allow activists to search for signs of animals, plants and organisms that could result in the application of Bill 4 and limit the productive use of their land.

5. GOVERNMENTS ONLY HIDE THINGS THAT ARE DAMAGING. WHERE ARE THE REGULATIONS THAT WOULD IMPLEMENT BILL 4?

Landowners should be worried. When the Government won't provide the details upfront it means they are hiding something. When they won't tell you the rules but will tell you the fine could be a million dollars for breaking them, landowners should be scared. What will a landowner be responsible for? What is an offence? A Bill without Regulations is a threat. Worse, putting all of the discretionary power in the hands of a Minister who is susceptible to political and activist pressures isn't the way to plan for the long-term welfare of any land.

6. WHY RUSH BILL 4?

Our land isn't going anywhere. Landowners aren't going to pick up and leave Nova Scotia. The Activists will tell you they have waited too long. Well too bad. This rush to appease the Activists and pass an ill-thought piece of legislation is wrong. It's a complicated subject with many rights, users and interests. Take the time to consult and establish a harmonious path forward where private landowners can have confidence their rights are respected, and their land won't be used for some political agenda. This needs to be done before the bill becomes law, not after.

[MLA CONTACT INFORMATION](#)

[HAVE YOUR SAY ON BILL 4 AT LAW AMENDMENTS](#)

[EXAMPLE LETTERS FOR LANDOWNERS / USERS](#)

Take Action

If you care about your land, your rights and your ability to enjoy private land in Nova Scotia, have your voice heard.

Stop Bill 4 – Before it Stops You!



Make your voice heard

Here are a few ways that you can make your voice heard on Bill 4. MLA's need to understand your worries and concerns about this bill. Please do one or more of the following:

1. Write/ Call your MLA to express your concerns around Bill 4. ([MLA Contact Information](#)). Tell them:
 - - This Act puts control of YOUR land in the hands of Activists and politicians and that is not acceptable.
 - Your landowner rights are NOT being protected; they are being stepped on.
 - This Act is not voluntary – there are triggers in the Act that allow for the Minister to issue an order limiting what you can do on your land.
 - This Act could force you to restrict or shut down public access to your land.
2. Register to appear before Law Amendments Committee on Bill 4: Call the Office of legislative Counsel to register. Phone: [902-424-8941](tel:902-424-8941). This should be done immediately. A date has not been announced for these presentations, but the committee is accepting requests to present.
3. Forward a written submission to the Law Amendments Committee on Bill Submit by email: office@novascotia.ca
4. Write/ Call your local councillor – Tell them you want your local council to express opposition to Bill 4 to the provincial government
5. Post your views on Facebook and Twitter. Post a message expressing your opposition to Bill 4.
6. Write a response to MLA posts on The Biodiversity Act. Many MLA's posted messages when the Act was introduced last week. Write a comment on their Facebook post expressing your opposition to the Bill.
7. Write a letter to the editor in your local paper.
8. Call into a radio call-in show
9. Post signs your property- Stop Bill 4

[MLA CONTACT INFORMATION](#)

[HAVE YOUR SAY ON BILL 4 AT LAW AMENDMENTS](#)

[EXAMPLE LETTERS FOR LANDOWNERS / USERS](#)

Example Letters to MLA

COPY AND PASTE AS NEEDED

FROM LANDOWNER

Dear _____

I am writing to let you know that I am very concerned about Bill 4. I own xx acres in xxxx County. I use my land now for xxxxx. I have plans to use it for xxxx in the future. Nobody cares more about my land than I do. If Bill 4 passes, I

am worried that government will try to tell me what I can or cannot do with my own land. My family has owned for xxx years, we pay our taxes and take care of our land.

As my MLA, I want you to know that I don't want government telling me what I can and can not do with my land. I don't want activists on my property looking for certain plants and animals, declaring they must be protected and shutting down activity. I let my neighbours on my property to enjoy themselves on trails or in the woods. Bill 4 will force me to limit all access on my land so that I don't risk having activists finding a reason to shut it down.

This Act is not voluntary – there are triggers in the Act that will allow a Minister, under pressure from activists, to issue an order limiting what I can and can't do on my land.

Bill 4 threatens the peaceful enjoyment of my land and must not become law.

Thank you,

FROM LAND USER

Dear _____

I am writing to you today to express my concern around Bill 4 – The Biodiversity Act. Landowners in my area are afraid that this bill takes away their rights to manage their own land. I understand from private landowners in my area that the threat of big fines and lack of clear rules will force them shut down public access to their land. That is a shame. I'm from xxxxx and use a lot of private land to (hike, cycle, hunt, fish snowmobile and/or ATV). Landowners have been great, they let us use their land as long as we don't leave a mess. My fear is that Bill 4, will force my neighbours to restrict access to their land because this bill creates too big of a risk for them.

Please stop this from becoming law so that we can continue to enjoy the land in this area. As a land user I oppose Bill 4.

Thank you,



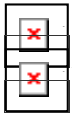
Thank you to our supporters

-
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- ARF Enterprises Ltd.

- Dean Produce Co-Op
- Christmas Tree Council of Nova Scotia
- Nova Scotia Landowners and Forest Fibre Producers Association
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- Cumberland Forestry Advisory Committee

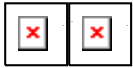
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Show Your Support

SIGN UP AND POST A MESSAGE TO SUPPORT THE COALITION AND STOP BILL 4.

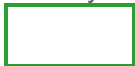
1. **Danny & Diana Hirtle** on March 19, 2021 at 6:24 pm

As a very concerned private land owner ,1300+ acres of private land that we have cared for centuries ! There are many loopholes in this bill 4. We do NOT want to be told what we can and cannot do on our own forest land . What the government wants to do with crown land is one thing but no one should be able to dictate what activity we do on our own land that we have nurtured and cared for .If this bill passes no one will have permission to trespass on any of our wood lots , STOP BILL 4!



2. **Cal Boudreau** on March 19, 2021 at 6:50 pm

Nobody will take care of our land better than us



3. **Jeremy** on March 19, 2021 at 7:33 pm

We need to stand together and stop this this is a great website if we all stand together we have a shot at this! I heat my home and family with our woodlot and i refuse to change that!



4. **Gregory** on March 19, 2021 at 7:39 pm

There is no way this is for the environment. They just want control over land that ppl PAID for and pay taxes...no no no this CANNOT HAPPEN!



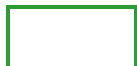
5. **Rick Hicks** on March 19, 2021 at 7:47 pm

No one should be able to tell me how to use my land, this is just a money grab from politicians.



6. **Glenn Wile** on March 19, 2021 at 7:51 pm

This is another way of inciting violence. Private land owners will fight to protect their rights to their own land. Do we not have to pay our property tax to maintain ownership?



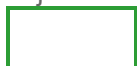
7. **Gerald veinot** on March 19, 2021 at 9:22 pm

this is the way Hitler would have done this kind of act



8. **Scott Dodge** on March 19, 2021 at 10:04 pm

The gov't needs to stay out of everyone's business, and the money that is generated from everyone is a lot of jobs and taxes



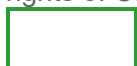
9. **Chris** on March 19, 2021 at 10:09 pm

If you read this bill 4 it is almost a Carbon copy of UN Agenda 2030. It is said that over 500 Mayors across Canada have signed onto this UN Agenda 2030. Between Carbon taxes and the massive Inflation we are seeing People are struggling big time. We have lost so many of our Rights this all has to be stopped, I am sick and tired of all this Globalist BS. We have lost our sovereignty. Wake up people.



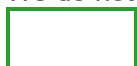
10. **Guy leblanc** on March 19, 2021 at 10:19 pm

The Elected are here and appointed to do our bidding, if this is passed this proves the Country is turning towards a Dictatorship Government. They as in Ottawa have been and are slowly but surely removing the rights of Canadians in a sneaky round about way and the Meek are all to easy to fool.



11. **Julia McMillan** on March 19, 2021 at 10:37 pm

We do not support this bill, Government has overreached with this one.



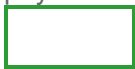
12. **Dennis Beaver** on March 19, 2021 at 11:07 pm

Government officials were supposedly our representatives to express our views and protect our rights. This concept has vanished long ago, and they are now arrogant dictators with only their own agendas in the forefront. They must be held accountable, and stopped



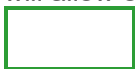
13. **Paula Bowden** on March 19, 2021 at 11:09 pm

This is so wrong! Our land is our land, not the governments! We do not want this Bill 4 passed. I thought the government was there to serve us, the people, not be told we cannot do what we want with our land. We pay taxes on this land, what the hell!



14. **Jeff Gee** on March 19, 2021 at 11:16 pm

This Bill goes above and beyond! Totally don't support it whatsoever. As a small Woodlot owner 35 acres I bought this land for my enjoyment and others. It has a multi use trail through it which I continue and always will allow others to enjoy too! Don't take my Happy Stress free place away!



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Your email address will not be published. Required fields are marked *

Save my name, email, and website in this browser for the next time I comment.

SUBMIT COMMENT

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[REDACTED]

From: Melanie Roberts [REDACTED]
Sent: March 20, 2021 10:50 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4

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Stop this Bill 4 ist not ok its taking land owners rights away,when we are suposed to be a FREE country !!

[REDACTED]

From: Tracey MacKenzie [REDACTED]
Sent: March 20, 2021 8:45 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4

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The government is trying to downplay and say some private land owners are overreacting to the biodiversity act and that it is not their intention to take control of anyone's land. If it's not their intention why is all the control written into the act? If it is truly just about working with landowners to conserve nature, take out the control, fines, right to trespass, right to enter buildings etc. Private landowners should have the final say on THEIR land. Not be asked and then if they choose no, then be forced. How can they say we aren't losing rights if our decisions can be overridden whenever the government wants? A large portion of the bill is about control and rights being diminished if they choose to deem a piece of land a biodiversity zone. The majority of Nova Scotians if approached would most likely work with government if their land has a biodiversity zone, especially if compensated. Many Nova Scotians care to conserve biodiversity where they can. If someone says no, that's their right. This is supposed to be a free country. We can all argue about our opinions about the government's intent until our faces turn blue. We can tell small private landowners "you aren't who they are after." It's not going to change the content of the bill. It is 100% in the Bill that they could use their powers to make a biodiversity zone literally anywhere, including private land whether you like it or not. That is a fact. Read the Bill for yourself. Don't just read CBC articles or whatever is floating around on the internet. Read the bill and see all the penalties, control and force for yourself. Just make it about conserving our beautiful province in a fair way for all.

Tracey Higgins

[REDACTED]

From: Terry Osborne [REDACTED]
Sent: March 20, 2021 7:44 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4

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FROM LANDOWNER

I am writing to let you know that I am very concerned about Bill 4. I own land in Colchester County. Nobody cares more about my land than I do. If Bill 4 passes, I am worried that government will try to tell me what I can or cannot do with my own land. My family has owned for 180 years, we pay our taxes and take care of our land.

I want you to know that I don't want government telling me what I can and can not do with my land. I don't want activists on my property looking for certain plants and animals, declaring they must be protected and shutting down activity.

This Act is not voluntary – there are triggers in the Act that will allow a Minister, under pressure from activists, to issue an order limiting what I can and can't do on my land.

Bill 4 threatens the peaceful enjoyment of my land and must not become law.

Thank you,

Terry EJ Osborne

Colchester County

[REDACTED]

From: Spike Burge [REDACTED]
Sent: March 20, 2021 6:21 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4

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This is not right, a small group of people get an idea that satisfies them but damages the masses. We see this all too much recently. If you want control over your own land then so be it, it's yours. To give other people control over your own land? I don't think so. We don't own and pay taxes on property to have someone else tell us whatever can and cannot do on it. It just makes no sense. If you want control over an area, purchase it legally and then it's yours to do with it whatever you want. Don't take the rights away or punish the land owners. Stand up for the people who actually own the land instead of a few people who probably only rent or own a single building lot and want control over someone else's property.

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

From: Joan Adey [REDACTED]
Sent: March 20, 2021 1:26 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill4

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This bill should not be passed until private landowners have a better understanding of what this act entails. As it stands now, this act will take away all rights of the private landowner & give the province too much power over how their land is managed. We need our day in court, we are not living in a communist country....are we?

Joan & Greg Sutherland.

[REDACTED]

From: keith [REDACTED]
Sent: March 20, 2021 6:07 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill4

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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I am writing to you today to express my concern around Bill 4 – The Biodiversity Act. Landowners in my area are afraid that this bill takes away their rights to manage their own land. I understand from private landowners in my area that the threat of big fines and lack of clear rules will force them shut down public access to their land. That is a shame. I'm from xxxxx and use a lot of private land to (hike, cycle, hunt, fish snowmobile and/or ATV). Landowners have been great, they let us use their land as long as we don't leave a mess. My fear is that Bill 4, will force my neighbours to restrict access to their land because this bill creates too big of a risk for them.

Please stop this from becoming law so that we can continue to enjoy the land in this area. As a land user I oppose Bill 4.

Thank you,

Keith Helle

Sent from my iPad

[REDACTED]

From: John MacLeod [REDACTED]
Sent: March 20, 2021 8:02 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Biodiversity Act - Bill 4

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Dear Sir/Madame,

I recently read the information provided by the Nova Scotia Government and the group "CPLC" printed in The Chronicle Herald March 20, 2021 . As it stands, I am against what Bill 4 proposes or the supposed intent to protect Nova Scotia's biodiversity.

I live in East Chezzetcook where we own 140 acres of forest land. My family has enjoyed this land for 25 years and expect too for many more years. I have no interest in outside parties/special interest groups trespassing on my land for unwarranted purposes or their inputs that may infringe on my land activities.

It appears your attempt to implement this Bill 4 has been fast tracked and is missing the mark by not consulting with the landowners in order to gain their confidence and achieve harmonious relationship for future endeavours. It is the private land owner that has the most to loose with a Bill moving this way.

Regards,

John W. MacLeod

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] for Windows 10

[REDACTED]

From: Bridget Roy [REDACTED]
Sent: March 20, 2021 7:29 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Biodiversity Act

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To whom it may concern,

As a private landowner in Nova Scotia, we have significant concerns about the proposed Biodiversity Act and impact it could have on our ability to manage our private land. Our concerns are:

Private Landowner Rights – We believe this act should take a crown land first approach; private land should be fully voluntary. The “Biodiversity Emergency Order” removes the voluntary aspect for private landowners in the Biodiversity Act

Penalties and Fines – Fines are not consistent with other legislation and are highly punitive (up to 1 million dollars) and should be aligned to mirror the Environmental Act

Education –The definition, identification, and protection of Biodiversity is extremely complex. Training of Officers who will be enforcing the Biodiversity Act is paramount.

Stakeholder Engagement – Consultation has failed to reach all impacted stakeholders. We believe that all impacted stakeholders (Agriculture, Fruit Growers, Christmas Tree Growers, etc) need to be consulted before passing the Biodiversity Act in the house

Minister’s Power – This legislation gives the Province and the Minister overarching and unfettered power across Private Land, regardless of private landowner wishes. There is no need for this.
Our request is that the Biodiversity Act is made to affect Crown Land only and is sent to all stakeholders for consultation with all amendments and changes included before going before the house.

Sincerely, Bridget Purcell

Sent from my iPhone

McDonald, David S

From: Donald Marshall [REDACTED]
Sent: March 20, 2021 3:29 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Control of private land no..

** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE **

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As former city people, my wife and I sold our property in the city to move to the piece and quite of the country. We own approximately 5 acres of tree'd land and we cannot believe what this bill is trying to allow happen. It is way too controlling. As a tax payer I cannot believe that we are just to let people come on to our property and control what we can and can't do with our land. This is unheard of!! You can't do it in the city so why here! I could cut trees in the city and no one would say boo. If city people want to see trees and wildlife then go purchase some land like we did!! Or visit the many parks that have trails for enjoying nature. You don't need to control my property. We worked hard to have our dream for retirement and our piece of this beautiful province. We enjoy the outdoors and don't plan on stripping our lot clean. We too enjoy seeing wildlife and want to keep seeing it!

Also, I see tax payers pay for the environmentalist salaries and they also want to control where we can use our off road vehicles. My question is when they are given protective land whom pays the taxes on it. I pay every year to license our off road vehicles to help pay to maintain the trails . The people we ride with are contentious and do not litter or go off the trails. But now the environmentalists also want this shut down. Seems like everything we try to do to relax and enjoy life is being taken away because of the opinions of a few. Squeaky wheel I guess. Since moving from the city we have met some amazing people who have lived here for generations and hopefully we will be able too as well but on our own terms.

Don and Kim Marshall
Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: Steve Critch [REDACTED]
Sent: March 20, 2021 2:14 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Opposition to Bill 4

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To my current elected official,

As a private land owner and tax payer I/we strongly oppose this Bill. At no point was this discussed with the public for input, which suggest my elected officials knew it would not be a favourable decision.

Please consider your decision to push this bill as a poor choice and a diminished chance at re-election.

Steve Critch

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: B Hatton [REDACTED]
Sent: March 20, 2021 12:20 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: To much control

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Good afternoon

No to this bill as I paid for my land and wish no one have power over my land like a self interest groups maybe they can by my land then they can do as they wish when they own it Federal,provincial,and city personnel should not interact with special lobby groups and introduce bills that aren't for the better of all citizens not just the few in the special interest groups I can list off a few things only a small amount of the population will ever use

1 BIKE LANES

2 new art gallery

3 PEGGYCOVE BOARD WALK

4 CAT FAIRY TO PORTLAND

and I can go on maybe ask the whole population of Nova Scotia to vote on this bill4 as most of the land in Nova Scotia is already protected with multiple groups regulations.

I can list a few

ENVIRONMENT REGULATION

FISHIERS ACT

LAND CONSERVATION REGULATIONS

WETLANDS REGULATIONS

OFF ROAD VEHICLES REG

and I can go on so please vote no to this bill or make it only applies to the city as I live in the county and don't need anymore people,laws,bylaws,federal laws or anything else that takes my rights away,remember I paid for my land it was not free like these groups want to control our land they never paid for but they want to control my land for free without buying it from me Thx Brian Hatton

[REDACTED]

From: Russell Hamilton [REDACTED]
Sent: March 20, 2021 7:13 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel

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Stop Bill 4 .We don't agree with it as a private land owner.I think you better work on the poor that can't afford to eat .leave our land alone.

Russell Hamilton

[REDACTED]

From: Jamie Fisher [REDACTED]
Sent: March 21, 2021 7:58 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4

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The "Biodiversity Act" is too broad and ambiguous, permitting arbitrary abuses of ministerial power against private land owners/stewards (e.g., farmers, woodlot owners, people who live near watercourses or lakes, etc.). 1) In the preamble, it references "an ecosystems approach" to "integrated land management" that "promotes" the "sustainable use of biodiversity" in consideration of "the precautionary principle".

The precautionary principle puts the onus of the burden of proof on the land owner to justify any activity on their own land such that, unless there is clear scientific consensus about its non-harmful impact on the environment or people, the government can issue an order (even pre-emptively) to cease the activity regardless of any actual harm being caused. Thus, a farmer might plan to grow a field of corn to feed his/her cows. The Department of Lands and Forestry can say, "Hmmm, are you sure your corn will be GMO free? We think it might be a bad thing if your corn had GMO-affected kernels.

We want it to be GMO free for the health of your cows and for the geese, racoons, and deer who'll eat it off the field. So, you can't grow any corn until you prove that your corn will be GMO free." Given that 99.9% of the world's corn has been contaminated with GMO Round-up Ready (glyphosphate) products due to Monsanto's dirty business and government collusion, even farmers trying to grow GMO-free corn, not applying Round-up to their own land hoping to raise healthy cows, cannot prove that their corn is, or will be, 100% GMO free. Under Bill 4, that farmer can thus lose the innate right to grow the grain needed to feed his/her own livestock, on their own land. With that land taken out of production, the farmer has to buy from a supplier (possibly outside NS) and the cost of feeding his/her cows goes up, which in turn may cause the price of milk to go up. Are these prospects on the minds of those advocating for the Bill in its current form?

2) Bill 4 is paternalistic. It presumes as a starting point that Government, not private individuals, is the only stakeholder capable of 'managing biodiversity for the benefit of present and future generations'.

The Bill pays lip service to collaborative approaches and indigenous principles, neither of which provides for the paternalistic, dictatorial provisions throughout the Bill. For example: the stated purpose of the Act entails "governance of biodiversity in the Province"; it provides at s. 7(c) that "The Minister may" make efforts "to allow for public co-operation in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity."

3) The Bill gives sweeping powers to the Minister to: s. 7(k) "take ANY MEASURE the Minister considers necessary for the conservation of biodiversity in the Province." And, the Bill gives the Minister SOLE DISCRETION to decide "the guidelines and standards" for "the management of ORGANISMS UNDER HUMAN CONTROL" and "the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity". (I use capitals because the underline function doesn't work here.) This means the Government can assert effective control by order, or assert ownership by expropriation, over any private land that supports any living thing, for reasons only it decides. None of the Regulations or Policies by which the "Act" will be implemented have been shared with the public, so we do not know, and should not assume, that they are benevolent, reasonable, insightful or deferential in any regard to land use by any private owners. It is possible that when the rubber

hits the road this legislation may increase fuel insecurity (limiting firewood harvesting), raise building costs (restricting the processing of materials), intensify food insecurity (taking land out of agriculture), reduce rural accessibility (prohibiting quarrying for road repair), and impede Nova Scotians' growing self-sufficiency and rural home ownership ambitions (banning housing construction on forested or previously undeveloped land).

4) Bill 4 provides for minimal accountability, if not meaningless so called accountability by virtue of its untimeliness. Under s.13, the Minister is bound to report only once within 3 years after the "Act" comes into force in October 2021, then only once every 5 years after that! Think about that..... How will we even know what the H*** the Government is doing across the Province all the days and months in between?!

5) Bill 4 allows for arbitrary restrictions on activities, both on Crown and private lands, which are virtually impossible to overcome. The "Act" allows the Department to impose restrictions on typical, ongoing activities in farming and forestry, use of lakes, access to Crown land, etc. which it decides pose a possible adverse impact on any aspect of the environment. A person can request a permit to continue with a suddenly restricted activity which the Department believes MAY CAUSE an adverse effect on living things - by any means and in any form - but that person will only get a permit IF they can PROVE to the Minister's satisfaction (to unknown standards) that "the activity is not likely to cause an adverse effect" and "ONLY IF the activity is necessary to satisfy a compelling public interest." Is heating a home, growing/raising one's own food, getting exercise in nature, getting from point a to point b in the countryside, likely to be defensible as being "necessary to satisfy a compelling public interest"? There will be virtually no way to continue with an activity once the Minister believes it MAY cause an adverse effect to ANY LIVING ORGANISM on Crown or private land, anywhere in the Province.

6) Bill 4 is outrageously punitive! If that farmer I mentioned above goes ahead and plants his/her crop of corn (because s/he already bought the seed and needs to feed his/her herd of cattle), a Conservation Officer can go onto the farm without the farmer's permission to enter, arrest the farmer without warrant, seize the tractor, and fine the farmer \$500000 or send them to jail for 6 months for breaching the order not to plant corn which is not 100% GMO free. If the next day the Conservation Officer returns to find the farmer planting corn, the farmer can be fined a further \$500000. Once incident and poof, there goes the retirement fund, or the dairy quota. A person can avoid being convicted of an offence under the "Act" IF they can show that s/he "exercised all due diligence to prevent the commission of the offence." So what is "all due diligence"?? AND, if the farmer has a farm hand helping with corn planting operations THAT PERSON "who accompanies or assists" when the farmer commits an offence is ALSO LIABLE to the same fine or jail time UNLESS that farm hand proves the offence was committed without his/her knowledge and consent.

7) Bill 4 does not compensate the private land owner for losses associated with the Department's imposition of a restriction unless it is a restriction on a particular use of the land which the owner is already engaged in on the land when the restriction is imposed. And, in that case, compensation is only for that the impact in relation to that particular use. If the restriction is issued under a biodiversity emergency order, there is no compensation.

8) Bill 4 creates curious blanket powers for Cabinet to make regulations "respecting access to and the sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources" and "respecting the valuation of, and exchange or payment for, ecological goods and services".

Withdrawal BILL 4!!

Jamie Fisher
Farmer/ woodlot owner

[REDACTED]

From: Ethan Molloy [REDACTED]
Sent: March 21, 2021 2:07 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4

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Hey,
I'm not in support of bill 4, as it takes away a great pride that Canadians get to have control of. As there is more negatives in the scenario that this "Biodiversity act" presents... losing rights to land owners choices of what they want to do with what they rightfully own, and with bill 4 allows the land owner no control over their life. As the life of Canadians isn't stressful enough, we don't need to stress more 24/7 wondering if we would be charged for something simple as building a house, or a shed, or growing a garden for carrots, lettuce, celery (simple things) .

More or less, simple version is that I do NOT support Bill 4, IT HAS MORE NEGATIVES THEN IT WILL EVER HAVE POSITIVES. Keep the one thing Canadian citizens have control in their control.

From/par: Ethan M.

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: Morgan Montgomery [REDACTED]
Sent: March 21, 2021 1:44 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4

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My name is Morgan Montgomery, we own 130 acres in Victoria County. We bought an old hobby farm and plan to raise our children here.

This Bill 4 act is scary to say the least..we already look after our property and love nature and are responsible land owners..we pay approximately 4000\$ a year in property tax.

Help us send our concerns to where it is needed most!

I will use the resources on this website as well.

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[REDACTED]

From: Brandon MacDonald [REDACTED]
Sent: March 21, 2021 1:23 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4

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The bill 4 should not pass its not about the environment its the government wanting to take control over our land what we can and can't do with it.

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March 21/2021

Comments on the proposed Nova Scotia Biodiversity Act (Bill 4)

Included below are my personal comments on the proposed draft Nova Scotia Biodiversity Act.

My interest in encouraging adoption of a refined “Nova Scotia Biodiversity Act” is based on my career as a professional ecologist/science manager in Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site (1975-2004), my work with the Smithsonian Institution as an associate researcher/instructor for the international “Biodiversity Monitoring and Adaptive Management” programme (over 13 years), and as a co-author of the “Biodiversity” chapter in the 2010 expert panel report “A Natural Balance; Working Toward Nova Scotia’s Natural Resources Strategy”.

Currently I serve as Chair of the Science Committee of the UNESCO Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve Association (SNBRA). I also operate as a consultant registered with NS Joint Stocks under the title “Sustainable Ecological Management Systems of Nova Scotia” (SEMSNS).

In this context and associated with the comments below, if I can be of assistance in developing refinements or amendments to the Act, I would be pleased to serve.

1. General theme: The Biodiversity Act should be positive, not negative piece of legislation to advance science, education, and collaboration among communities of interest to address biodiversity protection and sustainable management challenges.
2. There is a requirement to strengthen discussion about invasive/exotic species in the definition section, and the requirement for mitigation needs in body of text. In the context with climate change, industrial and recreational transportation, the risk, and fact of invasive species arriving in Nova Scotia and subsequently impacting natural biodiversity and associated ecological characteristics is a serious concern. Invasive species response planning and public education/awareness should be priorities for action that should be discussed more prominently in the Act.
3. The native biodiversity of Nova Scotia will likely be impacted because of climate change, human activities and other related stressors. Migratory species status in Nova Scotia can also be negatively impacted by various stressors including habitat loss far away, or along migratory routes. Thus, Nova Scotia ecosystems could lose species or be infected by invasives regardless of our scientist’s and resource manager’s ability to implement recovery actions locally. This phenomenon should be acknowledged in the Act and addressed in species at risk recovery strategies.
4. The threat of punishment is far too prominent in the draft act. This will cause alarm among landowners who perceive the Act as being a threat to their economic well- being. If the concerns of illegal harm to species at risk, critical habitat, illegal possession of game etc. are already covered in other enforcement/punishment legislation, those legal documents and potential punishments for contraventions should be referenced, not replicated.
5. If for example species at risk critical nesting habitat is found on private land, and to protect that site some revenue-generating land use must stop, the landowner should be able to be compensated for loss of income.

6. There should be provision for describing and encouraging best practices on private lands, and recognition when these best practices are applied. This approach could be similar and/or incorporated within existing small woodlot management best practices recognition initiatives.
7. Regarding designation of 'special biodiversity areas' this should legally apply to all crown lands. The concept could be better explained with examples.
8. In cases on private lands where COSEWIC designated species at risk occurrence or other conservation issues become a concern, dialogue to encourage collaborative positive outcomes should be highest priority.
9. The potential perception that a landowner could be heavily fined or imprisoned for contravention of the Act because of that landowners' lack of understanding or action in error can stand in the way of advancing positive biodiversity protection legislation and outcomes across Nova Scotia.

Yours sincerely
Cliff Drysdale
SEMSNS



[REDACTED]

From: Morgan Montgomery [REDACTED]
Sent: March 21, 2021 8:55 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Fwd: Bill 4 questions

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, March 21, 2021 8:36:01 PM
To: Morgan Montgomery [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Bill 4 questions
Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: March 21, 2021 8:34 PM
To: legc.office@novascotia.ca
Subject: Bill 4 questions

To whom it may concern,

We are writing to find out more information concerning the Bill 4 Bio Diversity Act In Nova Scotia.

We have read over the proposals concerning private land owners and the Bio Diversity Act, we are left confused and full of questions surrounding what this means for us and our families and friends/public.

My household owns 130 acres, we pay approximately 4000\$ a year property tax, Our background is; I grew up here, my family has owned property in Victoria County, Englishtown and St.Anns region for centuries. We melded a lifestyle and love from this land since our ancestors, when the Giant Angus MacAskill our family came here. I grew up in Cape Breton Island, in this place to learn how to love and appreciate nature...I want that for my children.

Since then I have travelled the world, learned another language and been part of many communities within those countries putting the environment first. We now have 2 beautiful children we've decided to buy our own piece of beauty here in Victoria County and raise them to respect the land.

This Bill 4 seems so vague and confusing as to what the end game is...I don't understand how people are suppose to agree to something that isn't outlined properly enough to agree to.

Can you please clarify some of what the proposal is? I'm afraid some of our rights are being dismissed if such a thing should happen without land owners consent.

We want the best for the environment and the world as a whole, and I think most people in Nova Scotia are on that very same page, but what is being done rather than taken away?

Thanks for you time,

Pauls family

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10



Virus-free. www.avast.com

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: March 21, 2021 8:54 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Land use

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Halifax County has imposed itself ever since the invention of HRM on rural Land owners for too long. Starting with their dream of building up Halifax on the backs of rural residents to imposing restrictions on Farmers to develop their own lands or even give lots to their sons and daughters. Leave our lands alone. We are doing quite nicely without you. We treasure our land and don't need a bunch of concrete dwellers telling us how to manage it. Regards, Glen MacDonald

McDonald, David S

From: Bill Farrow [REDACTED]
Sent: March 21, 2021 3:57 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: No to Bill 4

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I don't want people telling me what to do on my own land

Sent from my iPad

[REDACTED]

From: Anne Marie Dalton [REDACTED]
Sent: March 21, 2021 10:25 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: The bill

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This is a totally misleading presentation of the Bill. Nova Scotia and the planet need biodiversity protection. there is NOTHING in the Bill that is not already contained in other Acts permitting citizens of NS to protect all land. All of us who own land, no matter how small or large, are subject to governmental control. That is why we have an elected government to protect the rights of all against anyone of us. We all need a viable future for our children and grandchildren. WAKE UP folks.

From: [Blake Rafuse](#)
To: [Office of the Legislative Counsel](#)
Date: March 21, 2021 8:25:40 PM

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You guys are bunch of fucken idiots. You guy trying to control what people do on there own property for a big money grab

[REDACTED]

From: William Giusti [REDACTED]
Sent: March 21, 2021 11:34 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel

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I reject bill 4. I oaid for my land and pay taxes on it for me not so the government can control it. Yhis government control is going way to far and has to stop now

[REDACTED]

From: john leslie [REDACTED]
Sent: March 22, 2021 7:28 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4

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I bought My property, I pay taxes on My property. You did not, and You do not.
This bill is about control, and government over reach. Nothing More!
Don't expect re election for passing it, do expect constitutional challenges!
John
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

[REDACTED]

From: Terina Oakley [REDACTED]
Sent: March 22, 2021 8:16 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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Hello,

My name is Terina Oakley, I am a land owner in Halifax and I'm writing regarding Bill 4. I do not agree with this bill and I want my local representatives to do all they can to stop this bill. This bill is communist behaviour and concerns me deeply.

Terina oakley

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: Jeff Comeau [REDACTED]
Sent: March 22, 2021 7:53 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4

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I support this legislation, please pass it into law.

Jeff Comeau
Nova Scotia Resident

[REDACTED]

From: Crystal Inness [REDACTED]
Sent: March 22, 2021 12:07 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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To whom it concerns

I am writing to you today to express my concern around Bill 4 – The Biodiversity Act. Landowners in my area are afraid that this bill takes away their rights to manage their own land. I understand from private landowners in my area that the threat of big fines and lack of clear rules will force them shut down public access to their land.

That is a shame. I'm from Bedford and use a lot of private land to (hike, cycle, hunt, fish snowmobile and/or ATV). Landowners have been great, they let us use their land as long as we don't leave a mess. My fear is that Bill 4, will force my neighbours to restrict access to their land because this bill creates too big of a risk for them.

I also will be buying a family home with land very soon and want the freedom to use it to self-sustaining with gardening and solar panels.

Please stop this from becoming law so that we can continue to enjoy the land in this area. As a land user I oppose Bill 4.

Thank you,

Crystal Inness
[REDACTED]

McDonald, David S

From: Michael Whynot [REDACTED]
Sent: March 22, 2021 3:06 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4 Concerns

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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I am writing to let you know that I am very concerned about Bill 4. I own 11 acres in Lunenburg County. I use my land now for agriculture. I have plans to use it for hunting and fishing in the future. Nobody cares more about my land than I do. If Bill 4 passes, I am worried that government will try to tell me what I can or cannot do with my own land. My family has owned land for our entire lives, we pay our taxes and take care of our land.

I want you to know that I don't want government telling me what I can and can not do with my land. I don't want activists on my property looking for certain plants and animals, declaring they must be protected and shutting down activity. I let my neighbours on my property to enjoy themselves on trails or in the woods. Bill 4 will force me to limit all access on my land so that I don't risk having activists finding a reason to shut it down.

This Act is not voluntary – there are triggers in the Act that will allow a Minister, under pressure from activists, to issue an order limiting what I can and can't do on my land.

Bill 4 threatens the peaceful enjoyment of my land and must not become law.

Thank you,

Michael Whynot

[REDACTED]

From: patrick greek [REDACTED]
Sent: March 22, 2021 1:14 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill c4

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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Please cancel bill c4. True Canadian do not support the communist transformation of our government. Think of the people not of the profits

[REDACTED]

From: Charles <ccosman@[REDACTED]>
Sent: March 22, 2021 4:29 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Private landowner

** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE **

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I'm writing in total disagreement with this bill c-4 is absolutely disgusting as a landowner only to have anyone period tell me what I can or can't do with my investment ...do the public dictate how governments get to spend their investments..NOT ! So stay outand off of mine period !
Unexceptional..Distasteful..communist..Rape..
And Disgusting at the highest level ! 🙄🙄🙄
Sincerely yours

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: Paige Doyle [REDACTED]
Sent: March 22, 2021 10:56 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Stop Bill 4

** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE **

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To whom it may concern,

I write to you in fear of bill 4. As a new land owner in an area I have grown up in and majority of my family resides in - bill 4 raises major concerns. As a child my father, 3 sisters and I spent most of our time exploring our families lands, building tree houses, learning the outdoors, gardening and 4wheeling. This is a life I have loved and grew to aspire the same for my children, nieces and nephews and with the bill 4 proposal our children's future and families land in surrounding areas is threatened. With many unclear reasons as to why this bill is being purposed - giving too much power to activist, the government and politicians is very very disheartening when we have worked so hard for our property and land along with following the rules, paying the taxes on said land, applying for permits when required. Our land is our land - as you should feel the same about your land and property! We feel safe on our own land and will no longer when an activist is allowed to walk onto our private property whenever they feel without our acknowledgement. Not to mention how unsafe this is for a family with kids having strangers with access to "our" property. There needs to be clear details laid on why this bill makes sense because as of right now it does not and has no protection for land owners - it simply revokes our rights. It only makes it clear that the government is taking away our rights and freedoms of our own land. At any time an official can walk onto our property and give us a fine if they see fit? And up to \$500,000.00 ? How would one pay that - the only option would be for the government to take land from the owner to cover this and then the value of the land would only be at an amount set by the government - this is so unfair and injustice. We work hard and someday plan to leave something behind for our children, their children only for what - the government to take from them at their say so. This goes against our freedom and rights as Canadians and simply as land owners. Quite frankly it's a disgusting proposal with all of the gaps and loops holes that will only benefit the government, activist and politicians.. with no safety net for the land owners. The only benefit here is a selfish one with no respect to the rights and freedoms of current and future land owners.

Sincerely,

A very very concerned land owner & mother!

- Paige Doyle

Sent from my iPhone

McDonald, David S

From: Diane Wareham <dianewareham71@gmail.com>
Sent: March 22, 2021 11:25 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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Dear

I am writing to let you know that I am very concerned about Bill 4. I own 5.5 acres in Viewmount. I use my land now for growing organic fruits & vegetables. I have plans to use it for livestock in the future. Nobody cares more about my land than I do. If Bill 4 passes, I am worried that government will try to tell me what I can or cannot do. We pay our taxes and take care of our land.

As my MLA, I want you to know that I don't want government telling me what I can and can not do with my land. I don't want activists on my property looking for certain plants and animals, declaring they must be protected and shutting down activity. I let my neighbours on my property to enjoy themselves on trails or in the woods. Bill 4 will force me to limit all access on my land so that I don't risk having activists finding a reason to shut it down.

This Act is not voluntary – there are triggers in the Act that will allow a Minister, under pressure from activists, to issue an order limiting what I can and can't do on my land.

Bill 4 threatens the peaceful enjoyment of my land and must not become law.

Thank you,

Diane Wareham

McDonald, David S

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: March 23, 2021 10:40 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill #4 biodiversity act opposition

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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Dear legislators,

I am not in favor of bill #4 or any further legislation restricting what i can or cannot do with my land. The municipal government act currently gives municipalities enough constraints as it is. We have far too many government programs and not enough money to effectively run them so please do proceed with this bill!

Thank you,

Dan Dean

[REDACTED]

Think Big, start small, act now!



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T 613.410.6455
FORESTOWNERS.CA

March 22, 2021

Honourable Chuck Porter
Minister of Lands and Forestry
58 Gerrish Street
P.O. Box 3873
Windsor, NS
B0N 2T0

Via email: chuck@chuckporter.ca and legc.office@novascotia.ca

Subject: Bill 4 Undermines Private Forest Landowner Rights

Dear Minister Porter:

We are writing to you on behalf of all private forest landowners across Canada and in support of the Federation of Nova Scotia Woodland Owners. The Canadian Federation of Forest Owners (CFFO) is extremely concerned about Bill 4: To Conserve the Biodiversity of Nova Scotia. We believe it is contrary to the very foundation of the private forest landowner model: our independence.

Today more than 25 million hectares of Canada's managed forest land are privately owned; 80% of which is comprised of small, family-owned private woodlots. The role of CFFO and its members is to promote the economic and social interests of Canadian private forest landowners in sustainable management. We strive to balance the public interest and private property rights within a policy and incentive framework that fosters responsible stewardship.

No one cares more about the inter-generational and sustainable management of their lands than the thousands of private forest landowners and their families across Canada. Over 65 percent of Nova Scotia's land is privately owned, in fact in the province alone there are more than 40,000 landowners.

Bill 4 or its like does not exist anywhere else in Canada and with good reason – it disregards the fundamental rights of private land ownership, providing unwarranted access for groups with less scrupulous motives to access private lands forcing the landowners into a situation where they may have to restrict all access to their lands.

Private forest lands are already highly regulated. Our role as private forest landowners is to manage forests for the long-term, provide recreational opportunities where available, all the while providing timber to local processors and eking out enough income to keep our forest enterprises afloat. We trust your government shares these values; and if so, we urge you to take the time to consult with landowners to develop a more harmonious



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and respectful approach; and seek a better path forward that both respects our fundamental rights and supports landowners with adequate compensation when these rights are infringed.

In your recent news release ([March 16, 2021](#)), you specifically recognize that private woodlots are vital to maintaining healthy forests and a strong economy. Undermining our basic rights as private landowners will only serve to limit our ability to achieve these goals. You can learn more about CFFO and our members at [forestowners.ca](#).

We would like the opportunity to discuss our concerns with you in more detail, and at the very least, request that you not rush Bill 4. It's too important not to get it right.

Sincerely,

Christopher Lee
Managing Director
Canadian Federation of
Forest Owners

Domenico Iannidinardo
Chair, CFFO
Vice President, Forest & Logistics
and Chief Forester
Mosaic Forest Management

Susannah Banks
Vice Chair, CFFO
Manager
New Brunswick Federation of
Woodlot Owners

McDonald, David S

From: Bruce [REDACTED]
Sent: March 23, 2021 11:54 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4

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Good day to you,

I am looking to buy land, what I am not looking for is to have some one tell me what I can and can not do with the land that I do end up purchasing. Who in there right mind would vote for this Bill 4. As long as I protect the environment then I should be able to use the land that I buy the way I see fit. STOP BILL 4 form becoming law.

Thank you
Bruce Wiggins

[REDACTED]

From: mikemaynard [REDACTED]
Sent: March 22, 2021 9:15 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4

** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE **

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Bill 4 is very upsetting to land owners and I for one totally disagree with it. I hope my MLA Chuck Porter will work to squash this bill.

Thank you Mike Maynard
mikemaynard337@gmail.com

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: Michelle tingley [REDACTED]
Sent: March 23, 2021 6:03 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you today to express my concern around Bill 4 – The Biodiversity Act. Landowners in my area are afraid that this bill takes away their rights to manage their own land. I understand from private landowners in my area that the threat of big fines and lack of clear rules will force them shut down public access to their land. That is a shame. I'm from Sackville and use a lot of private land to (hike, cycle, hunt, fish snowmobile and/or ATV).

Landowners have been great, they let us use their land as long as we don't leave a mess. My fear is that Bill 4, will force my neighbours to restrict access to their land because this bill creates too big of a risk for them.

Please stop this from becoming law so that we can continue to enjoy the land in this area. As a land user I oppose Bill 4.

Thank you,

Michelle Garety

From: Shawn Beaulieu <cdnoffroadridersforveterans@gmail.com>
Sent: March 23, 2021 10:49 AM
To: barbadamsmla@gmail.com; info@patriciaarab.ca; keithbainmla@bellaliant.com; garyburrillmla@gmail.com; karencasey@eastlink.ca; claudiachendermla@gmail.com; ca@zachchurchill.com; keithcolwell@eastlink.ca; Comer, Brian; kendracoombesmla@gmail.com; Craig, Steve; office@antigonishmla.ca; lena@metlegediab.ca; Rafah@rafahdicostanzo.com; patdunmmla@bellaliant.com; markfurey.mla@eastlink.ca; leoglavinemla@leoglavine.ca; timhalmanmla@gmail.com; larryharrisonmla@gmail.com; lphines@ns.sympatico.ca; billhornemla@gmail.com; pictoueastamanda@gmail.com; tonyince@tonyincemla.ca; keith@irvingmla.ca; jessomeben@gmail.com; mlabradjohns@gmail.com; labi@labimla.ca; info@coltonleblanc.ca; susanleblancMLA@bellaliant.com; lunenburgmla@eastlink.ca; johnlohrmla@gmail.com; pictouwestmla@bellaliant.com; info@hughmackay.ca; mla@geoffmaclellan.ca; mlamacmaster@bellaliant.com; brendan@brendanmaguire.ca; Kim.maslandmla@gmail.com; stephenmcneil@ns.aliantzinc.ca; margaretmillermla@bellaliant.net; info@mombourquette.ca; info@kevinmurphy.ca; mla_assistant@alanapaon.com; Minister, Lands and Forestry; info@iainrankin.ca; kelly@kellyregan.ca; mlaritcey@bellaliant.com; lisarobertsmla@gmail.com; toryrushtonmla@bellaliant.com; mla@murrayryan.ca; mla@esmithmccrossinmla.com; info@claredigby.ca; Office of the Legislative Counsel
Cc: pam.lovelace@halifax.ca
Subject: Bill 4 The Biodiversity Act Concerns

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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I am writing to you today on behalf of the Canadian Veterans Off-Road Riders to express our concern around Bill 4 – The Biodiversity Act. Landowners in our beautiful province of Nova Scotia are afraid that this bill takes away their rights to manage their own land. We understand from private landowners in our province that the threat of big fines and lack of clear rules will force them to shut down public access to their land. That is a shame. Our Canadian Veterans Off-Road Riders group uses a lot of private land to ride ATV's, Side by Side, Dirt Bikes, and Jeeps with the landowner's permission as a form of therapeutic therapy for PTSD and Anxiety. The usage of these lands for off-road riding offers a way for veterans suffering with PTSD and Anxiety to relax and manage their trauma on the trails and provides the opportunity to connect with other veterans. Landowners have been great, they let us use their land as long as we don't leave a mess. Our fear is that Bill 4 will force our neighbours to restrict access to their land because this bill creates too big of a risk for them which in turn will remove our access to trails for PTSD and Anxiety therapeutic treatment.

Please stop this from becoming law so that we can continue to enjoy the land in our beautiful province. As a group land user, we strongly oppose Bill 4.

Feel free to contact us anytime to discuss our legitimate Bill 4 concerns.

--
Shawn Beaulieu Founder

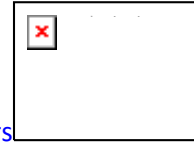
Canadian Veterans Off-Road Riders

1222 Westwood BLVD

Upper Tantallon, NS B3Z 0G6

Tel: (902) 456-8474

Email: cdnoffroadridersforveterans@gmail.com



Website: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/canadianveteransoffroadriders>

[REDACTED]

From: Amanda Loney [REDACTED]
Sent: March 23, 2021 7:47 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: My land my choice!

** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE **

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To whom it may concern,

I am a 36 year old mother, who worked full time, travelled 4 hour daily commute for 4 years while I put myself through university while raising my children, to become an RN. I worked so hard to accomplish this to achieve my dream of owning property and having a hobby farm. I have successfully accomplished my goal and own 35 acres, I do NOT support this bill at all, and will do everything I can to stand against it.

Sincerely a very determined Nova Scotian

Amanda Loney

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: alison [REDACTED]
Sent: March 23, 2021 4:09 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Oppose bill 4

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Creeping Government overreach has to be opposed.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <joshjedriak@[REDACTED]>
Sent: March 23, 2021 1:25 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel

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Not sure who this going to but looks like it may be going to government that trying to implement these fascist policies. This is exactly against what this country use to stand for which is freedom without being able to use your own property this is without a doubt against our rights of being free. Looks more like the government is just trying to push the people off there lands and not giving two f#\$% about there livelihood or there rights. Because with the people owning alot of the lands here the the government is missing out on all the resources themselves which is what they really want not to protect it only that they feel they no longer own enough of the land for there own greed. They have used up what they have now there after yours for a fraction of the cost initiating fines that are unreal so the lands will be taken by force when people cant afford to pay because they are already poor as f\$%^ here an need free heat in winter to survive an the government wants a piece. Using environmental protection bs to take it from you. We need real action or civil war on the tyrant in power hes become no different then what we fought and gace millions of lives against in ww2 ?? Open your f\$^&& eyes people but come on this should tell you everything we need these greedy politicians out an normal people in if this countries to go on for generation because they have not only bankrupted people over a scamdemic but now they are using it to take what they shouldn't have. This province is the least touched across the country so why such action. I'm fuming now an signing off and hope you all get this straight or many will be prepared to take action

From: Peter Taylor [REDACTED]
Sent: March 24, 2021 9:40 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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Dear Honourable Randy Delorey

I am writing to let you know that I am very concerned about Bill 4. I own 60 acres in Antigonish County. I use my land now for wood products, recreation. I have plans to use it for retirement income and recreation in the future. Nobody cares more about my land than I do. If Bill 4 passes, I am worried that government will try to tell me what I can or cannot do with my own land. My family has owned for xxx years, we pay our taxes and take care of our land. *As my MLA, I want you to know that I don't want government telling me what I can and can not do with my land. I don't want activists on my property looking for certain plants and animals, declaring they must be protected and shutting down activity. I let my neighbours on my property to enjoy themselves on trails or in the woods. Bill 4 will force me to limit all access on my land so that I don't risk having activists finding a reason to shut it down. This Act is not voluntary – there are triggers in the Act that will allow a Minister, under pressure from activists, to issue an order limiting what I can and can't do on my land. Bill 4 threatens the peaceful enjoyment of my land and must not become law.*

Thank you,
Peter Taylor

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

[REDACTED]

From: john forget [REDACTED]
Sent: March 24, 2021 4:00 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: bill 4

** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE **

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i hope this is a joke. trying to tell us landowners what we can do with our property. we work to buy nice things like land to turn them into our dreams

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: nickmartinello [REDACTED]
Sent: March 24, 2021 1:38 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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Hello,

I've been seeing a lot of conspiracy theorists try to take down this bill and it looks like they are being stoked my private interest and anti environmental groups. Can I be assured their efforts will not stop this bill from being passed?

Thanks,
Nick

[REDACTED]

From: s w [REDACTED]
Sent: March 24, 2021 10:33 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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I am an outdoor enthusiast and an employee with Nsha. Exploring nature in a respectful way is a big part of who I am. It contributes to all levels of my health as it does many others. This bill 4 is unethical in many ways. The bill is not clear and it is not empowering and educating citizens to respect land. Many citizens are seeking out nature to reduce stress and become healthier more so in the last year due to the impact of covid on their mental health. They might not be thinking about biodiversity as much as they should be at this time. Educational signs , advertising, and creating more fines around protecting our land would be ideal. However passing this bill will only put fear in members of Nova Scotia. This will impact Nova Scotians mental health to a higher degree thus impacting our healthcare system. Bill 4 is not ethical or supportive. I am asking that bill 4 be fully rejected even with the new amendments that they proposing (removing emergency orders).

Sincerely

Sarah witherell

[REDACTED]

From: Shirley Dixon [REDACTED]
Sent: March 24, 2021 9:06 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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To whom it May concern,

I am concerned about Bill 4. Local landowners are concerned that government rules will stop them from using their land as they feel fit. I use private land with permission from the owners to hike and ATV. I enjoy getting out in nature and this bill could stop people from getting out and enjoying the wilderness that we have here in Nova Scotia.

My grandson and I get out often to walk in the woods, collect pine cones, Autumn leaves and cattails. We love to explore nature.

Please stop bill 4.

Sincerely yours
Shirley Dixon

[REDACTED]

From: Gary Mullaly [REDACTED]
Sent: March 24, 2021 6:32 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4

** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE **

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I do not support bill 4 and would like to ensure my concerns and that of many others are heard.

Gary Mullaly
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Gary Cameron [REDACTED]
Sent: March 24, 2021 10:37 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Biodiversity

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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To Whom it My Concern:

Bill 4 is not about biodiversity it about government and activists control of land. The bill needs to be rewritten, not general statements leaving all kinds of loopholes in it. If rewritten the bill have it address biodiversity, not to use the bill as smoke and mirrors to establish laws than government is trying to sneak, on the coat tails of the bill. Please Say NO TO BILL 4 .

Sent from my iPad

[REDACTED]

From: Beverly Hawksworth [REDACTED]
Sent: March 24, 2021 10:53 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: ref:bill 4

** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE **

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my husband George Hawksworth, and myself, Beverly Hawksworth are against bill 4

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: March 24, 2021 10:56 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Ref:Bill 4

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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Please be advised that I, Tammy Hawksworth, am completely opposed to the passing of Bill 4 , on the biodiversity act.

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: Mike Oconnell [REDACTED]
Sent: March 24, 2021 8:53 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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My land my control. Period!!!!

[REDACTED]

From: valerie hayward [REDACTED]
Sent: March 24, 2021 7:58 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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I am a land owner and I pay my taxes so now the government wants to tell me what I can and can not do with my land the whole world is going crazy . The old saying is the rich get richer and the common hard worker get screwed this is my opinion .

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Blair maclean [REDACTED]
Sent: March 24, 2021 2:54 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking on links / Faites preuve de prudence si vous ouvrez une pièce jointe ou cliquez sur un lien

There is no good reason for you or anyone else to tell me what to do with my property. The rest of my family and owners of this property would agree that the existing laws are enough to deal with. For any of us to be forced to restrict us from developing this land is ridiculous. Stop this law, we need encouragement to develop this land not threats to sue us for something that we do.

McDonald, David S

From: Scott Salter [REDACTED]
Sent: March 25, 2021 7:42 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill #4

** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE **

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Do not support Bill #4. To think we vote in politician to serve the public, and this is what we get in return, a government who want to control our lands that we paid taxes on. This is dictatorship. This type of leadership has no place in our country. Why don't they clean up their own mess like the clear cutting, and giving away crown land to large corporations, the list goes on. I totally support the environment, and yes there should be laws to protect the environment that everyone can agree on, but we, the people, need to have input on these major decisions. I am sure there are better ways to approach this issue, than wanting to have control over everyone's freedom.

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: Danny Clifton [REDACTED]
Sent: March 25, 2021 11:24 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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We own a small property in ANTIGONISH and we are astounded that you, our elected politicians, have the audacity to attempt to force this legislation on taxpayers ! It's obvious to all of us that there are many important matters affecting us all that should have priority over this half-baked vision of activists who probably cannot define what it is they seek but apparently have found sympathy with this current government. If you have no shame and proceed with this undefinedlegislation, you should at least realize there will be a future election in which you will need support. Disappointed, thank you

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: robertyeo [REDACTED]
Sent: March 25, 2021 12:08 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4

** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE **

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Hello and good morning I'm writing this email as a concerned east hants resident.

As I'm a all around outdoorsman. Hunting biking fishing building camps etc etc etc growing my own vegetables and fresh fruit with NON GMOs With out paying the high tax prices the government gets away with today.

As a result of this COVID distraction they are getting away with a lot of bill passing with out any pressure from the local people. As a restricted card holder for fire arms they are trying to take away our right to hold certain fire arms in our possession. (I get it KINDA) but now this new bill with it starting out as a small bill is an understatement and it's only going to spread to deeper and wider openings to what we can and can't do on our OWNED land. If we own the land it's our land PERIOD. They should not be able to tell us what we can and can't not do on our own land. Cutting trees for fire wood hunting and planting vegetables etc etc etc

Now that being said how do we protest this and how do we fight it any and all information would be greatly appreciated. Thanks sincerely robert Yeo of east hants.

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: John Lewis [REDACTED]
Sent: March 25, 2021 11:02 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill4 is completely unfair to tax payers in NS and I do not understand why it is even on the table.

** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE **

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Sent from my iPad

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: March 25, 2021 5:35 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: opposed to bill 4

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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As private land owners, we are very concerned as to bill 4. This bill needs to be abolished immediately. We take pride in our land and what we choose to do with it. We harvest our own wood for winter heating purposes, we grow our own produce, we also have a few animals that live on our property. We consider ourselves very responsible land owners and very capable of maintaining our property. No one should have the ability to tell us what we can and cannot do with our property. Please do not allow this bill to pass. Thank you. Eddie Mac Millan

--

Sent from [EmailForOutlook](#) for mobile

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: March 25, 2021 9:55 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Stop Bill 4

** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE **

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Protect the rights of land owners and stop Bill 4. This is pure communism and shouldn't be even a consideration in a free democratic nation. The vagueness of this bill would empower radical people to become little Hitlers. Everything on the planet is bio diversity for Pete's sake.

STOP BILL 4 for the sake of citizen rights and freedoms.

Sent from my iPad

[REDACTED]

From: Barry Baker [REDACTED]
Sent: March 25, 2021 6:32 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Stop Bill4

** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE **

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Dear Legislator,

I'm writing to express my feelings against this Bill4. It seems to me, that it is not about the environment primarily, but about control being taken from landowners.

There are better ways to help landowners protect nature. Incentives would be a much better approach.

Thank you.

SherryBaker

Sent from my iPad

McDonald, David S

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: March 26, 2021 11:27 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Biadiversity #4

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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To Premier Rankin, Hugh McKay and Chuck Porter,
As an elder Nova Scotian I am extremely concerned for the viability of the environment of our province. This year, March 25th and spring is upon us, very little snow or rain has fallen.
The ground is already drying.
Decisions that are made now are critical to our future environment.
Trees hold water in the soil.
Water sustains life of all its forms; animal, and vegetable.
Cutting forests is detrimental to that process.
Burning the cut trees, destroying the natural habitat of the trees limits their ability to regenerate; then SELLING them to other countries should be criminal.
I do like the line "GROW A PAIR AND MEET WITH THAT YOUNG MAN".
Respect for nature and those that disagree with you should primary in a politician and any man/woman.
Sincerely,
Judy Parsons

[REDACTED]

From: Tufts Forestry Services <tuftsforestry@eastlink.ca>
Sent: March 26, 2021 3:53 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4 - The Biodiversity Act

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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Having reviewed Bill 4, The Biodiversity Act (in its original state) it strikes me as a very wide ranging and open ended piece of legislation. As an owner of several small woodlots in Colchester, Cumberland and Hants counties, that total approximately 900 acres, I am greatly concerned about the intent behind this Bill. My family has owned and managed these properties for forest product development for many years. As a forestry company we have also managed numerous properties for other small woodlot owners throughout the Province. We have done so while still respecting wildlife, the environment and biodiversity. It is clear to me that this Bill is laying the groundwork for more and more government interference in how we do that.

That this Bill was even conceived, let alone introduced, is extremely worrisome to me because it reveals a true lack of understanding by the present government of rural life. The urban/rural divide seems to be alive and well in Nova Scotia. For HRM residents, through their MLAs, and special interest groups, such as the Ecology Action Centre, to be dictating how we should manage our lands is a huge slap in the face to landowners. It implies that the less educated country folk don't know how to go about their business so us much smarter city folk will tell them how to do it.

The quote from the present Minister of Lands and Forestry about collaboration would be laughable if it were not so false and misleading. There was nothing "collaborative" about this piece of legislation. This just shows a complete lack of transparency and honesty. If the Liberal Party of Nova Scotia has more MLAs who think and act like that it is a sad day for rural residents.

In closing I will state that the continued efforts by the Ecology Action Centre, and its henchmen (the Liberal Party), to control and erode our rights and livelihoods as landowners have finally gone too far. We will not be caught napping again and will be ever vigilant in protecting our properties from the invading armies of the misguided few.

Paul Tufts, President

Tufts Forestry Services Ltd.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: March 26, 2021 11:46 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4 Biodiversity Act

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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I wish to express my disappointment and opposition to the proposed new Act.

For Seven generations we have lived in the same area of this Province in Cumberland County.

We continue to use the same land and forests, as did our previous generations, for recreation, farming and forest products.

Bill 4 will only discourage future generations from doing the same,

Not only will Food and Forestry products certainly suffer, but also and more important, there would be no future for our youth in Rural Nova Scotia, if this Act is passed.

Yours truly

Bruce Stewart

[REDACTED]

From: donald scallion [REDACTED]
Sent: March 26, 2021 12:14 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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Sent from my Galaxy

Definitely not on this bill 4 do not agree with this carbon tax taxing attacks

[REDACTED]

From: wayland allbright [REDACTED]
Sent: March 26, 2021 10:06 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: [PROBABLE-SPAM] Bill 4

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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FROM LANDOWNER

Dear _____

I am writing to let you know that I am very concerned about Bill 4. I own 1.4 acres in Digby County. I use my land now for ATVING. Fishing . I have plans to use it for ATVING. Fishing in the future. Nobody cares more about my land than I do. If Bill 4 passes, I am worried that government will try to tell me what I can or cannot do with my own land. My family has owned for xxx years, we pay our taxes and take care of our land.

As my MLA, I want you to know that I don't want government telling me what I can and can not do with my land. I don't want activists on my property looking for certain plants and animals, declaring they must be protected and shutting down activity. I let my neighbours on my property to enjoy themselves on trails or in the woods. Bill 4 will force me to limit all access on my land so that I don't risk having activists finding a reason to shut it down.

This Act is not voluntary – there are triggers in the Act that will allow a Minister, under pressure from activists, to issue an order limiting what I can and can't do on my land.

Bill 4 threatens the peaceful enjoyment of my land and must not become law.

Thank you, Wayland Allbright

From: Rebecca Ernst [REDACTED]
Sent: March 26, 2021 2:29 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Ref: stop Bill 4

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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Dear MLA's

I am writing to let you know that I am very concerned about Bill 4. I own acres in County. I use my land now for almost 20. I have plans to use it for 100 years in the future. Nobody cares more about my land than I do. If Bill 4 passes, I am worried that government will try to tell me what I can or cannot do with my own land. My family has owned for 20 years, we pay our taxes and take care of our land.

As my MLA, I want you to know that I don't want government telling me what I can and can not do with my land. I don't want activists on my property looking for certain plants and animals, declaring they must be protected and shutting down activity. I let my neighbours on my property to enjoy themselves on trails or in the woods. Bill 4 will force me to limit all access on my land so that I don't risk having activists finding a reason to shut it down.

This Act is not voluntary – there are triggers in the Act that will allow a Minister, under pressure from activists, to issue an order limiting what I can and can't do on my land.

*Bill 4 threatens the peaceful enjoyment of my land and must not become law.
Thank you,*

Regards
Rebecca Ernst

[REDACTED]

From: Mathew Buckler [REDACTED]
Sent: March 26, 2021 8:26 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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This bill is absolutely ridiculous and must be stopped its a violation of the land owners, that have owned their land for generations and generations

Biodiversity Act - Bill 4

Submission to Law Amendments Committee

Respectfully submitted by Karen Beazley, Halifax Regional Municipality, March 29, 2021

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Bill 4.

I am speaking for myself and also on the behalf of the Dalhousie University's School for Resource and Environmental Studies, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Biodiversity is a short form for the diversity of life (plants and animals) and the lands and waters on which they depend. In totality, it makes up the ecological system that supports life on earth (air, water, soil, plants, animals, pollinators, the bacteria that decomposed things after they die). Life on earth, including human life, is not possible without it. Without a healthy, biologically diverse system, there would be no economy, no education system, no health system, no mining, no forestry, no resources. A strong economy is dependent on sustainable ecosystems.

Globally, interdisciplinary panels of experts have determined that precipitous declines in biodiversity are threatening the biospheric integrity of the planet. Experts have determined that we are currently at risk of collapse, at or beyond the planetary limits of the earth's life supporting system. Life on earth is currently threatened. Immediate and transformative actions are needed to stem the declines. Biodiversity collapse and climate change are twin crises, representing emergencies for humanity.

Nova Scotia is not immune to this crisis and must be part of the solution. For example, as of 2017, 71 species were listed as endangered in Nova Scotia. Five of these are now globally extinct and three no longer exist in the province. Populations of many other species are in decline, yet not officially listed. Mature and old forests have been reduced to tiny fractions of what they used to be; wetlands and coastal ecosystems are similarly threatened. The primary cause is human developments and activities, and now accelerated by climate change and invasive species.

A Biodiversity Act – Bill 4 - is a crucial first step in addressing serious declines in biological diversity in Nova Scotia. It is needed to maintain and restore our ecological life support system. It is needed conserve species and ecosystems before they reach the point of being critically endangered status and thus expensive and near impossible to restore or recover.

The Biodiversity Act was first introduced and died on the order table, pending further refinement through public consultation. It has now been introduced for the second time, incorporating input from landowner consultations. It had important new changes, primarily that the government would implement a collaborative approach with landowners, require consent of private landowners before including their property in a biodiversity management zone, and provide compensation in exchange for landowners' efforts.

As of March 23, it is our understanding that the Premier seeks to institute changes to the Bill that rectify and clarify its intent. We support any necessary changes for clarification.

We also consider it is important to: 1) retain biodiversity emergency orders, which would grant the province the right to intervene on private land in emergency situations where the act was being contravened; 2) retain offences and fines; and 3) apply to all lands, not solely to Crown lands. Changes to these components would represent significant weakening of the act. Crown land comprises less than 30% of the province. Biodiversity cannot be retained and recovered by provisions that apply only to 30% of the land. These three elements represent provisions that are

crucial to achieving the objectives of the act, and thus changes should not be made to remove or restrict them to Crown lands.

Safeguarding biodiversity is crucial for all of humanity, for every citizen in Nova Scotia. It is for the broader public good. It is above and beyond private and corporate interests and private property rights. As with other public benefits, sometimes the public good needs to take precedence over personal and private interests. We recognize this in provisions in many other acts, where expropriations, exemptions and limitations are imposed to protect and provide for the public good. We do this in expropriating lands for building roads, in making decisions in environmental assessments, in allowing mining and associated explorations on private properties. We argue that there is no higher public aim than maintaining our life support system, and that some limitations on private rights and interests are warranted in doing so.

Accordingly, we acknowledge the importance of the Biodiversity Act and support the Bill in principle. We urge, however, that changes not extend beyond clarifications. Specifically, we urge that the three aforementioned crucial elements be retained and not removed.

Thank you.

Submitted by Dr. Michelle Adams, Director, and Prof. Karen Beazley, on behalf of the School for Resource and Environmental Studies, Dalhousie University

March 26, 2021, Halifax

[REDACTED]

From: Jim Currie [REDACTED]
Sent: March 27, 2021 7:14 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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Greetings

I wish to express my opposition to Bill 4 and for that matter any undefined legislation proposed that has broad implications to free voting people. I am the owner of a small building property and value my freedom to use the property for my enjoyment with an understanding that I do not impose on my neighbours or community or allow illegal activity on that land. I am a professional agriculturist with deep connections to farmers and farmland and know full well that private land owners are the best managers of the property they own. The larger corporations and land/ forestry users may use their land (owned or leased) more for profit but family owners value the sustainability of their land for future generations. Governments have a place to protect the public from misuse of land and resources. That is not what sustainable farmers and land owners need. They need encouragement to use their land properly, not threats and legislation. As a land user, fishing and hiking, I thank those pirate land owners who allow me access to areas they own, for my enjoyment. Bill 4 threatens that free will and permission. Stop this Bill.

Jim Currie

[REDACTED]

From: Darrell dorey [REDACTED]
Sent: March 27, 2021 8:26 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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As a land owner I want to protest interference by the government of Nova Scotia where my rights on my own land are concerned We have building codes to regulate building and quality of builds and as for cutting of timber and recreation are concerned that is the right of the land owner and not to be interfered with by government If environmentalist want to protect land let them purchase land either as individuals or as groups and then they can assert their own terms of conditions over that land Darrell Dorey Landowner

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: shawn goreham [REDACTED]
Sent: March 27, 2021 8:59 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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If the government implies this outlandish act I've heard every organized organization will take over provincial and federal buildings all across Canada. We didn't let the aboriginals harvest lobster there's seasons for a reason. How you think this is gonna go? Not well don't believe the ppl of Canada that has the higher learning is gonna sit back and let the government dictate and manipulate the situation all your doing is looking for a civil war against the government it's outlandish. legally guess Joel pink and Eddie Greenspan is our legal defence on this issue stop bill 4 or expect war because no land owner isn't gonna let anyone tell them what they can and cannot do.

Sent from my Bell Huawei device over Canada's largest network

[REDACTED]

From: Rupert Clark [REDACTED]
Sent: March 27, 2021 6:54 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill C4

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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I would like to express my disagreement with the premise of Bill C4. As an owner of a small acreage that I use for recreation I am very alarmed that the government is putting my rights to use my land and permit others to use it in jeopardy. Unless that fear is relieved with suitable amendments I would be very unhappy with the party that pushes it through. Thank goodness for elections and elected representatives that listen to their constituents. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Rupert Clark

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: March 27, 2021 10:35 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: My land

** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE **

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My grandfather bought this land one hundred years ago and it has been passed down for one generation to another and still be.

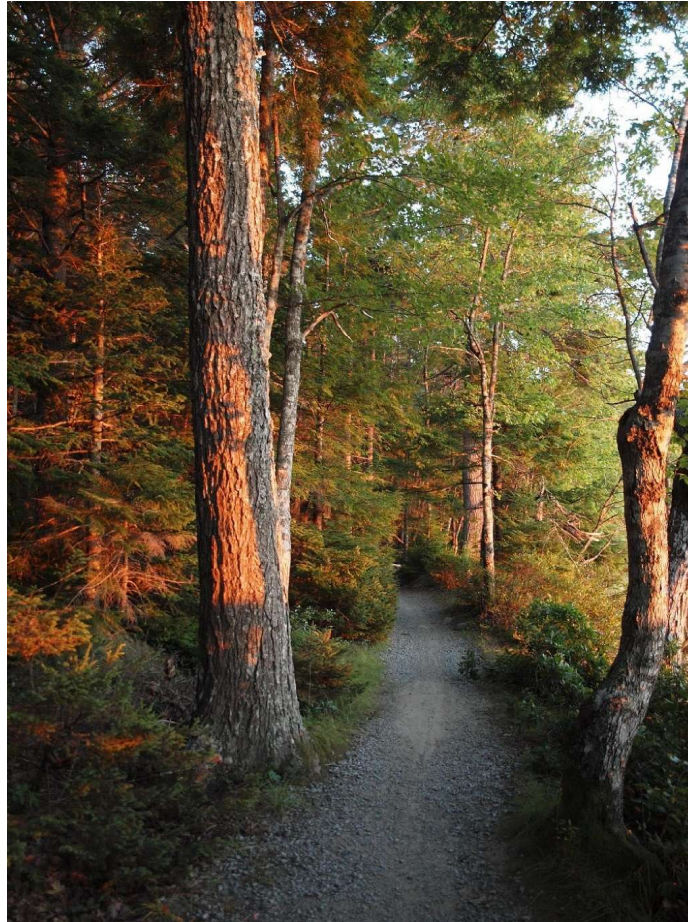
I

No person that has never owned land made a living and worked on their property is going to tell me what I'm going to do with my property!!!!!!

There for this bill needs to be stopped now.

Shawn Rawding

Sent from my iPhone



A Biodiversity Act for Nova Scotia

AN OVERVIEW AND KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

This document was developed by Ecology Action Centre and East Coast Environmental Law, with input from colleagues in the biodiversity conservation and environmental law communities

Released March 1, 2019



1.0 BACKGROUND

The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) serves as the foundation for biodiversity law and policy among its 196 parties. The Convention has been in force since 1993, with Canada as one of the first countries to ratify. A key objective of the CBD is the conservation of biological diversity. In response to the CBD, Canada prepared the *Canadian Biodiversity Strategy: Canada's Response to the Convention on Biological Diversity* in 1995,¹ followed by the 2016 publication of the *2020 Biodiversity Goals and Targets for Canada*.²

The *Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act (EGSPA)* was passed in Nova Scotia in 2007. Included among the 21 goals in the *EGSPA* was a commitment by the Province to adopt strategies to ensure the sustainability of the Province's natural capital in the areas of forestry, geological resources, parks, and biodiversity by the year 2010.³

To address the *EGSPA* strategy goal, the government of Nova Scotia engaged in a multi-year research and consultation process leading to publication of, *The Path We Share: A Natural Resources Strategy for Nova Scotia (2011-2020)* ('Natural Resources Strategy').⁴ Among many other biodiversity-related commitments, the Natural Resources Strategy includes a commitment to "implement new laws and update existing laws to support biodiversity."⁵ This Natural Resources Strategy commitment to action followed a key recommendation of the 2010 expert panel report to, "develop, adopt, and implement a biodiversity act."⁶

The 2016 five year progress report on the Natural Resources Strategy noted only that the department developed a legislation review plan and commenced reviews of several pieces of legislation in the winter of 2013. The progress report states that, "the review process is collaborative, engaging multiple stakeholders both internal and external to government."⁷

The McNeil Liberals committed to the creation of a Nova Scotia Biodiversity Act as part of their platform in the 2017 provincial election. The Premier's mandate letter to the Minister of Natural Resources (September 21, 2017) included "pass a Biodiversity Act" and "create a new Nova Scotia Biodiversity Council" as ministerial priorities.⁸

In January, 2018 the Department of Natural Resources (now Department of Lands and Forestry) held two invitation-only information sessions that included a slide presentation on the proposed Biodiversity Act. The sessions were short on detail on the proposed legislation or process for consultation. The presentation indicated, but did not confirm, that the Department would rely on the 2008 Natural Resources Strategy public consultations and 2013 consultations on legislation (referenced in the five year progress report) as the basis for public engagement on the proposed Act. Participants at the session clearly articulated that more information and engagement would be important in the development of the Act.⁹

On May 22, 2018 the Minister appointed four members to the Biodiversity Council. The appointees were Donna Hurlburt, Kate Sherren, Graham Forbes, and Peter Oram. Short

member biographies can be found on-line.¹⁰ The Council members were selected as experts to “help craft new legislation and recommend new actions to promote biodiversity in Nova Scotia.”¹¹ There is no public information available on the terms of reference for the Council, current status of the Council, meeting agendas or meeting minutes.

We anticipate that a Bill introducing the Biodiversity Act will be presented to the provincial legislature in spring 2019.

Ecology Action Centre and East Coast Environmental Law have been actively engaged in biodiversity-related work and issues for many years, and welcomed a commitment by government to create law and policy tools that will assist in biodiversity protection and conservation. In June 2018, our organizations completed a biodiversity legislative review and analysis that explored three overarching questions:

- What biodiversity legislation and policy currently exists?
- What are the key components of the legislation or policy?
- What concepts can be drawn from the legislation or policy that may be relevant to Nova Scotia?

The goal of the research and analysis was to provide tools and information to our organizations and others advocating for comprehensive biodiversity legislation in Nova Scotia, and the research was used to inform this brief. The purpose of this brief is to facilitate and inform discussion on the process for and content of a provincial biodiversity law in Nova Scotia.

2.0 CONSULTATION PROCESS

In our opinion, a law that is meant to address biodiversity loss and preservation in Nova Scotia must be inclusive and ambitious. Without adequate consultation and involvement of stakeholders, Mi’kmaw people and communities, the general public, and those working on the ground with biodiversity, the Act will not be understood or supported in a way that will lead to effective implementation.

Public consultation on the Natural Resources Strategy as the primary basis for engagement on the Biodiversity Act is not satisfactory. Not only has almost a decade passed since those consultations, but the nature and scope of the proposed legislation requires a more in-depth understanding of biodiversity conservation, and thus requires a broader range of expertise. There are many groups, organizations and individuals working on biodiversity conservation, in both terrestrial and aquatic environments, that must be consulted to provide an accurate basis for the current state of the province’s biodiversity and strategies for its conservation, protection and recovery.

Perhaps even more vital to the statute’s development is meaningful Mi’kmaw involvement. Mi’kmaw people, Traditional Knowledge, communities, stories, songs, teachings and beliefs are rich sources of information and values that are essential to

understanding biodiversity and how to protect and maintain biodiversity in Mi'kma'ki. We believe a Biodiversity Act that is not informed by Mi'kmaw knowledge and worldview would again fall short of these goals.

The diversity needed in the information collection and consultation phase should also be reflected in inclusive representation on the Biodiversity Council, and the process for selecting its members should be more transparent.

3.0 CONSIDERATIONS

Laws to protect the environment have evolved significantly over the past few decades. Early environmental law and policy focused on pollution abatement and control, along with basic environmental impact assessment processes for large, resource intensive projects. In more recent years, the law has been used increasingly to tackle complex and integrated environmental challenges including nature and wildlife conservation.

“Given the development and population pressures on both terrestrial and marine environments, there is an urgent need for improved legal frameworks for biodiversity conservation planning at the international, regional and national levels.”¹²

Despite a growing consensus among experts that biodiversity management regimes require careful and systematic planning that depends on a comprehensive framework of laws that define procedures, responsibilities and obligations, there are few examples of provincial or state biodiversity legislation to draw upon for the development of a Nova Scotia Biodiversity Act.¹³ There is no federal or provincial biodiversity legislation in Canada.

4.0 KEY ELEMENTS OF AN ACT

The CBD and Canada's Biodiversity Strategy provide core principles, goals and targets that can be reflected in provincial law, including the five strategic goals included in the Aichi Targets:¹⁴

- Strategic Goal A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society.
- Strategic Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use.
- Strategic Goal C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity.
- Strategic Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services.
- Strategic Goal E: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building.

Based on our research, experience, and discussion with biodiversity conservation practitioners, we have determined that the following key elements should be included in a provincial Biodiversity Act:

- **Purpose Section:** A purpose section that recognizes the respect for all living things and the inherent value of biodiversity, and incorporates a vision for biodiversity protection in Nova Scotia in line with national and international commitments. Key principles to be included in the purpose section: public participation, transparency, accountability, precautionary approach, intergenerational equity, ecosystem management, recognition of Aboriginal Rights, and the value of the Mi'kmaw perspective.
- **Clarification on Application of the Act:** Statute extends to terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.
- **Identify the Minister responsible** for the legislation and clarify roles and responsibilities of related departments.
- **Definitions:** including biological diversity or biodiversity that is in line with the CBD definitions and includes genetic diversity, species diversity and ecosystem diversity. Additional terms and definitions as required by the statute including genetic diversity, species diversity, ecosystem diversity, alien or invasive species, ecological community and the Mi'kmaw principle of *netukulimk* or *Msit No'kmaq*.
- **A Biodiversity Council** that is open and transparent, led by the responsible Ministers and includes other relevant Ministers, Indigenous organizations, NGOs, industry, and experts.
- **Time-bound goals:** Specific biodiversity outcomes, goals and targets with timelines that reflect Canada's biodiversity goals and targets.
- **Annual state of biodiversity report** on status of forest, wetland, aquatic, and coastal ecosystems, and specific species.
- **Mandatory coordinated inventorying and monitoring** necessary for assessing the state of biodiversity and evaluating progress toward meeting goals and outcomes.
- **Identify critical biodiversity areas** in the province **and develop integrated and coordinated biodiversity planning.** Incorporate climate change considerations into planning.
- **Mandate development of industry sustainability plans** that use an ecosystem-based approach. Incorporate climate change considerations, and cumulative effects.
- **Biodiversity education** added to curricula, as per 2020 biodiversity targets for Canada.
- **Prohibitions** with associated penalties to ensure habitat and species protection, including addressing invasive species.
- **Enforcement powers:** Designated enforcement officers with authorities for inspection and enforcement tools.
- **Mandatory public information registry:** must be accessible online, must be maintained in a timely manner, must include specific items.

- **Regulation making authority** to address specific concerns such as invasive species.
- **Include consequential amendments** to related statutes such as the *Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act* (new biodiversity goals), *Endangered Species Act* (broader habitat protection) or *Environment Act* (incorporating biodiversity assessments into EIA), etc.

It will also be important for government to **clarify the relationship of the Biodiversity Act** with other related statutes, such as:

- *Agriculture Marshlands Conservation Act*
- *Agricultural Weed Control Act*
- *Beaches Act*
- *Conservation Easements Act*
- *Crown Lands Act*
- *Environment Act*
- *Fisheries and Coastal Resources Act*
- *Forests Act*
- *Mineral Resources Act*
- *Special Places Protection Act*
- *Wilderness Areas Protection Act*
- *Wildlife Act*

5.0 CONCLUSION

There are two key concepts that should be taken from this document. First, these recommendations, although essential, are certainly non-exhaustive. There is substantial room for further knowledge development that could support innovative approaches to protect Nova Scotia's biodiversity through conservation agreements, accreditation, credits and offset schemes or conservations investment strategies. Second, the knowledge development essential to creating an effective Biodiversity Act for Nova Scotia, is impossible without the government changing its current consultation and engagement processes to better reflect the depth of knowledge available.

ENDNOTES

¹ Canadian Biodiversity Strategy: Canada's Response to the Convention on Biological Diversity, Biodiversity Convention Office Environment Canada, at p.2. Online: https://biodivcanada.chm-cbd.net/sites/biodivcanada/files/2017-12/CBS_e.pdf

² 2020 Biodiversity Goals & Targets for Canada, [Ottawa]: Environment and Climate Change Canada, c2016, at p.3. Online: http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2016/eccc/CW66-524-2016-eng.pdf

³ *Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act*, SNS 2007, c.7, s. 4(2)(y), as am.

⁴ The Path We Share: A Natural Resources Strategy for Nova Scotia (2011-2020).

⁵ The Path We Share: A Natural Resources Strategy for Nova Scotia (2011-2020) at 28.

⁶ Biodiversity: The Foundation for Environmental, Social and Economic Prosperity in Nova Scotia. A Panel of Expertise Report on Biodiversity to the Steering Panel, February 2010 at 24. Online: <https://novascotia.ca/natr/strategy2010/pdf/phase2-reports/Biodiversity.pdf>

⁷ The Path We Share: A Natural Resources Strategy for Nova Scotia 2011-2020 Five-year Progress Report Appendix 2, at p. 4. On-line: www.novascotia.ca/natr/strategy/pdf/PathWeShareBioDiversity.pdf

⁸ Premier Stephen McNeil, Mandate Letter to Minister of Natural Resources (2017). Online: www.novascotia.ca/exec_council/PDF/letters/2017MinDNR.pdf

⁹ The authors, Karen McKendry and Lisa Mitchell, participated in an information session held on January 24, 2018.

¹⁰ Government of Nova Scotia, News Release, Biodiversity council members appointed (May 28, 2018). Online: www.novascotia.ca/news/release/?id=20180522004

¹¹ *Ibid*

¹² Boer, Ben. Chapter 20 Biodiversity Planning Law International and national at p. 531

¹³ Boer, Ben. Chapter 20 Biodiversity Planning Law International and national at p. 535.

¹⁴ COP 10 Decision X/2. Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. Online: <https://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/?id=12268>. Interpretation and list of targets, online: <https://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/>

From: pam lawlor [REDACTED]
Sent: March 27, 2021 7:29 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel

Importance: High

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking on links / Faites preuve de prudence si vous ouvrez une pièce jointe ou cliquez sur un lien

Dear Mr. Kevin Murphy,

I am writing to let you know that I am very concerned about Bill 4. I own 104 acres in East Chezzetcook in Halifax County. I use my land now for many outdoor activities such as: hiking, picking berries, walking with my dog, swimming in the lake, camping & having small bon fires (when it is safe to do so) & many more things. I have plans to use it for more of the same outdoor activities & also new ones in the future. Nobody cares more about my land than I do & I have proven so by cleaning up large amounts of different types of illegally dumped garbage on my property for several years now with no help from the government (except for getting threatening letters from HRM threatening me with a \$10,000+ fine) or law enforcement & all at my own cost & back braking labor !!! If Bill 4 passes, I am very worried that government will try to tell me what I can or cannot do with my own land. I have owned this land for almost exactly 18 years, I take very good care of my land & love spending time there !!!

As my MLA, I want you to know that I don't want government telling me what I can and can not do with my land. I don't want activists on my property looking for certain plants and animals, declaring they must be protected and shutting down activity. I let my neighbours on my property to enjoy themselves on trails or in the woods. Bill 4 will force me to limit all access on my land so that I don't risk having activists finding a reason to shut it down.

This Act is not voluntary – there are triggers in the Act that will allow a Minister, under pressure from activists, to issue an order limiting what I can and can't do on own my land.

Bill 4 threatens the peaceful enjoyment of my land and must not become law!!!

Thank you,

Pamela Lawlor
[REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

TO THE LAW AMMENDMENTS COMMITTEE:

I would have preferred to make a live presentation on Bill 4, but our rural internet is often unreliable and would probably not be particularly satisfactory for something as important as this, so I will put my thoughts in writing and submit in that way. Unfortunately, the changes that were proposed on March 23 by the Minister have not been made available in time to consider them for this submission so have not been included in the thought involved in preparing this submission.

I am a woodlot owner/operator in Cumberland County. I left a teaching career when my father passed away 17 years ago, and I make my full time living harvesting forest products and managing my land in a very sustainable manner. My woodlot is considered one of the best in Nova Scotia by many. I have been recognized for my management practises by both the Department of Lands and Forestry (Provincial Woodlot Owner of the Year 2017) and by Forest Nova Scotia with a Certificate for meeting the conditions of a Forestry Stewardship audit in 2014.

I currently am a member of the Cumberland Forestry Advisory Council, the Federation of Nova Scotia Woodlot Owners and Operators, and Forest Nova Scotia. I get no assistance from any government agency for the business I operate and I contribute a large amount of tax revenue every year from my business, through GST/HST, property tax, and income tax. The transition fund set up by this government to help the forestry industry after the closing of Northern Pulp had no funding available for private operators such as myself, despite the loss of a significant market to us.

I first became aware of this bill in its previous form, Bill 116, and at that time I went to the public consultation hearings. I attended a meeting in Truro in 2019. The meeting was very controlled with questions regarding concerns answered with deflections rather than factual answers, and discussion groups directed and controlled by people that were obviously there for that purpose. We were promised that results of the discussions and the questionnaire we filled out would be sent to us but nobody ever received any information from this process. The next thing we heard was that consultations were held with an invited group that had to sign a non-disclosure agreement, causing a further amount of uneasiness regarding the purpose of this bill and the people behind the pushing through of this bill. It has been pulled back once already and was stopped last fall by the government proroguing of the legislature. It has been rushed through this time with no true opportunity for public scrutiny or for the opposition parties to try to make any suggestions toward improving the legislation.

Biodiversity was mentioned thirty-seven times in the executive summary of the Lahey Report and he put a great deal of emphasis on that in his recommendations. Although this was not the sole origin of Bill 4, it did give supporters of the act ammunition to further their agenda so to speak. The act is generally thought to be the work of the former deputy minister and some like minded people in that department and from the environmental movement in the province. The Lahey

report was originally intended to deal with Crown Land use but that, like this Act, Bill 4 have seemed to have become all encompassing and now looks like it is or was intended to control use of private land.

There is no question that biodiversity should be protected as much as possible in the province. Nobody disputes that. As much as people in Halifax shouldn't be destroying the land scape by putting rivers underground, paving large areas, spraying golf courses, or releasing sewage into the harbour, woodlot owners should try as best they can to work with nature and follow the many regulations that are already in place for them. The major problems that I see with this act are as follows, not including every point from each section for the purpose of brevity:

BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT ZONES

15 (1) The Minister, with the approval of the Governor in Council, may

- (a) establish and administer a biodiversity management zone on any land vested in Her Majesty in right of the Province;

BIODIVERSITY EMERGENCY ORDERS

23 Where there are reasonable and probable grounds to believe that a person has contravened or is about to contravene Section 38 in a manner that resulted in, or is likely to result in, serious adverse effects to biodiversity and for which corrective action is needed to prevent, control, eliminate or manage such serious adverse effects, the Minister or an employee of the Government authorized to act on behalf of the Minister may issue a biodiversity emergency order requiring the person to do any or all of the following:

- (a) cease engaging in any activity that resulted in or is likely to result in a contravention of Section 38;
- (b) comply with any instructions set out in the order;

OVER REACHING POWERS

31 (1) A conservation officer, together with such persons whose assistance the conservation officer considers necessary or advisable, may, for the purpose of ensuring compliance with this Act, the regulations, a biodiversity emergency order or the terms and conditions of a permit,

- (a) at any reasonable hour, enter and inspect any place other than a residence, make any examination and conduct any test that the conservation officer considers necessary or advisable;

PENALTIES THAT SEEM TOTALLY BEYOND REASON

44 (1) A person who contravenes this Act or the regulations is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction

- (a) for a first offence

- (i) in the case of an individual, to a fine of not more than \$500,000 or to imprisonment for a term of not more than six months, or to both, and

- (ii) in the case of a corporation, to a fine of not more than \$1,000,000; and

- (b) for a second or subsequent offence

- (i) in the case of an individual, to a fine of not more than \$1,000,000 or to imprisonment for a term of not more than six months, or to both, and

- (ii) in the case of a corporation, to a fine of not more than \$2,000,000.

So, in plain English, why are these sections and the related sections to those listed problematic?

1. The act gives totally unreasonable overreaching powers to a politician and anyone he deems an agent.
2. The Lahey report and recommendations from it were originally supposed to deal with crown lands.
3. The fines are totally out of proportion and as is the entire legislation, punitive in nature, totally out of step with the direction of the Canadian Justice system today.
4. This is not in the above points, but bill 4 has had no regulations released in the three years that the act has been on the table.

This act is driven by people self described as activists, protectors of the land, environmentalists, and so on. Many of these people have moved into the province and brought their beliefs with them to impose on rural Nova Scotians. They basically feel that they are more qualified to decide what a person may do with their land than the land owner, something they perpetuate by continuously being in the media, protesting, lobbying government, quoting vague science, etc. while the rest of us are trying to make a living. They sometimes make the government of the day feel that they are more numerous than in fact they are, something that has been driven home by the large outcry of taxpaying voters to their local politicians these few weeks since this bill has been reincarnated. These supporters of the act have tried to pin the opposition to the bill on industrial forestry with some very disingenuous advertising and have been shown to be way off base on that point by the large outcry from huge numbers of land owners of all stripes and from a number of other industries as well. As a land owner, I am very thankful that we have some support from these other organizations to dispel the many myths and fear mongering the well funded environmental movement have put forth.

The introduction of this act has served no positive purpose. There are a number of other acts already on the books that protect watercourses, wildlife, endangered species, and biodiversity. The fact that it has had no regulations introduced, and the fact that it has been by promoted by the people and groups that have promoted it, has caused tremendous concern and out right fear for tax paying land owners and people of all parts of rural life. It has served to further drive a wedge between the rural population and urban dwellers in the province, and will have nothing but negative consequences if it proceeds in its present form.

I already do ecological forestry on my own woodlot and am very careful with the protection of biodiversity, and the entire forest industry has already declared that they will follow the Lahey Report recommendations when the government defines them and enacts those

recommendations. This act, Bill 4, and the entire movement supporting is very obviously an attempt to cripple or halt the forest industry.

Landowners such as myself have been supporting many recreational activities for years, facing potential liabilities with no protection. We have put in access roads under the most stringent environmental regulations, with little or no financial support. These access roads are used by bird watchers, OHV clubs, hunters, hikers, etc. I have faced vandalism and theft a number of times. I allow Lands and Forestry to use my land and roads for their various wildlife and timber inventory surveys. If this Bill becomes law, I will obviously need to be defensive against vindictiveness by the supporters of this law and access to my roads and land will not be so freely given.

It would be my request to this government that the most logical step to take now would be to take this bill off the table and go through a proper consultation process with the public, not giving more weight to special interest groups, before reintroducing the bill. If that isn't done, at least make the bill only applicable to crown lands and try to reach out to land owners and educate them as to what they can do in a voluntary way, and not on a heavy-handed approach. The rural tax payers are not going to accept the passage of this very overreaching, very punitive piece of legislation and if the changes released last week are in fact part of the latest version, it really has no useful purpose!

Peter Spicer

Seven Gulches Forest Products

From: [Jamie Lutz](#)
To: [Office of the Legislative Counsel](#)
Subject: Bill #4
Date: March 28, 2021 10:19:23 AM

** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE **

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Hi there,

Just expressing my opinion on this absurd injustice.

I have spoken to many individuals in my area and we all agree this bill is unacceptable!

My ancestors, family, co-workers, etc have poured our blood sweat and tears in an effort to establish land we call our own, a place we can work our land(heat our homes/grow our food/ attempt to earn taxable funds and just plain have some peace from the everyday hustle and bustle of work and life in general).

We/our ancestors have all purchased this land with hard earned money under the understanding that if our taxes are paid and we follow regulations in place we have the right to work our land and enjoy our our lands acquired.

No one has the right to suddenly change the rules, have more say over my land or have access or influence over my land. Not any activist group or person of parliament.

My vote is NO to Bill 4!

With all of the rules and regulations and restrictions we are facing at this time I am very concerned with people's reaction to such an injustice if the bill were to pass, people can only be pushed so far and it's my assumption that they will not stand for this

Thanks for the opportunity to express my opinion

Tho the fact that this is even necessary and the bill was ever even considered concerns me greatly

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: Clifford Jardine [REDACTED]
Sent: March 28, 2021 9:54 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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To the law amendments

I am a Concerned property owner .

I feel as a landowner in NS I no longer own what I am taxed on and have a deed for MY Property !! Do we as Nova Scotians own our taxed lands ?

- Bill 4 directly targets NS private lands
- Bill 4 gives the Minister power to say what private landowners can and cannot do on their land
- Bill 4 authorizes exorbitant fines for private landowners
- Bill 4 opposes forestry, farming, ATV'ing and what ever whim the sitting liberal government feel they want to enact .

Cliff Jardine possible land owner or just a tax payer to fund taking my own property rights away.

[REDACTED]

From: Wayne Pelly [REDACTED]
Sent: March 28, 2021 9:40 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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Dear Mr. Delory

I am writing to let you know that I am very concerned about Bill 4. I own xx acres in xxxx County. I use my land now for xxxxx. I have plans to use it for xxxx in the future. Nobody cares more about my land than I do. If Bill 4 passes, I am worried that government will try to tell me what I can or cannot do with my own land. My family has owned for xxx years, we pay our taxes and take care of our land.

As my MLA, I want you to know that I don't want government telling me what I can and can not do with my land. I don't want activists on my property looking for certain plants and animals, declaring they must be protected and shutting down activity. I let my neighbours on my property to enjoy themselves on trails or in the woods. Bill 4 will force me to limit all access on my land so that I don't risk having activists finding a reason to shut it down.

This Act is not voluntary – there are triggers in the Act that will allow a Minister, under pressure from activists, to issue an order limiting what I can and can't do on my land.

Bill 4 threatens the peaceful enjoyment of my land and must not become law.

From: destiny white [REDACTED]
Sent: March 28, 2021 8:49 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

Exercice caution when opening attachments or clicking on links / Faites preuve de prudence si vous ouvrez une pièce jointe ou cliquez sur un lien

Sirs:

I am writing to let you know that I am very concerned about Bill 4. I own 4 acres in Lunenburg County. I use my land now for residential heating. I have plans to use it for growing food in the future. Nobody cares more about my land than I do. If Bill 4 passes, I am worried that government will try to tell me what I can or cannot do with my own land.

My family has owned for 125 years, we pay our taxes and take care of our land.

As my MLA, I want you to know that I don't want government telling me what I can and can not do with my land. I don't want activists on my property looking for certain plants and animals, declaring they must be protected and shutting down activity. I let my neighbours on my property to enjoy themselves on trails or in the woods. Bill 4 will force me to limit all access on my land so that I don't risk having activists finding a reason to shut it down.

This Act is not voluntary – there are triggers in the Act that will allow a Minister, under pressure from activists, to issue an order limiting what I can and can't do on my land.

Bill 4 threatens the peaceful enjoyment of my land and must not become law.

Thank you,

D.White

[REDACTED]

From: Christian Thibaudeau [REDACTED]
Sent: March 28, 2021 8:41 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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I am a private land owner with a management plan in place through Western Woodlot Owners association (or whatever the official name is). I have no plans to destroy the forest on my land. We want it to grow and be restored but to do so, we need to do a lot of selective cutting to give room for other trees to grow and we replant trees at our own expense without draining the public purse to do so.

My issue with Bill 4 is simple: the Bill as it is now, is invasive, has too much power over land owners basic rights and would most likely not survive day 1 in court.

The intent of this bill at it is written now might be good but the powers given to government agents in this bill are worrisome.

I, like many others, have so very little faith in the government or any of its agencies to manage this bill properly, therefore its already on it way to become a cluster-you know what. My two cent.

The emergency order in this bill gives the power to a bureaucrat to prevent me from going to a walk in my own wedded 52 acres backyard . They probably would not issue this order but they are given that power to do so if they choose.

A strong new Bill will not replace all the laws and legislations already in place the government seems incapable of implementing in the field.

I hope o am wrong in saying this but I strongly feel nobody cares in the house unless it affects a re-election and the bill will pass no matter what we say because that is what government do.

Hopefully, our government will for once have the courage to do what is right.

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: Arthur Baillie [REDACTED]
Sent: March 28, 2021 8:17 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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Im a private landowner in nova scotia and I take very good care of my land . I don't need anybody changing the way I keep my land i don't use chemicals on my fields I plant trees I select cut my firewood if we all take care of it (by ourselves) WE DONT NEED TO CHANGE THAT taking care of my land is my passionate hobby and I don't want to change that

[REDACTED]

From: Joe chiasson [REDACTED]
Sent: March 28, 2021 12:46 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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This bill on landowners rights. To tell them what they can and can't do with their land is an assault against the Canadian charter of rights and freedom. For this reason this bill must not pass in the NS Legislation.

[REDACTED]

From: Jamie Lewis [REDACTED]
Sent: March 28, 2021 11:46 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking on links / Faites preuve de prudence si vous ouvrez une pièce jointe ou cliquez sur un lien

Attention: Nova Scotia Law Amendments Committee,
Regarding Bill 4

I am writing to you regarding bill 4 and my family's strong opposition to this bill that targets disproportionately rural private landowners. The authority and power that the government would assume with this bill is too great and an affront to most hardworking Nova Scotians.

Since Premier Rankin has made it know that he intends to alter the bill as a result of countless concerns expressed by 1000's of Nova Scotians, the messaging from those in favour of this bill has proven that their aim all along is to dictate to private landowners what it is they can and can not do on their lands. This is unacceptable.

Along with my wife, three kids, my father and mother, we live on roughly 60 acres of land that we consider to be our pride and joy. We look at it as a legacy we hope to build for our children and grandchildren. We stock a small pond on the property so that we can enjoy beautiful spring Saturday mornings fishing within 500 meters of our home. We have developed paths, seating areas and have plans for other personalized touches as we work on this property. The thought that some random stranger could take issue with our actions and report us so as to have the government inspect our property without a warrant is absurd.

Bill 4 is a useless piece of legislation that should not in any way have authority on private land and quite frankly is a waste of taxpayers money to develop for Crown land, as all of the outcomes the government wants for biodiversity on Crown lands already have legislation in place so as to deliver the desired outcomes.

Please accept this email as a statement of complete opposition, from 7 proud private landowners in rural Nova Scotia.

Sincerely,

Jamie Lewis



Virus-free. www.avast.com

[REDACTED]

From: Cynthia E Cunningham [REDACTED]
Sent: March 28, 2021 11:22 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Stop Bill 4

** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE **

Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking on links / Faites preuve de prudence si vous ouvrez une pièce jointe ou cliquez sur un lien

We want to stop Bill 4 in Nova Scotia . We buy our land at outrages prices ,and pay our taxes . We are not a Commernist Country. We don't need the Gov. stealing our rights as land owners.We have enough problems in life raising our families ,without this Bill 4 .

Cynthia E.Cunningham Sent from my iPad

Nova Scotia Needs a Biodiversity Act

Lisa Mitchell, Executive Director & Senior Lawyer

March 17, 2021

Last week, Nova Scotia's Minister of Lands and Forestry introduced Bill 4—[a proposed Biodiversity Act for Nova Scotia](#)—in the provincial House of Assembly.

East Coast Environmental Law has been advocating for the creation of a Nova Scotian *Biodiversity Act* for some time, and we were pleased to see the Bill tabled. Others have responded with concern, and we are aware of several contentions now being voiced in opposition to the Bill.

In hopes of addressing concerns that are now being raised, this blog post explores why we need a *Biodiversity Act* in Nova Scotia and offers East Coast Environmental Law's interpretation of what Bill 4 will and will not do if passed.

The Global Biodiversity Crisis

Earth's biodiversity has been diminishing rapidly over the past several decades, drawing significant public concern on global, national, and local levels and inspiring international and domestic governmental efforts to address the problem.

In May 2019, the United Nations ("UN") released the [IPBES Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services](#). This is the most comprehensive report of its kind ever completed and the first such intergovernmental report. The report includes contributions from 145 expert authors from 50 countries, with input from another 310 authors, and it draws (for the first time ever on this scale) on Indigenous and local knowledge to address issues relevant to Indigenous peoples and local communities. The report assesses changes in human societies over the past half century to produce a comprehensive understanding of the relationship between human economic development and its impacts on nature, and it also projects possible scenarios for the coming decades. The report's message is clear:

- 1,000,000 species worldwide are threatened with extinction;
- nature is declining globally at rates unprecedented in human history;
- the current global response is insufficient;
- transformative changes are needed to restore and protect nature; and
- opposition from vested interests can be overcome for the public good.

In its [2020 Living Planet Report](#), the World Wildlife Fund ("WWF") documents an overall decline of 68% in the population sizes of monitored mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles and fish between 1970 and 2016. Like the *IPBES Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*, the *Living Planet Report* demonstrates that global biodiversity loss is occurring at a frighteningly rapid pace, but it also concludes that we can reverse this trend if we work collectively to take decisive action now.

As I write this, the world is still grappling with the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic that entered our lives in 2020. Millions of confirmed cases worldwide have resulted in hundreds of thousands of human deaths, and those numbers may continue to rise for some time. In July 2020, the UN Environment Programme published a report entitled "[Preventing the next pandemic – Zoonotic diseases and how to break the chain of transmission](#)". The report makes it clear that global pandemics such as the one we are now experiencing are connected to biodiversity loss, the loss of wildlife species' natural habitats, and the environmental consequences of anthropogenic (human-caused) climate change. Global scientists are telling us clearly that biodiversity and human health are intimately interconnected. When we fail to protect wildlife species and preserve biodiversity, we diminish the resilience of the ecological webs that sustain us all.

Creating Law to Stem the Flow of Biodiversity Loss in Canada

Biodiversity in Nova Scotia is likewise under threat. The laws in place in Nova Scotia today provide some basic protection to species that exist in protected areas and to species that are legally defined as endangered or threatened, but more is needed to address the threats to biodiversity.

In March 2019, Nova Scotia's Minister of Lands and Forestry stepped up for biodiversity when he introduced Bill 116—an earlier version of the proposed Biodiversity Act that Minister Chuck Porter tabled last week. Ultimately, Bill 116 was not passed that winter because the government decided that further consultation with stakeholders and the public would help to ensure that the Bill responded suitably to Nova Scotia's needs. The Department of Lands and Forestry hosted five public engagement sessions on the proposed *Biodiversity Act* in the summer of 2019. I participated in one of them, and it included a facilitated discussion with representatives from a broad range of sectors, including forestry, agriculture, private woodlot ownership, and environmental organizations.

Like much legislation, the proposed *Biodiversity Act* seeks to balance a number of interests in order to meet a pressing need. Personally, I wish that the proposed Act took a stronger stance on several key issues; however, my colleagues and I at East Coast Environmental Law and the Ecology Action Centre agree with the Minister that Bill 4 has the potential, if passed, to contribute positively to biodiversity protection in Nova Scotia.

What Will the Proposed Biodiversity Act Do, If Passed?

To address concerns that have been raised since the proposed *Biodiversity Act* was tabled last week, I would like to address a few key aspects of the Bill that appear to be inspiring some opposition.

Biodiversity Management Zones [Sections 15 to 17]

If passed, the proposed *Biodiversity Act* would give the Minister of Lands and Forestry power to establish Biodiversity Management Zones ("BMZs"). That power would not be unlimited, as I explain in more detail below.

The proposed Act defines a BMZ as "a specified area of land managed, for a period of time, for the purpose of supporting the conservation or sustainable use of specified biodiversity values". Imagine, for example, that a specific area of land was known to support a rare or particularly fragile ecosystem and that certain activities could harm the ecosystem and jeopardize the biodiversity values identified onsite. Under the proposed Act, the Governor in Council (Cabinet) will have power to make regulations that restrict those certain activities in BMZs in order to protect and preserve valuable biodiversity.

When the proposed Act's approach to BMZs is considered in full and in context, it is clear that the Bill offers an innovative and context-specific approach to biodiversity protection. Under the proposed Act, BMZs and their corresponding restrictions can be spatially and temporally dynamic. For example, a BMZ could be implemented

in a particular area that is known to be nesting habitat for a species of bird for certain months of the year. During the rest of the year, when the bird is elsewhere, the BMZ status could be inactive, enabling other uses of the area to occur.

Importantly, whereas section 15 of the proposed Act allows the Minister to create a BMZ on Crown land with the approval of Cabinet, section 16 allows the Minister to enter into an agreement with private landowners to create BMZs on privately-owned land. In other words, the Bill does not allow the Minister to create BMZs on privately-owned land without landowners' consent.

Bill 4 is not an *Expropriation Act*—Nova Scotia already has one of those. I understand that confusion about the Bill may be causing private landowners to fear that it will give the government power to interfere with their privately-owned lands, but the reality is that the Bill only allows government to create a BMZ on privately-owned lands in circumstances where private landowners have given their consent. Additionally, under the proposed *Biodiversity Act*, if a landowner agrees to have a BMZ on their land, their agreement with the government may include compensation.

Notably, the power given to the Minister by the proposed *Biodiversity Act* is more limited than the power the Minister has under Nova Scotia's *Endangered Species Act* (passed in 1998) to designate privately-owned lands as core habitats for endangered or threatened species and prohibit activities that could harm the species in question. Under the *Endangered Species Act*, the Minister can designate core habitat areas on privately-owned lands without landowners' consent. That law has been in place for more than 20 years in Nova Scotia and has not yet eroded property owners' rights.

Given the requirement for landowner consent, in my view there is no foundation for concerns that the Minister's power to create BMZs will infringe private landowners' rights.

Biodiversity Emergency Orders [Sections 23 to 29]

If passed, the proposed *Biodiversity Act* would give the Minister of Lands and Forestry and government employees authorized to act on the Minister's behalf the power to issue a Biodiversity Emergency Order to prevent, control, manage, or eliminate serious adverse effects to biodiversity.

A Biodiversity Emergency Order could require a person to cease engaging in unlawful and harmful activity and take action to remedy harm that has already been caused or is being caused. Importantly, a Biodiversity Emergency Order can only be used by the Minister or an enforcement officer when:

- (1) they have reasonable and probable grounds to believe that there is a violation of section 38 of the Act; and
- (2) the violation is likely to lead to serious adverse effects to biodiversity; and
- (3) corrective action is needed to deal with the serious adverse effects; and
- (4) they have considered all of criteria set out in section 24 of the Act.

A Biodiversity Emergency Order can only be issued when all of the criteria listed above have been met.

Section 38 of the Act prohibits specific activities such as killing specified species, introducing specified species, and destroying specified habitat without a permit. The Biodiversity Emergency Order only applies to section 38, and no prohibitions in section 38 will be in place until regulations under the Act are created. Before he can create those regulations, the Minister must "consult with the public, including landowners and stakeholders" (section 54(2), emphasis added).

The Minister cannot create regulations without first engaging in public consultation.

Essentially, the Biodiversity Emergency Order only exists to enable the Minister to step in when an illegal action will result in a serious adverse effect to biodiversity and there are no other reasonable options. It is the Ministers' duty to act in the public interest, and there are significant limitations on his authority which ensure that his authority can only be exercised when all necessary criteria have been met.

In my opinion, the proposed power to issue Biodiversity Emergency Orders is not a threat to private landowners: it is a tool to prevent a serious loss of or impact to biodiversity caused by unlawful and harmful activities.

Fines

The fine structure set out in the proposed *Biodiversity Act* is essentially the same as the fine structure set out in the provincial *Endangered Species Act* (passed in 1998) and the provincial *Environment Act* (passed in 1995).

The proposed *Biodiversity Act* sets out maximum fines. Any actual fine would be determined by a judge, based on a number of factors and following a conviction. A judge could not set a fine higher than what the statute allows, but the judge would have full discretion to set a lower fine, and in fact the Act does not set a minimum fine. Historically, the fines set by Nova Scotian courts for comparable offences have been very low.

Conclusion

I have lived in rural Nova Scotia for much of my life, and I know that most Nova Scotian landowners act as stewards of the land and waters that support the biodiversity that they enjoy or in some cases draw their living from. However, the numbers are unequivocal: the world is experiencing a global biodiversity crisis, and the crisis does not stop at the Nova Scotian border. It is our human actions that are causing the decline, and it will be our actions that will make a difference.

The proposed *Biodiversity Act* provides opportunities to enhance education, collaboration, and tools that could facilitate biodiversity conservation in Nova Scotia. In light of the staggering trend of global biodiversity loss, we need this law in Nova Scotia to address the crisis effectively.

Passing Bill 4 will not cause the overnight creation of BMZs across the Nova Scotian landscape, nor will it allow the government to unilaterally restrict the activities of private property owners anywhere in the province. If passed, the proposed *Biodiversity Act* will give the government tools it needs to begin conversations and actions that are desperately needed to conserve biodiversity in Nova Scotia.

[To read this blog post on the East Coast Environmental Law website, click here.](#)

	Biodiversity Act, 2021	Endangered Species Act, 1998
Example of key prohibitions	38 Prohibits consuming, using, taking, killing of prescribed species; prohibits the introduction, release etc. of prescribed species, prohibits activities that result in the loss of an at-risk habitat or ecosystem prescribed by the regulations, without a permit.	13 Prohibits killing, injuring, etc. an endangered or threatened species; destroying, disturbing or interfering with a dwelling including the nest or den; contravening any regulation made with respect to a core habitat, without a permit.
Do prohibitions apply to private land?	Yes, but the prohibitions are not operational until regulations are passed.	Yes, the prohibitions apply to designated species regardless of location.
Can private land be designated under the Act?	16 Only with agreement of the landowner - Biodiversity Management Zone.	16 Yes, the Minister can designate core habitat on private land without landowner consent if the Minister is satisfied that the core habitat of the endangered or threatened species on public lands is not sufficient to meet the recovery needs of the species.
Example of order-making power	23 The Minister may issue a Biodiversity Emergency Orders when there are reasonable and probable grounds that a violation of section 38 will occur, and specific criteria are met.	18 The Minister may issue an order where the Minister believes it is necessary to control, restrict or prohibit activities that may adversely affect the endangered or threatened species or the core habitat of the species.
Fines	44 Individual, to a fine of not more than \$500,000; Corporation, to a fine of not more than \$1,000,000.	22 Corporation, to a fine not exceeding one million dollars; individual, to a fine not exceeding five hundred thousand dollars.
Do regulations require public review?	53, 54 Yes.	No

Example of key prohibitions

Environment Act, 1995

67 Prohibits the release of any substance into the environment that causes or may cause and adverse effect, without an approval.

Wilderness Areas Protection Act, 1998

17 Prohibits specified activities in a Wilderness Area without a license or permit, including industrial activities, farming, camping, etc. unless permitted.

Do prohibitions apply to private land?

Yes, the prohibitions apply to the environment, regardless of location

No, prohibitions only apply in a designated Wilderness Area.

Can private land be designated under the Act?

87 Yes, where the Minister is of the opinion that a substance that may cause, is causing or has caused an adverse effect is present in an area of the environment, the Minister may designate that area of the environment as a contaminated site.

Only with agreement of the landowner. 14 The Minister shall promote the voluntary establishment of privately owned lands as new wilderness areas or as parts of designated wilderness areas.

Example of order-making power

125 The Minister can issue orders where there are reasonable and probable grounds to believe that the Act is being violated including an order requiring the owner of a site to remediate it, an order to stop an activity, shut down an operation, etc. Specific criteria must be met.

22 The Minister may issue an order temporarily restricting or prohibiting activities in a wilderness area to protect property, the environment or the health or safety of humans.

Fines

159 Person to a fine of not less than one thousand dollars and not more than one million dollars.

30 Corporation, to a fine not exceeding one million dollars; individual, to a fine not exceeding five hundred thousand dollars

Do regulations require public review?

26 Yes

39(4) Yes

From: Heather Fraser [REDACTED]
Sent: March 28, 2021 11:38 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4 - Amendment meeting input

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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To whom it may concern, related to Nova Scotia Bill 4,

I own my land, a 7th generation property in my family. Why should someone in government now be allowed to tell me what I can and cannot do on my own property?

Why does the government have time and funding to spend on this bill? Everyone I know has lost their family doctor, if they had one at all, in the past year. Nothing is being done about this but time and expenses can be spent on high paying officials and lawyers to discuss and document how to take more rights away from Nova Scotians who want to live in a democratic country and province. Land ownership should mean we have the right to take care of our own properties and use those properties to support our businesses, families and recreation.

There are already Acts (i.e. Endangered Species), and many more rules and regulations that guide landowners and citizens to be good stewards of all properties. We do not need more, and more will not improve our province.

Our provincial legislation needs to be boasting our economy, especially our rural economy, this bill does not appear to support that strategy for the province.

Rural Nova Scotians are an important and vital element of our society and have the respect and conscience to maintain their properties and livelihood from those properties.

Government resources and time should be spent on the many health care issues of which having a family doctor is high on the list. The lack of balance in priority that we see between this bill and our critical provincial issues for our people is creating a lack of trust in our government and its stewardship to its elected population.

This is not the type of representation or action I expect from my personal property or income tax dollars.

What does this government believe our land owners and citizens are doing that is so wrong to cause this bill to be brought forward?

Kim C. Fraser

Heather

[REDACTED]

From: aaron kearley [REDACTED]
Sent: March 28, 2021 3:55 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill4

** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE **

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Hi I am a land owner. I do not support this bill 4!! I don't want activists and politicians telling me what I can do with my land. It my land. I pay my taxes on my land. I paid for my own land. I want this bill 4 shut down. This has to be the most ridiculous and controlling thing I have seen this government do or even consider it. It would change how we live. Stop bill 4!!!!

Sent from my iPhone

From: Carolyn Pineau [REDACTED]
Sent: March 28, 2021 2:26 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Biodiversity Act (Bill 4)

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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Good morning Committee Members:

I was extremely disappointed to learn of the recent changes made to the proposed Biodiversity Act (Bill 4). However, I believe the Act is still extremely important and it must be passed!

*** Biodiversity refers to the variety of living species on Earth, including plants, animals, bacteria and fungi. All of the Earth's species work together to survive and maintain their ecosystems. For example, the grass in pastures feeds cattle. Cattle then produce manure that returns nutrients to the soil, which helps to grow more grass. This manure can also be used to fertilize cropland. Many species provide important benefits to humans, including food, clothing, and medicine. Much of the Earth's biodiversity, however, is in jeopardy due to human consumption and other activities that disturb and even destroy ecosystems. Pollution, climate change, and population growth are all threats to biodiversity. These threats have caused an unprecedented rise in the rate of species extinction. Some scientists estimate that half of all species on Earth will be wiped out within the next century. Conservation efforts are necessary to preserve biodiversity and protect endangered species and their habitats.**

The proposed Biodiversity Act comprises exactly the conservation efforts recommended above! It will commit the province to work on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in a proactive, collaborative way. It was created in partnership with Lands & Forestry, stakeholders like EAC and ECELAW, and members of the public.

Apparently this Act is the first of its kind in North America! Unfortunately, our provincial governments have a poor track record when it comes to taking care of our environment. But I believe that implementing this Act would demonstrate that our current government has finally gotten serious about taking these issues seriously! We could be a leader and a great example for other provincial and federal governments to show what can be done when citizens and leaders work together. With the severe threat of the climate change disaster looming over us, it is crucial to implement this Act as soon as possible!

**Sincerely,
Carolyn Pineau
Cole Harbour, NS**

*** www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/biodiversity/**

[REDACTED]

From: Martha Brown [REDACTED]
Sent: March 28, 2021 6:39 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: BIODIVERSITY BILL 4

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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Please stop this bill completely and in its entirety. The bill is harmful and smacks of trying - once again - to appease the elite groups.

Only those who own land in Nova Scotia should have any say over the land use.

Believe me, when I tell you the river behind our house was so full of MUD after the rain - a direct result of Crown Land management. Does anyone EVER check on the contractors?

God Lord. Give your head a shake.

--

Sent from Gmail Mobile

[REDACTED]

From: tamara muir [REDACTED]
Sent: March 28, 2021 7:36 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: No more regulations

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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We do not need anymore regulations. People should be able to do what they want on their own land .

March 25, 2021

Dear Mr. Porter

I am writing to you as Minister of Lands and Forests, to let you know that I am very concerned about Bill 4. I own 250 acres in Colchester County. I use my land now for firewood and lumber for my sawmill. If Bill 4 passes, I am worried that government will try to tell me what I can or cannot do with my own land. My family has owned a woodlot for 40 years, we pay our taxes and take care of our land.

I want you to know that I don't want government telling me what I can and can not do with my land. I don't want activists on my property looking for certain plants and animals, declaring they must be protected and shutting down activity. I let my neighbours on my property to enjoy themselves on trails or in the woods. Bill 24 will force me to limit all access on my land so that I don't risk having activists finding a reason to shut it down.

This act is not voluntary - there are triggers in the Act that will allow a Minister, under pressure from activists, to issue an order limiting what I can or cannot do with my land.

Bill 4 threatens the peaceful enjoyment of my land and must not become law.

Thank you,

Gordon McCabe,

Gordon McCabe

private woodlot owner

REPRINTED WITH CHANGES RECOMMENDED TO THE
LAW AMENDMENTS COMMITTEE
BY THE MINISTER OF LANDS AND FORESTRY

**An Act to Provide for the Conservation
and Sustainable Use
of Biodiversity in Nova Scotia**

WHEREAS biodiversity is essential to healthy and productive ecosystems and is therefore essential to human well-being;

AND WHEREAS the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is interconnected with sustainable prosperity, a healthy environment, vibrant thriving communities, innovation and a strong competitive economy;

AND WHEREAS biodiversity and its sustainable uses are valued by Nova Scotians as important parts of the environment, heritage and economy of Nova Scotia;

AND WHEREAS an ecosystem approach that involves the integrated management of land, water and living organisms, promotes conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in consideration of the precautionary principle and recognizes that humans are an integral part of ecosystems will strengthen land-use planning and natural resources management;

AND WHEREAS programs, policies and protective measures for biodiversity enable the Government of Nova Scotia to maintain and restore the diversity of genes, species and ecosystems, ensuring healthy ecosystems and the provision of ecosystem goods and services;

AND WHEREAS the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is a complex, cross-cutting imperative that necessitates co-operation and collaboration among all sectors and is therefore a shared responsibility of all levels of government, non-government organizations, the private sector, land trusts and owners of private land, the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia and all other Nova Scotians;

AND WHEREAS biodiversity must be managed for the benefit of present and future generations, which is in keeping with the Mi'kmaq concept of *Netukulimk*, defined by the Mi'kmaq as the use of the natural bounty provided by the Creator for the self-support and well-being of the individual and the community by achieving adequate standards of community nutrition and economic well-being without jeopardizing the integrity, diversity or productivity of the environment;

AND WHEREAS a number of Government departments and legislation such as the *Endangered Species Act*, the *Environment Act*, the *Wilderness Areas Protection Act* and the *Wildlife Act* play key roles in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in Nova Scotia but do not address all aspects of conservation and sustainable use;

AND WHEREAS Nova Scotia is committed to a complete, holistic, integrated legislative framework that provides for all aspects of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;

THEREFORE be it enacted by the Governor and Assembly as follows:

1 This Act may be cited as the *Biodiversity Act*.

2 The purpose of this Act is to provide for the stewardship, conservation, sustainable use and governance of biodiversity in the Province, as part of an integrated framework of legislation, while recognizing

(a) biodiversity has inherent value;

(b) conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is a responsibility shared by all Nova Scotians;

(c) the importance of reducing the direct pressures on biodiversity and promoting restoration and sustainable use; and

(d) the importance of implementation of this Act through participatory planning, education, sharing of information and capacity building.

3 In this Act,

~~(a) “adverse effect” means an effect that impairs or damages the conservation status of an organism, species, ecosystem or habitat or causes changes that negatively affects aspects of human health or safety;~~

(ab) “biodiversity” means

(i) living organisms from all sources,

(ii) the ecological complexes of which living organisms are a part, including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems, and

(iii) the variability and interdependence among living organisms and ecological complexes,

and includes genetic diversity, diversity within and between species and diversity of ecosystems and ecological processes;

~~(e) “biodiversity emergency order” means an order issued under Section 23;~~

(bd) “biodiversity management zone” means a specified area of land managed, for a period of time, for the purpose of supporting the conservation or sustainable use of specified biodiversity values;

~~(e) “camp” means a temporary residence other than a principal place of residence and includes a tent, vehicle or vessel that may be used for the purpose of a shelter or temporary residence;~~

(cf) “conservation” means the maintenance or sustainable use of the Earth’s resources in a manner that maintains biodiversity and the evolutionary and other processes that result in biodiversity;

~~(g) “conservation officer” means a conservation officer appointed under this Act, the Crown Lands Act, the Forests Act or the Wildlife Act;~~

(dh) “Department” means the Department of Lands and Forestry;

(~~gk~~) “ecosystem” means a dynamic complex of plant, animal or micro-organisms and their non-living environment, interacting as a functional unit;

(~~h~~) “ecosystem goods and services” means the natural goods provided by ecosystems, their role in regulating and supporting natural processes and the cultural and economic benefits they provide;

(~~gk~~) “habitat” means land, water or air where a plant, animal or other organism lives;

(~~h~~) “land” includes land covered by water;

(~~im~~) “Minister” means the Minister of Lands and Forestry;

(~~jn~~) “organism” means an active, infective or dormant stage, or form of life, of any biological entity capable of reproducing itself, or of transferring genetic material, and includes plants, animals, fungi, mycoplasmas, micro-organisms, viruses and viroids, cell and tissue cultures, germinal cells, seeds, pollen and spores;

~~(e) “permit” means written approval for an activity under this Act;~~

(~~kp~~) “private land” means lands situate in the Province that are not owned or held by or on behalf of Her Majesty in right of the Province or Canada;

(~~lq~~) “species” means a plant species, animal species or other species of organism, and includes one or more populations of a species, the eggs, larvae or other forms of developmental life of a species and any part of an individual of a species, but does not include a domesticated species;

(~~m#~~) “sustainable use” means, with respect to biodiversity, the use of biodiversity in a way and at a rate that does not lead to the long-term decline of biodiversity, thereby maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations.

4 This Act binds Her Majesty in right of the Province.

5 The Department is the lead department with respect to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and shall work with the other Government departments within their related mandates to achieve the purpose of this Act.

6 (1) The Minister shall initiate a review of this Act within five years of it coming into force and make a written report respecting the review available to the public.

(2) In conducting the review of this Act, the Minister shall consult with the public, including landowners and stakeholders.

MINISTERIAL POWERS AND DUTIES

~~76~~ The Minister is responsible for the supervision and management of this Act.

~~87~~ The Minister may

(a) develop, co-ordinate, adopt and implement policies, standards, guidelines and programs for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; including for

- (i) the conservation and management of ecosystems and habitats,
 - (ii) the conservation and sustainable use of wild species,
 - (iii) the protection of human health, safety and property as it relates to biodiversity,
 - (iv) the observation, prevention and management of wildlife pathogens and diseases and other pathogens and diseases that impact on biodiversity,
 - (v) the management of organisms under human control, including wildlife as defined by the *Wildlife Act*,
 - (vi) the prevention and management of invasive or alien species, and
 - (vii) incentives for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, including a compensation framework for biodiversity conservation activities and a framework for the valuation of, and exchange or payment for, ecological goods and services;
- (b) promote the purpose of this Act through proactive approaches ~~to prevent violations of this Act and the regulations~~ through co-operation, communication, education, incentives and partnerships;
- (c) undertake, promote or recommend measures to allow for public co-operation in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;
- (d) consult and co-ordinate with other departments and agencies of the Province with respect to their work and efforts relating to any matter involving the conservation or sustainable use of biodiversity;
- (e) co-ordinate and implement biodiversity policies and programs in co-operation with the Government of Canada, the government of a province of Canada or a municipality, or with an agency of any of the foregoing;
- ~~(f) implement policies and programs for the observation, prevention and management of wildlife pathogens and diseases and other pathogens or diseases that impact on biodiversity;~~
- ~~(g) develop and implement policies, guidelines and standards for the management of organisms under human control, including wildlife as defined by the *Wildlife Act*;~~
- (fh) establish or adopt goals and targets for biodiversity and indicators of ecosystem health and integrity; and
- ~~(i) goals and targets for biodiversity and indicators of ecosystem health and integrity, and~~
 - ~~(ii) guidelines, objectives and standards for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;~~
- (g†) provide funding and other support for biodiversity-related research, investigation and monitoring, as well as land securement and stewardship.;
- ~~(j) implement policies and programs to establish incentives for conservation and sustainable use, and a framework for the valuation of, and exchange or payment for, ecological goods and services; and~~
- ~~(k) take any measure the Minister considers necessary for~~

- ~~(i) the protection of human health, safety and property as it relates to biodiversity;~~
- ~~(ii) the observation, prevention and management of wildlife pathogens and diseases, and other pathogens or diseases that impact on biodiversity; or~~
- ~~(iii) the conservation of biodiversity in the Province.~~

98 Subject to Section 6 of the *Public Service Act*, the Minister may enter into an agreement with any person, including the Government of Canada, the government of a province of Canada or a municipality, or with an agency of any of the foregoing, for any purpose related to this Act or the regulations, including an agreement respecting

- (a) the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;
- (b) co-operation between federal, provincial or municipal governments, or agencies thereof, for the enforcement of laws respecting the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;
- (c) the conduct of biodiversity or ecological investigations;
- (d) the development and implementation of collaborative programs for the classification, inventory and assessment of biodiversity;
- (e) the development and implementation of collaborative, informational, educational or training programs respecting biodiversity; and
- (f) research, programs and measures respecting the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

109 The Minister may cause studies to be undertaken and cause research to be carried out to

- (a) identify, evaluate, monitor and study biodiversity and any threats to biodiversity;
- (b) provide for inventories of biodiversity;
- (c) assess the impacts of land-use and resource-use activities on biodiversity;
- (d) establish priorities for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity based on consistent evaluation protocols for biodiversity throughout the Province;
- (e) promote the long-term productivity, diversity and functioning of ecosystems;
- (f) assess the value of biodiversity and ecosystem goods and services;
- (g) investigate and establish methods to
 - (i) incorporate the value of biodiversity and ecosystem goods and services into decision-making, and
 - (ii) manage the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;
- (h) establish priorities and methods for restoring degraded or impaired biodiversity; and
- (i) investigate any other matter associated with the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

~~11~~¹⁰ The Minister may

- (a) retain experts with expertise in the areas of natural science, traditional knowledge, conservation and sustainable uses to report to the Minister with respect to
 - (i) any matters relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity,
 - (ii) any policies, programs or other matters under the administration of the Minister under this Act, and
 - (iii) any other matters the Minister, in the Minister's sole discretion, considers advisable to refer to an expert;
- (b) specify the functions that experts are to perform, including the seeking of input from the public, and the manner and period in which those functions are to be performed; and
- (c) provide for the remuneration and defraying of expenses to experts.

~~12~~¹¹ For the purpose of promoting greater public awareness, understanding and shared stewardship of biodiversity, the Minister may

- (a) undertake educational programs respecting the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;
- (b) undertake or provide for environmental, educational and natural history interpretation at biodiversity management zones;
- (c) work with private agencies and individuals to achieve the objects of this Act; and
- (d) encourage an exchange of information respecting biodiversity between the public and private sectors.

~~13~~¹² The Minister shall establish and maintain such classification, inventory, status-assessment and monitoring programs as the Minister considers necessary or advisable to assess the state of biodiversity in the Province and to provide information to inform the responsible conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

~~14~~¹³ (1) The Minister shall establish mechanisms to share data relating to biodiversity.

(2) The Minister shall begin reporting to the public on the state of the Province's biodiversity within three years of this Act coming into force and shall give regular updates no later than every five years thereafter.

~~14 (1) The Minister may, in accordance with the regulations, issue a permit containing terms and conditions that authorizes a person to engage in an activity that is prescribed by the regulations as a prohibited activity if, in the Minister's opinion, the activity is not likely to cause an adverse effect.~~

~~(2) The Minister may, in accordance with the regulations, issue a permit containing terms and conditions that authorizes a person to engage in an activity in a manner contrary to a restriction prescribed by the regulations if, in the Minister's opinion, the activity is not likely to cause an adverse effect.~~

~~(3) The Minister may, in accordance with the regulations, issue a permit under subsection (1) or (2) if, in the Minister's opinion, the activity or manner of engaging in the activity may cause an adverse effect, only if the activity is necessary to satisfy a compelling public interest.~~

~~(4) When issuing a permit under this Section, the Minister may limit the area to which and the times during which the authorization applies.~~

~~(5) The Minister may vary, cancel, suspend or reinstate any permit issued under this Section.~~

BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT ZONES

- 15 (1) The Minister, with the approval of the Governor in Council, may
- (a) establish and administer a biodiversity management zone on any land vested in Her Majesty in right of the Province;
 - (b) alter the boundaries of a biodiversity management zone established under clause (a); and
 - (c) declare any area established under clause (a) to no longer be a biodiversity management zone.
- (2) The Governor in Council may make regulations respecting biodiversity management zones established under this Section, including regulations
- (a) setting out or altering the boundaries of a biodiversity management zone;
 - (b) respecting the management and conservation actions to be undertaken in a biodiversity management zone;
 - (c) respecting ~~restricted or prohibited~~ activities necessary to fulfil the objectives of a biodiversity management zone;
 - (d) respecting monitoring and reporting activities to be undertaken in a biodiversity management zone;
 - (e) respecting the period for which a biodiversity management zone is established, ~~or periods in which any restrictions or prohibitions are in effect or not in effect in a biodiversity management zone;~~
 - (f) respecting any other matter relating to a biodiversity management zone.
- (3) The exercise by the Governor in Council of the authority contained in subsection (2) is a regulation within the meaning of the *Regulations Act*.

16 (1) The Minister may establish a biodiversity management zone on private land with the consent of the owner of the private land by entering into an agreement with the owner.

(2) An agreement entered into pursuant to subsection (1) may contain such terms and conditions as the Minister and the owner of the private land agree to, which may include

- (a) boundaries of the biodiversity management zone;

- (b) specifying management and conservation actions to be undertaken in the biodiversity management zone;
- (c) specifying ~~restricted or prohibited~~ activities necessary to fulfil the objectives of the biodiversity management zone;
- (d) specifying monitoring and reporting activities to be undertaken in the biodiversity management zone;
- (e) specifying the period for which the biodiversity management zone is established, ~~or periods in which any restrictions or prohibitions are in effect or not in effect in the biodiversity management zone~~;
- (f) outlining compensation to be provided to the owner of the private land ~~in accordance with subsection 52(2)~~; and
- (g) providing for any other matter relating to the biodiversity management zone.

17 Where the Minister establishes a biodiversity management zone pursuant to Section 15 or 16, the Minister shall publish a notice containing a description of the biodiversity management zone in the Royal Gazette and on the Department website, and may circulate the notice in any other manner the Minister considers appropriate.

~~CONSERVATION OFFICERS AND OTHER PERSONNEL~~

~~18 (1) Conservation officers and other persons required for the administration and enforcement of this Act and the regulations must be appointed in accordance with the *Civil Service Act*.~~

~~(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), the Minister may utilize, upon such terms and conditions as the Minister considers appropriate, the services of such persons as the Minister considers necessary for the efficient carrying out of the purpose of this Act and the regulations.~~

~~(3) A conservation officer, upon being appointed, shall swear the oath or make the affirmation prescribed by the regulations.~~

~~(4) A copy of an identification card purporting to be signed by the Minister is, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, proof in any court of law that the individual named on the card is a conservation officer.~~

~~(5) No person, except a conservation officer, shall use or wear a uniform, badge or identification card identifying the person as a conservation officer.~~

~~(6) Subject to such terms and conditions as the Minister considers appropriate, the Minister may, in writing, exempt a conservation officer from any provision of this Act or the regulations while the conservation officer is carrying out an investigation or other enforcement activity under this Act or the regulations.~~

~~19~~ A conservation officer may administer an oath or affirmation to any person swearing or affirming a declaration or affidavit required for the purpose of enforcing this Act and the regulations.

~~20~~ A conservation officer, in carrying out the conservation officer's duties under this Act, has all the powers, authority and immunities of a peace officer under the *Criminal Code* (Canada) and may exercise them in any part of the Province.

~~21~~ A person acting in the discharge of the person's duties under this Act or the regulations, and anyone assisting the person, may enter upon any land without being liable for trespass, but no person is exempted from liability for actual damage caused by such entry.

~~22~~ The protection afforded by this Act or any other enactment to a conservation officer extends to any person while and to the extent that the person is in the course of assisting a conservation officer under the conservation officer's direction.

BIODIVERSITY EMERGENCY ORDERS

~~23~~ Where there are reasonable and probable grounds to believe that a person has contravened or is about to contravene Section 38 in a manner that resulted in, or is likely to result in, serious adverse effects to biodiversity and for which corrective action is needed to prevent, control, eliminate or manage such serious adverse effects, the Minister or an employee of the Government authorized to act on behalf of the Minister may issue a biodiversity emergency order requiring the person to do any or all of the following:

- ~~(a)~~ cease engaging in any activity that resulted in or is likely to result in a contravention of Section 38;
- ~~(b)~~ comply with any instructions set out in the order;
- ~~(c)~~ do all things and take all steps necessary to comply with Section 38 and to remedy any injury or damage, or to control, eliminate or manage any adverse effects to biodiversity, caused by a contravention of Section 38.

~~24~~ In deciding whether to issue a biodiversity emergency order, the Minister or employee of the Government authorized to act on behalf of the Minister shall consider the following, if such information is available:

- ~~(a)~~ whether the potential or actual adverse effects are serious, with consideration of the magnitude, geographic extent, timing, frequency, duration and reversibility of the adverse effects;
- ~~(b)~~ when the activity occurred that resulted in or was likely to result in serious adverse effects;
- ~~(c)~~ the conservation status of any organism, species, ecosystem or habitat affected or potentially affected by the contravention; and
- ~~(d)~~ the potential public health or safety risks associated with the contravention.

~~25~~ A biodiversity emergency order

~~(a) may contain such terms and conditions as the person issuing the order considers appropriate to prevent, mitigate or remedy any serious adverse effects to biodiversity that resulted or may result from the contravention of Section 38; and~~

~~(b) must include~~

~~(i) the name and address of the person to whom the order is issued;~~

~~(ii) a description of the nature and location of the contravention and the serious adverse effects that have resulted or are likely to result from the contravention;~~

~~(iii) a description of the activities that must cease or be modified or that will be permitted only under certain circumstances or conditions; and~~

~~(iv) notice that an appeal of the order may be requested in accordance with Section 28, if the order is made by an employee of the Government, or Section 29, if the order is made by the Minister.~~

~~26 (1) A biodiversity emergency order issued under Section 23 must be in writing and given or served on the person to whom it is issued.~~

~~(2) A biodiversity emergency order is deemed to be sufficiently given or served~~

~~(a) upon a copy being personally given to or served on the person to whom it is issued;~~

~~(b) upon a copy being sent by electronic means to the person to whom it is issued and an acknowledgement or receipt being received;~~

~~(c) five days after a copy is sent by registered mail addressed to the person to whom it is issued at the last known address for that person; or~~

~~(d) in the case of a registered owner of privately owned land, five days after a copy is sent by mail to the address for the registered owner shown on the last revised assessment roll.~~

~~27 (1) When a biodiversity emergency order is given to or served on a person to whom it is issued, that person shall comply with the order forthwith or, where a period for compliance is specified in the order, within the time period specified.~~

~~(2) Where the person to whom a biodiversity emergency order is issued does not comply with the order or part thereof, the Minister may take whatever action the Minister considers necessary to carry out the terms of the order.~~

~~28 (1) A person to whom a biodiversity emergency order is issued by an employee of the Government authorized to act on behalf of the Minister may, within 30 days of the date of the order, appeal to the Minister by notice in writing.~~

~~(2) A notice of appeal must be in a form prescribed by the Minister, state concisely the reasons for the appeal and be accompanied by the fee, if any, prescribed by the Minister.~~

~~(3) The Minister shall notify the appellant, in writing, of the decision within 30 days of receipt of the notice of appeal.~~

~~(4) The Minister may dismiss the appeal, revoke the biodiversity emergency order or issue a new order in substitution for the order issued by the employee of the Government authorized to act on behalf of the Minister.~~

~~(5) The Minister may, in writing, delegate any power conferred or duty imposed on the Minister by this Section to any employee of the Government on such terms and conditions as the Minister considers appropriate.~~

~~29 (1) A person to whom a biodiversity emergency order is issued by the Minister or who is aggrieved by a decision of the Minister made under Section 28 may, within 30 days of the date of the order or decision, appeal the order or decision to the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia.~~

~~(2) An appeal under subsection (1) must be dismissed by the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia if the sole ground for relief established on the appeal is a defect in form or a technical irregularity.~~

ENFORCEMENT

~~30 For the purpose of this Act and the regulations,~~

~~(a) a person is in possession of a thing when it is in that person's personal possession or when that person knowingly~~

~~(i) has it in the actual possession or custody of another person, or~~

~~(ii) has it in any place, whether or not that place belongs to or is occupied by that person, for the use or benefit of that person or of another person; and~~

~~(b) when one of two or more persons, with the knowledge and consent of the rest of those persons has anything in that person's custody or possession, it is in the possession of each of them.~~

~~31 (1) A conservation officer, together with such persons whose assistance the conservation officer considers necessary or advisable, may, for the purpose of ensuring compliance with this Act, the regulations, a biodiversity emergency order or the terms and conditions of a permit,~~

~~(a) at any reasonable hour, enter and inspect any place other than a residence, make any examination and conduct any test that the conservation officer considers necessary or advisable;~~

~~(b) require the production of records or documents in the possession of any person that relate to the conservation, use, damage or destruction of biodiversity in the Province and remove them temporarily for the purpose of making copies;~~

~~(c) take photographs or make recordings of the place, any thing in the place or any activity occurring in the place with respect to biodiversity;~~

~~(d) make any examination, investigation or inquiry that the conservation officer considers necessary to ascertain whether there is compliance with this Act, the regulations, a biodiversity emergency order or the terms and conditions of a permit issued under this Act;~~

~~(e) inspect, take samples and conduct tests of samples, including tests in which a sample is destroyed, of any thing being produced, used or found in the place~~

~~and be responsible therefor, except for a sample that has been destroyed, until the thing is returned to the place;~~

~~(f) examine any person with respect to matters under this Act;~~

~~(g) enter upon any land for the purpose of performing the conservation officer's duties and functions under this Act; and~~

~~(h) exercise any other powers as may be necessary or incidental to the carrying out of the conservation officer's duties and functions under this Act.~~

~~(2) A conservation officer may, for the purpose of any investigation, inquiry or examination made by the conservation officer under this Act, summon an individual to give evidence, and administer an oath or affirmation to an individual.~~

~~**32 (1)** A conservation officer who has reasonable and probable grounds to believe an organism or any other item is being held or possessed in contravention of this Act or the regulations or is being held or possessed in a manner that contravenes this Act or the regulations may, with a search warrant or telewarrant,~~

~~(a) enter and search any residence, camp or other structure; and~~

~~(b) seize such organisms or other items as may be found being held or possessed in contravention of the regulations or being held or possessed in a manner that contravenes this Act or the regulations.~~

~~(2) A conservation officer may not enter a residence except with the consent of the person in charge or control of the residence or under the authority of a warrant or telewarrant.~~

~~**33** A conservation officer who has reasonable and probable grounds to believe an organism or any other item is being held or possessed in contravention of this Act or the regulations or is being held or possessed in a manner that contravenes this Act or the regulations may, without a warrant,~~

~~(a) direct that a vehicle, vessel or conveyance be stopped or moved, by the route and in the manner that the officer may specify, to a place specified by the officer where an inspection may be carried out and the officer may, for a reasonable time, detain a vehicle, vessel or conveyance;~~

~~(b) enter and search any vehicle, vessel or conveyance for evidence of a contravention of this Act or the regulations; and~~

~~(c) open and inspect any box, bag, parcel, barrel or container for evidence of a contravention of this Act or the regulations.~~

~~**34** A conservation officer may seize anything, including an organism, that the conservation officer believes on reasonable and probable grounds may afford evidence of a contravention of this Act or the regulations.~~

~~**35 (1)** Subject to subsection (2), a conservation officer who has seized an item, including an organism, under this Act may detain the item pending disposition of the prosecution.~~

~~(2) A conservation officer may~~

~~(a) return the seized property to the person from whom it was seized or to whom it belongs before it is dealt with in the courts;~~

~~(b) in the case of a dead organism, dispose of the organism or any part of it that is not required as evidence, in accordance with the direction of the Minister; or~~

~~(c) in the case of a live organism, keep it or place it in the care of another person, euthanize it, release it into the wild or otherwise arrange for its disposition, in accordance with the direction of the Minister.~~

~~(3) Where an organism is delivered to another person, the Minister may assess the cost of keeping it to the owner or person in possession, or both, and that cost must be paid on demand by the person assessed and is recoverable by the Minister as a debt due to Her Majesty in right of the Province.~~

~~36 (1) Where any property has been seized under this Act, a person, other than the person accused of an offence resulting in the seizure or the person in whose possession the property was when seized, who claims an interest in the property as an owner, mortgagee, lien holder or holder of any like interest may, within 60 days after the seizure, apply by notice in writing to a judge of the Provincial Court for an order declaring that the person's interest is not affected by the seizure.~~

~~(2) The judge shall fix a day not less than 30 days after the date of the filing of the application for the hearing of the application.~~

~~(3) The claimant shall serve notice of the application and of the hearing upon the Minister at least 15 days before the day fixed for the hearing.~~

~~(4) Where, upon the hearing of an application, the judge is satisfied that~~

~~(a) the claimant is innocent of any complicity in the offence resulting in the seizure or of any collusion with the offender in relation to the offence; and~~

~~(b) the claimant exercised all reasonable care, with respect to the person permitted to obtain the possession of the property, to satisfy the claimant that it was not likely to be used contrary to this Act or the regulations or, where a mortgagee or lien holder, the claimant exercised reasonable care with respect to the mortgagor or person giving the lien;~~

~~the claimant is entitled to an order that the claimant's interest is not affected by the seizure.~~

~~(5) The claimant or the Minister may appeal to the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal from an order of a judge made under this Section and the appeal must be asserted, heard and decided according to the ordinary procedure governing appeals to that Court.~~

~~37 (1) Subject to subsection (2), where a person charged with an offence under this Act is acquitted, any property seized from that person must be returned.~~

~~(2) Where the seized property is an organism, the Minister may return the item if it has not perished or pay such value for the item as the Minister considers appropriate.~~

~~(3) Where anything is seized under this Act and the owner is unknown or cannot be ascertained or cannot be found within three months of the seizure, the Minister may direct that the thing be disposed of in any manner the Minister considers appropriate.~~

OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

- ~~38 (1) No person shall engage in an activity that results in~~
- ~~(a) the consumption, utilization, harvesting, taking or killing of a species in excess of that prescribed by the regulations;~~
 - ~~(b) the introduction, release or spread of an organism or pathogen prescribed by the regulations; or~~
 - ~~(c) the loss of an at-risk habitat or ecosystem prescribed by the regulations.~~

~~(2) No person shall engage in an activity that is prescribed by the regulations as a prohibited activity except in compliance with a permit issued under subsection 14(1).~~

~~(3) No person shall engage in an activity in a manner that contravenes a restriction prescribed by the regulations except in compliance with a permit issued under subsection 14(2).~~

~~39 No person shall interfere with the lawful and sustainable use of biodiversity by another person.~~

~~40 No person shall contravene the terms or conditions of a biodiversity emergency order.~~

- ~~41 (1) No person shall~~
- ~~(a) obstruct;~~
 - ~~(b) cause the obstruction of;~~
 - ~~(c) incite others to obstruct; or~~
 - ~~(d) assault,~~

~~a conservation officer in the exercise of a power or the performance of a duty under this Act or the regulations, or any person assisting the conservation officer.~~

- ~~(2) No person shall make a false statement to a conservation officer respecting~~
- ~~(a) the existence or the place of concealment or storage of any organism; or~~
 - ~~(b) a contravention of this Act or the regulations.~~

~~(3) No person shall refuse or fail to comply with any order, visible signal or direction of a conservation officer in uniform given in the course of carrying out the conservation officer's duties and functions.~~

~~42 (1) Where there are reasonable and probable grounds to believe that a vehicle, a vessel or equipment was used in the contravention of this Act or the regulations, the owner of the vehicle, vessel or equipment shall, upon the request of a conservation officer and within 48 hours~~

of receiving the request, supply the conservation officer with the name and address of the person who was in charge of the vehicle, vessel or equipment at the time of the contravention.

~~(2)~~ Where there are reasonable and probable grounds to believe that a vehicle, vessel or equipment was used in the contravention of this Act or the regulations, the person in charge of the vehicle, vessel or equipment at the time of the alleged contravention shall, upon the request of a conservation officer and within 48 hours of receiving the request, supply the conservation officer with the name and address of the person who was operating the vehicle, vessel or equipment at the time of the contravention.

~~(3)~~ A person who refuses, fails, neglects or is unable to comply with subsection (1) or (2) is liable on summary conviction to the penalty prescribed for the offence of the operator.

~~(4)~~ In any prosecution of a person under this Section, it is a defence if the person can prove that the vehicle, vessel or equipment was being operated at the time of the contravention without the knowledge or consent, either expressed or implied, of that person.

~~43~~ A conservation officer may arrest without a warrant a person whom

- ~~(a)~~ the conservation officer finds contravening this Act or the regulations; or
- ~~(b)~~ on reasonable and probable grounds the conservation officer believes is contravening or has recently contravened this Act or the regulations.

~~44~~ ~~(1)~~ A person who contravenes this Act or the regulations is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction

~~(a)~~ for a first offence

~~(i)~~ in the case of an individual, to a fine of not more than \$500,000 or to imprisonment for a term of not more than six months, or to both, and

~~(ii)~~ in the case of a corporation, to a fine of not more than \$1,000,000; and

~~(b)~~ for a second or subsequent offence

~~(i)~~ in the case of an individual, to a fine of not more than \$1,000,000 or to imprisonment for a term of not more than six months, or to both, and

~~(ii)~~ in the case of a corporation, to a fine of not more than \$2,000,000.

~~(2)~~ No private prosecution of Her Majesty in right of the Province for an offence under this Act may be commenced without the consent of the Attorney General.

~~(3)~~ Where an offence under this Act is committed or continued on more than one day, the person who committed the offence is liable to be convicted for a separate offence for each day on which the offence is committed or continued.

~~(4)~~ Where a corporation commits an offence under this Act, an officer, director or agent of the corporation who directed, authorized, assented to, acquiesced in or participated in the offence is also guilty of the offence and is liable on summary conviction to the penalties set out in

~~subclause 44(1)(a)(i), for a first offence, and subclause 44(1)(b)(i), for a second or subsequent offence, whether or not the corporation has been prosecuted.~~

~~(5) Where a person has been convicted of an offence under this Act and the court is satisfied that monetary benefits accrued to the person as a result of the commission of the offence,~~

~~(a) the court may order the person to pay an additional fine in an amount equal to the court's estimation of the amount of the monetary benefits; and~~

~~(b) the additional fine may exceed the maximum fine set out in subsection (1).~~

~~45 Where a person is convicted of an offence, the court may, in addition to any punishment imposed and having regard to the nature of the offence and the circumstances surrounding its commission, make an order containing one or more of the following prohibitions, directions or requirements:~~

~~(a) prohibiting the person from doing any act or engaging in any activity that could, in the opinion of the court, result in the continuation or repetition of the offence;~~

~~(b) directing the person to take any action that the court considers appropriate to remedy or to prevent any adverse effects to biodiversity that result or may result from the commission of the offence;~~

~~(c) directing the person to pay to the Minister compensation for the cost, in whole or in part, of any restoration or remedial or preventive action taken by or on behalf of the Minister as a result of the commission of the offence;~~

~~(d) directing the person to post a bond or pay into court an amount of money that the court considers appropriate for the purpose of ensuring compliance with any prohibition, direction or requirement under this Section.~~

~~46 (1) In a prosecution for an offence under this Act, it is sufficient proof of the offence to establish that it was committed by an employee or agent of the accused, whether or not the employee or agent is identified or has been prosecuted for the offence, unless the accused establishes that the offence was committed without the knowledge or consent of the accused.~~

~~(2) Unless otherwise provided in this Act, no person shall be convicted of an offence under this Act if the person establishes that the person exercised all due diligence to prevent the commission of the offence.~~

~~47 An individual over the age of majority who accompanies or assists another individual at the time when the other individual commits an offence contrary to this Act is a party to the offence and is liable to the penalty prescribed for the offence unless the individual proves that the offence was committed without the individual's knowledge and consent.~~

~~48 (1) In a prosecution or proceeding under this Act in which proof is required with respect to~~

~~(a) the issuance, cancellation, suspension or reinstatement of any permit under this Act;~~

~~(b) the issuance or revocation of a biodiversity emergency order under this Act;~~

- ~~(c) the identity of a person who is the permit holder named in a permit;~~
- ~~(d) the identity of a person to whom a biodiversity emergency order is issued;~~
- ~~(e) the delivery, serving or mailing of any document or notice to be given under this Act;~~
- ~~(f) whether any return required under this Act has been received; or~~
- ~~(g) a previous conviction of a person;~~

~~a certificate purporting to be signed by the Minister certifying with respect to the same is, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, proof of the facts stated in the certificate and of the authority of the person who has signed the certificate, without further proof of appointment or signature.~~

~~(2) For the purpose of this Section, the Minister may designate as an analyst a person who, in the opinion of the Minister, is qualified to be so designated.~~

~~(3) Subject to subsection (5), a certificate purporting to be the certificate of an analyst stating that the analyst has analyzed or examined any organism, whether living or dead, or any other thing and the results of the analysis or examination are admissible in evidence in any prosecution for an offence under this Act and, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, are proof of the statement contained in the certificate without proof of the signature or the official character of the person appearing to have signed the certificate.~~

~~(4) The party against whom a certificate of an analyst is produced may, with leave of the court, require the attendance of the analyst for the purpose of cross-examination.~~

~~(5) No certificate may be received in evidence under this Section unless the party intending to produce it has given, to the party against whom it is intended to be produced, reasonable notice of such intention, together with a copy of the certificate.~~

~~(6) Notice may be served on an accused by registered mail sent to the address given by the accused when that person was charged or, where applicable, the address that appears on that person's permit or on a biodiversity emergency order issued to that person.~~

~~49 (1) Where a person is convicted of an offence under this Act, the court may, in addition to any penalty imposed, order that any seized thing by means of or in relation to which the offence was committed, or any proceeds of its disposition, be forfeited to Her Majesty in right of the Province.~~

~~(2) Where the court does not order a forfeiture under subsection (1), the seized thing, or the proceeds of its disposition, must be returned to its lawful owner or the person lawfully entitled to it if the possession of the thing would be lawful.~~

~~50 Where a fine is imposed on a person convicted of an offence, any seized thing, or any proceeds of its disposition, may be retained until the fine is paid or the thing may be sold in satisfaction of the fine and the proceeds applied, in whole or in part, in payment of the fine.~~

~~51 (1) Proceedings by way of summary conviction with respect to an offence under this Act may not be commenced more than two years after the later of~~

- (a) ~~the date on which the offence was committed; and~~
- (b) ~~the date on which evidence of the offence first came to the attention of the Minister.~~

~~(2) A document purporting to have been issued by the Minister, certifying the day on which the Minister became aware of evidence of the offence, is admissible without proof of the signature or official character of the individual appearing to have signed the document and, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, is proof of the matter certified.~~

GENERAL

~~52 (1) No person affected by this Act or the regulations is entitled to compensation for any restriction, encumbrance or use or the lack of use, of any nature or kind whatsoever, that may result or results from the application of this Act or the regulations.~~

- ~~(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), where~~
 - ~~(a) a particular use of private land is prohibited, restricted or limited as a result of the application of this Act or the regulations; and~~
 - ~~(b) the owner of the private land is actually engaged in that particular use of the land when the use is prohibited, restricted or limited,~~

~~the Minister shall compensate the owner of the private land for the loss of the particular use in the manner prescribed by the regulations.~~

~~(3) Subsection (2) does not apply to the prohibition, restriction or limitation of a particular use of land as a result of a biodiversity emergency order.~~

1853 (1) The Governor in Council may make regulations

- (a) respecting the establishment, control and management of biodiversity management zones on land vested in Her Majesty in right of the Province pursuant to Section 15;
- (b) respecting the establishment of mechanisms by which the Minister reports to the public on matters relating to biodiversity, and the information that must be included in such reports;
- (c) respecting the establishment or adoption of goals and targets for biodiversity and indicators of ecosystem health and integrity;
- ~~(d) respecting the authorization by permit, restriction or prohibition of activities that affect biodiversity and uses of biodiversity;~~
- ~~(e) prescribing the oath to be sworn or affirmed by conservation officers;~~
- ~~(f) respecting the holding or possession of organisms or other items, including, where the holding or possession of an organism or other item is not restricted, the manner in which it is to be held or possessed;~~
- ~~(g) respecting activities that affect biodiversity or the uses of biodiversity as prohibited activities;~~

~~(h) respecting restrictions on activities that affect biodiversity or the uses of biodiversity;~~

~~(i) respecting permits and the permitting process, including applications for permits, the issuance of permits, the suspension or cancellation of permits, the period during which a permit remains valid, the renewal of permits and the transferability of permits;~~

(dj) respecting the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;

(ek) respecting the prevention and management of threats to biodiversity and the restoration of biodiversity;

(fl) respecting the prevention and management of invasive or alien species;

(gm) respecting the import and export of organisms in the Province;

(hn) respecting the prevention, management and surveillance of diseases that affect biodiversity;

(io) respecting access to and the sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources;

(jp) respecting the prevention and management of impacts on human health, safety and property from biodiversity;

(kq) respecting the valuation of, and exchange or payment for, ecological goods and services;

(lr) respecting a compensation framework for biodiversity conservation activities~~the purpose of subsection 52(2);~~

(ms) prescribing fees for the purpose of this Act and the regulations;

(nt) defining any word or expression used but not defined in this Act;

(ou) respecting any matter or thing the Governor in Council considers necessary or advisable to effectively carry out the intent and purpose of this Act.

(2) The Minister shall consult with the public, including landowners and stakeholders, in such manner as the Minister considers appropriate before proposing a new regulation or a substantive amendment to a regulation under subsection (1) for Governor in Council consideration.

(3) The exercise by the Governor in Council of the authority contained in subsection (1) is a regulation within the meaning of the *Regulations Act*.

~~54 (1) The Minister may make regulations~~

~~(a) prescribing species for the purpose of clause 38(1)(a);~~

~~(b) prescribing organisms or pathogens for the purpose of clause 38(1)(b);~~

~~(c) prescribing habitats and ecosystems for the purpose of clause 38(1)(c).~~

~~(2) The Minister shall consult with the public, including landowners and stakeholders, in such manner as the Minister considers appropriate before making or substantially amending a regulation under subsection (1).~~

~~(3) The exercise by the Minister of the authority contained in subsection (1) is a regulation within the meaning of the *Regulations Act*.~~

~~1955~~ This Act has effect on and after October 1, 2021.

March 29 2021

Law Amendments Bill #4
Request of answers to my question.

To the members of the Committee.

For greater clarity to myself and the public, I request truthful and honest answers to the following questions in writing within 21 day.

- A. Who as in person or organization mandated bill #4 and #9 if not this legislature?**
- B. Do You agree, since this legislature was mandated by an undisclosed unknown unelected body, the province of Nova Scotia has lost it's independent governance?**
- C. Do you agree, that bill #4 and bill #9 give unlimited power to regulate and control organisms including humans alike. Without the requirements of actual scientific proof and without remedy for the population.**
- D. Where does the Minister draw his authority from to seize private real property that has exclusive rights awarded to the deed holder and property owner?**
- E. Do you agree, that Nova Scotians have not been told and not given the free choice to decide wether or not to be part of the ongoing restructuring of the local political framework and laws and to align them with the geo political rollout for a One world Government also called New World Order under the guise of "Build back better".**

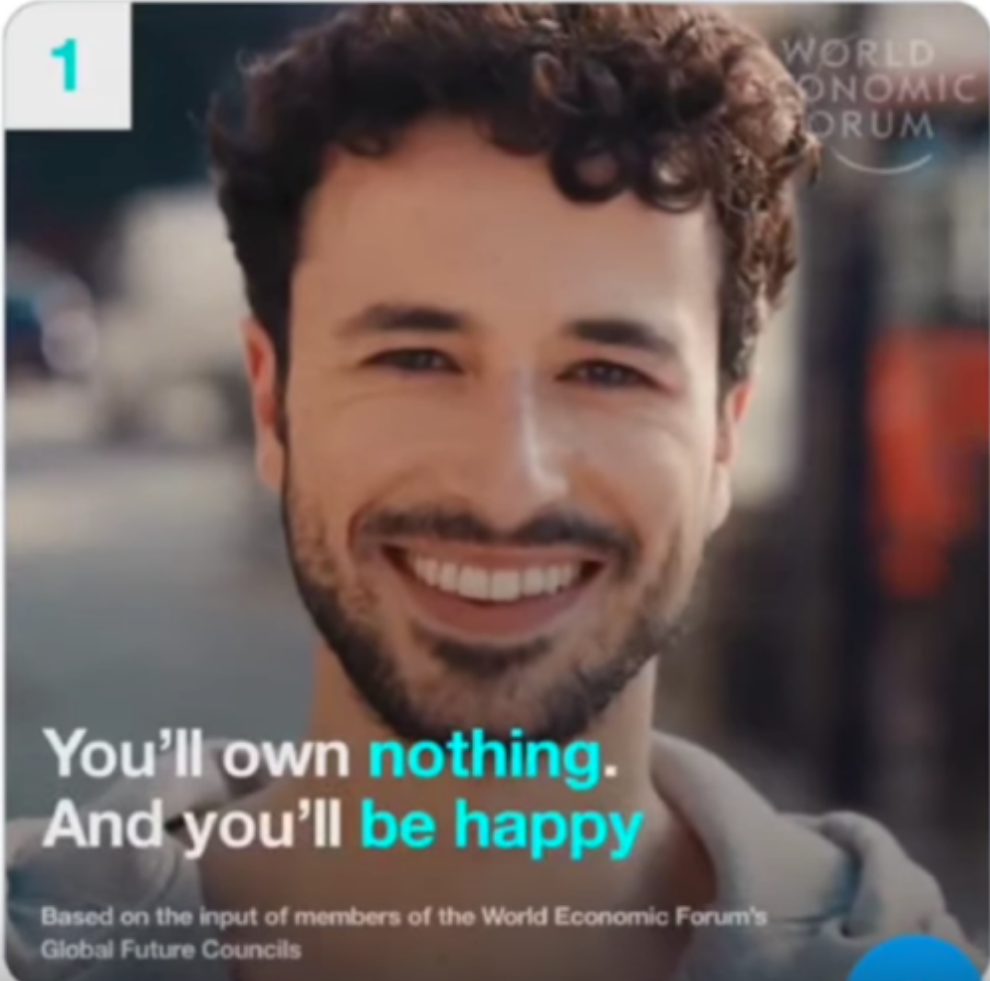
Exhibit A

The true goal of Bill#4 and Bill#9 Agenda 2030 as shared by the liberal party under the “New green deal” “The Great Reset” or “Build back better”

by 2030, "You will own nothing. And you'll be happy!"
@wef

You'll own nothing, and you'll be happy.
This is how our world could change by 2030. Read more: wef.ch/2gmBN7M

1



**You'll own nothing.
And you'll be happy**

Based on the input of members of the World Economic Forum's
Global Future Councils

Exhibit B

It is evident that the focus is on changing the overall use of crown lands away from forestry and timber production.

Object and purpose old version Bill114

2 The object and purpose of this Act is to provide for the most effective utilization of Crown lands by

(a) the application of proven forest management techniques to enhance productivity on Crown lands and to provide for an increasing harvest of better quality forest products;

(b) requiring that leasing and licensing arrangements on Crown lands are providing for equitable stumpage rates, adequate investments in forest improvements and improved market access for privately produced wood;

(c) the integration of wildlife and outdoor recreation considerations in the forest management planning process on Crown lands; and

(d) the more effective administration and management of all Crown lands. R.S., c. 114, s. 2.

New Version amended Bill #9

2 The purpose of this Act is to

(a) provide the legislative and regulatory framework that will ensure Crown lands are **sustainably used, protected, and managed to maintain and enhance biodiversity** and for purposes that include wilderness conservation, recreation, **economic opportunity in forestry, tourism and other sectors, community development, and for the cultural, social and aesthetic enjoyment of Nova Scotians**; and

(b) require that forestry leasing and licensing on Crown lands provide equitable stumpage rates, provide adequate investments in forest improvements and **establish an overall preference for timber produced on privately owned land**.

Exhibit C

Government introduced and potential becoming invasive species spreading across Canada. But classified as biological controls.

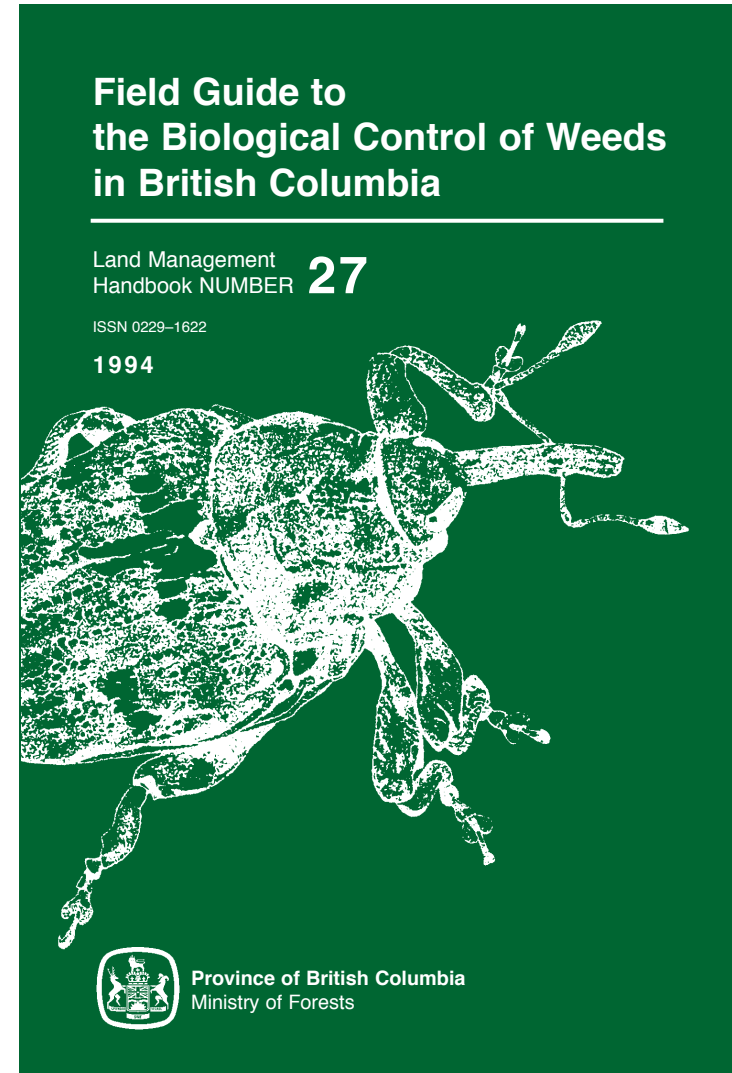


Exhibit D

Official page of approvals of areal spraying including of parks and watersheds

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

Nova Scotia Environment

Approval Holder: NORTHERN PULP NOVA SCOTIA CORPORATION

Project: Chaswood, Ten Mile, Shingle Lake, Fairbanks Lake, College Lake East, Long lake, Georgefield, Riversdale, Dickey Lake, Camden, Bentley Lake, Moose Lake, Moose Lake West, Kent Brook, Gerrish Valley

Site:

PID	Civic #	Street Name	Street Type	Community	County
20013249				West River Station	Pictou
20046793				Camden	Colchester
20051132				South Branch	Colchester
20055448				West Loon Lake	Halifax
20058186				Otter Brook	Colchester
20138988				Simpson Lake	Colchester
20138988					
20158085				Wittenburg	Colchester
20434288	64	Stevens	Rd.	Folly Lake	Colchester
40208787				Eastville	Colchester
40209090				West Loon Lake	Halifax
40219123				Long Lake	Halifax
40249039				Long Lake	Halifax
40249096				Long Lake	Halifax
45366242				Upper Kennetcook	Hants

Approval No: 2017-107493-00

File No: 35200-30-TRU-2017-107493

Reference Documents

- Application submitted June 27, 2017 and attachments.

1. Definitions

- a. Act means Environment Act, Chapter 1 of the Acts of 1994-95, and includes, unless the context otherwise requires, all regulations made pursuant to the Act.

novascotia.ca

Pesticide Applications Approvals | Pests and Pesticides | Nova Scotia Environment

Nova Scotia Environment

4-5 minutes

Any pesticides that are used in Canada must be registered through [Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency](#). This federal agency determines whether a product is safe for use.

Approvals issued in Nova Scotia are posted below, and [key details of approvals issued in 2020](#) are also available.

Please note that the approvals include property identification number (PIDs) where spraying has been approved. It is important to note that many of the PIDs are quite large and only a small site within each one has been approved for spraying. Because of this, the location closest to the actual spray site may not be the same one listed in the approval as the PID location. For example, in approval #2017-107493, West Loon Lake in Halifax County is listed as the location of the PID, but the spray site is closer to Eastville in Colchester County.

Application #	Start Date	Status
2020-2707963	August 17, 2020	Approved
2020-2706292	August 17, 2020	Approved

Exhibit E

The Province of Nova Scotia is a publicly traded Corporation.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://sec.report/CIK/0000842639>. The page title is "Province Of Nova Scotia" with the SEC CIK #0000842639. A navigation bar includes "Companies", "Documents", "Forms", and "Alerts", along with a "Ticker: AAPL" field. A descriptive paragraph states: "Province Of Nova Scotia is regulated by the U.S. Security and Exchange Commission . Province Of Nova Scotia is primarily in the business of foreign governments. For financial reporting, their fiscal year ends on December 31st. This page includes all SEC registration details as well as a list of all documents (S-1, Prospectus, Current Reports, 8-K, 10K, Annual Reports) filed by Province Of Nova Scotia." Below this is a "Company Details" table:

Company Details	
Reporting File Number	033-25297
Fiscal Year End	12-31
Date of Edgar Filing Update	2007-08-21
SIC	8888 [FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS]
Business Address	CANADIAN CONSULATE GENERAL 1251 AVE OF THE AMERICAS NEW YORK NY 10020
Business Phone	2127682400

At the bottom, there is a "-Documents" section and an "Email Notifications" button with a red notification icon and an RSS feed icon.

Committee!

I am Franz Fraitzl and presenting my opinion and evidence with honourable and peaceful intentions.

It is not my intention to harass, intimidate, offend, conspire, blackmail, coerce, cause anxiety, alarm or distress.

As the executor/beneficiary and private landowner

I am rejecting Bill#4 and #9 both must die!

A brief background about myself, I received formal education through a technical agriculture College in applied conventional Agriculture and Forestry practices in Germany.

Further studied Biodynamic Agriculture by Rudolf Steiner along with knowledge in Viniculture, Herb farming and Wildcrafting.

With additional certifications in:

Municipal Solid Waste management and recycling,

Fecal sludge management and

Household Water Treatment and Safe Storage.

A Business Approach to Sustainable Landscape Restoration

Environmental Management & Ethics as well as
Unethical Decision Making in Organizations

In Bill #4 the WHEREAS are mere pleading recitals to justify a framework of control that already exists to impose further regulations based on made-up science and fiction as in the "Wizard of OZ" in order to advance the global Agenda 2030.

In Bill #9 the amendments of object and purpose of the Crown lands act 114 to create the framework and alignment to modify the use or the restriction of use, based on the assumptions in Bill #4.

The purpose of bill #4 and #9 as both state are fundamentally to use and govern biodiversity and organisms in the Province held under human control or in nature. But also represents the model to be rolled out across Canada to facilitate a Bio Security State as part of Agenda 2030. Plainly put, what this means that, if the Minister decides because it has a bad hair day pets are bad, granny will lose her companion or go to jail or get fined or lose her home! In nature, the creation of a pathogen narrative or a bio threat and allow through this bill #4 and #9 the destruction and repurposing of private and crown lands also called community developments and tourism turning forests and food production into hotels and golf courses.

Nature as in bio diversity is self regulating if not messed with and does not need governance by men or corporate bodies. The so called invasive species introduced or naturally through wildlife migration and weather into a healthy ecosystem will naturally regulate and balance based on the environmental conditions given. There have been many incidents where governments introduced on purpose beetle species to threaten and control many valuable herbs.

The approach this legislature has taken in the rollout of bill#4 and bill #9, has shown that this government cannot be trusted.

Public records clearly show that this government has been permitting the controlling of biodiversity through mass areal herbicide and pesticide spraying programs, including in provincial parks and watersheds.

These spray operations take place without the publics full knowledge and understanding. It is a fact that areal spraying can be extremely hazardous to wildlife, the population and the foods we grow near the spray zones.

I am rejecting bill#4 and bill#9 both must die!

With the resent public backtracking of the Liberals and their handlers in the mainstream propaganda media. The public must understand that there is a greater Agenda at work that requires for the bill#4 and #9 to be passed. Once passed no matter of an added clause to review after 5 years the only way to repeal a bill is how it is created. Lets remember the 2 weeks flatten the curve scenario that has now turned into over a year, showing us a perfect example what Bill#4 and #9 can look like!

By removal of parts of article 7 of bill #4 section (k) that can be easily misused you have added the same back in now reading as article 8 section a).

This act in it's entirety cannot exist in a free society!

I am rejecting bill #4 and bill #9 both must die!

The revision shows a removal of 60 percent of the original tabled bill #4. But you still insists on keeping a bill in place that shows an alternative undisclosed Agenda.

For greater clarity to myself and the public,I request truthful and honest answers to the following questions in writing within 21 day.

- A. Who as in person or organization mandated bill #4 and #9 if not this legislature?**
- B. Do You agree, since this legislature was mandated by an undisclosed unknown unelected body, the province of Nova Scotia has lost it's independent governance?**
- C. Do you agree, that bill #4 and bill #9 give unlimited power to regulate and control organisms including humans alike. Without the requirements of actual scientific proof and without remedy for the population.**
- D. Where does the Minister draw his authority from to seize private real property that has exclusive rights awarded to the deed holder and property owner?**
- E. Do you agree, that Nova Scotians have not been told and not given the free choice to decide wether or not to be part of the ongoing restructuring of the local political framework and laws and to align them with the geo political rollout for a One world Government also called New World Order under the guise of "Build back better".**

It is time that the public realizes that the true threats to Bio Diversity come from Corporations, NGO's and Governments which are equally for profit traded corporations.

It is time that the public needs to understand that politician and CEO's of Corporation are hiding behind dead entities or fiction also called corporate fictions.

A corporation without the actions performed by politician or CEO's is just that a dead entity or fiction.

Yet the actions of the politician and CEO are what cause the harm and injury through coercion and governance. It is time that you are held accountable personally for you actions and behaviour.

Accountable personally and liable to your families, your kids and potential grandkids.

Accountable personally and liable to your community, neighbours and friends.

To finish:

Once you leave this legislature and finished your Agenda that you are being used for you will become equally bound by the framework you are trying to impose and put in place!

I am rejecting Bill#4 and #9 both must die!

From: Christina [REDACTED]
Sent: March 29, 2021 2:12 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4 - Law Amendments submission

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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March 29, 2021

Bill 4 – Law Amendments submission:

Honourable Members of the Nova Scotia Legislature:

1. Bill 4 is too broad and paternalistic. In granting the Minister of Lands and Forestry the power and discretion to intervene, restrict, prohibit, and otherwise assert control in relation to any activity on any land which supports any living organism anywhere in the Province, and to do so by use of “any measure”, Bill 4 is a prime example of Government overreach. Bill 4 plainly grants the Minister excessive authority and discretion, beyond that which is reasonable and necessary to achieve improved biodiversity in Nova Scotia. Furthermore, the fact that Bill 4 grants equally extensive and substantive authority in relation to private lands as it does in relation to public lands is shocking. This Government has no mandate to undermine the utility and value of private lands and to infringe on the inherent right of private landowners to benefit from and steward natural resources on their own properties. There are too many permissive clauses in this Bill, allowing the Minister to make too many decisions for Nova Scotians, rather than empowering and supporting Nova Scotians in becoming the principal drivers and stewards of biodiversity.
2. Bill 4 is weak as regards stakeholder input and Government accountability. I urge the Honourable Members to consider instituting under Bill 4 a multi-stakeholder advisory body and a biodiversity ombudsperson as instruments by which the Minister could benefit from continual, constructive input from public, Aboriginal, commercial, and private interests on the one hand, and Nova Scotians could benefit from rigorous scrutiny of the Minister’s actions on the other hand.
3. Bill 4 lacks a coherent aim and proportional enforcement regime. I understand that since second reading our Government has back-tracked on Bill 4’s provisions to invoke heavy fines for violations of the Biodiversity Act, if enacted. Given that one of the greatest threats, if not THE greatest threat, to biodiversity in this Province is the unrelenting clear-cutting of vast tracts of forest on public lands by and for the benefit of commercial interests, unabashedly facilitated by this Government, it is shameful that Bill 4 does not impose on the Minister of Lands and Forestry responsibility to rein-in clear-cutting. Furthermore, Bill 4 should provide incentives to industry and private landowners to undertake ecologically responsible and sustainable selective tree harvesting to serve biodiversity. At the same time, “the stick” of heavy fines as a deterrent to commercial abuses on public lands should be maintained.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

Ms. Christina Lazier, Esq.



[REDACTED] .

From: Dominick Mirabile [REDACTED]
Sent: March 29, 2021 10:21 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4

** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE **

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This Bill is a no go. We are a small registered farm and take great exception to the unbridled power granted the NS Legislature over private land. Reread this bill and think twice about passing it.

We do not understand the following:

Appointed " Conservation Officers" (Political assume) What will be the qualifications for these people?????

How can these people come on private property and arrest someone without a warrant?????

Why are penalties for private landowners \$500,000.00 1st offence, \$1,000,000.00 a 2d offence? Just an opportunity for the province to grab land!!!

How does the Legislature get off dictating to the Justices on the Supreme Court of NS under what circumstances they are to dismiss an appeal????? Thought that was a matter of law!

If there is an offence what is the definition?????

Define Biodiversity!

Don't waste 20 pieces of paper to throw out a mountain of bureaucratese and legalese which the average person cannot understand or have time to read.

The is just the way for the Legislature to take over all private land and define it as "Crown" land. Horse Puckey!

The is how the Soviet Union and the Eastern European Communist Parties took over private farms and land to turn into " Co-Operatives" The government then dictated what the people would do and how. Is that where we are going????

We are adamantly opposed to this bill. It is a disgrace .

Will you then tell us what if any animals we can keep on our farm? Will you then tell us what crops we can grow? Will you then start charging us rent since we will no longer be private land owners???

Recommend you permanently shelve this bill or throw it into the nearest waste bin.

Dominick A. Mirabile

[REDACTED]

From: glenn grant [REDACTED]
Sent: March 29, 2021 6:22 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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Stop bill 4. We should have a say in what we do with our own land!

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: Greg Cosman [REDACTED]
Sent: March 29, 2021 12:30 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4 comments to Law Amendment committee -Nova

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To whom not may concern,

I had hope that the Rankin Government that would stand strong for our environment and would go down in history as the government that held its ground against the Forestry industry and private landowner interests. However, reading about the quick changes in the Biodiversity act I have lost faith.

From the article I read last Saturday in the Herald "Certain Sections that are problematic for landowners". And then this Saturday – **"In the last two weeks, thousands of landowners have told the government that Bill 4 was a threat to their rights. The Government said it was listening and making changes to Bill 4" , "Together we will stop Bill 4 so it doesn't stop us from using our land as we choose"** Wow that was easy, thousands of landowners kicked up a stink and quickly got their way, 10's of thousands of Nova Scotia citizens have been asking for a Moratorium on clearcutting and we don't get as much as a simple meeting with Lands and Forests, not a single acknowledgement of our concerns.

What I get from reading numerous articles over the last week is "How dare we infringe on the rights of private landowners". Hmm I wonder about the rest of us that are affected by their actions. There are numerous differing opinions, however there is evidence and science to show that what happens on private land has the potential to affect us all.

Clearing land of trees and other native land plants can and will lead to changes in local and global climate patterns. Locally it will result in dryer and hotter conditions as well as effecting ground water retention, etc. Just one article I found and there are plenty more - <https://sciencing.com/deforestation-affect-weather-23869.html>

So how dare private landowners be given free rein to do whatever they please, when what they do affects us all. Regulation and clear guidelines as proposed in the original Biodiversity act including "Emergency Measures" must be put in place to control clearing of private lands for any purpose. I am a private landowner and embraced and celebrated the original Biodiversity act as an indication that the Rankin government was truly committed to making tough decisions that would ultimately protect us all and leave a better environment for our children and grandchildren. We all must be accountable to the environment and if we are then no one should be concerned about this legislation in its original form.

It is my opinion that the proposed changes have removed the "guts" of this legislation. We have an opportunity to lead the world in Biodiversity protection. Lets show the world what Nova Scotia is really about and who we are. I ask that the changes be reinstated to allow this proposed legislation to have authority and the power to protect our land and environment for our children and grandchildren.

Sincerely,

Greg Cosman, BSc. Agr.

Nova Scotia, Canada



[REDACTED]

From: Andrew Glencross [REDACTED]
Sent: March 29, 2021 10:56 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4 Law Amendments

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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Hello!

I was scheduled to speak this morning before the Law Amendment Committee but have been pulled away at the last minute. Here instead is a transcript of what I'd planned to say. Thank you!

Andrew

My name is Andrew Glencross. I'm an individual citizen of Nova Scotia, here to talk in support of the Biodiversity Act. We need laws that protect life in all its forms, generally and especially now. So, I applaud this bill's intent and I hope it will get passed.

However, I'm also concerned by the fact that the bill has been amended before this chance for the public to speak about it. There were some lies and fearmongering spun by the forestry industry, and they caused a last-minute weakening of the bill's proposed enforcement. I only received the proposed revisions this morning, so I don't even know all the details of the bill I am supporting.

We are in an extinction crisis, caused by putting the needs of businesses over the needs of the very physical and biological underpinnings of our own existence. Protecting biodiversity is going to be a critical part of surviving this crisis, assuming it is survivable. To be weakening the protection of biodiversity in any way in deference to the complaints of big business and private interests is exactly the opposite of our responsibility to our children and our home.

We can't keep doing politics in the same slow, incremental way it has been done, making grand statements that turn into barely discernible actions, maintaining the status quo at all costs. The status quo is now the very root of our problems. We can't any longer start with a compromise and then compromise on that, and then compromise on that, shrugging our shoulders and saying that protecting profits is just how democracy works. We need bold, decisive action that is uncompromising.

It will be painful and scary, as large changes always are. Powerful people and institutions that have been profiting from the unsustainable way things are will complain and use their acquired power to try and halt change. But we have to be brave and visionary and unstoppable, because the alternative is death. The alternative is an unthinkable end to the future. And the future is the foundation of all political action.

Thank you for this opportunity to voice my concerns and hopes.

Andrew Glencross
[REDACTED]

McDonald, David S

From: russ donohoe <russdonohoe@hotmail.com>
Sent: March 29, 2021 7:16 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4

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Stop bill 4

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: russ donohoe [REDACTED]
Sent: March 29, 2021 7:16 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4

** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE **

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Stop bill 4

Sent from my iPhone

Law Amendments Committee presentation

Bill No. 4, An act to Provide for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Nova Scotia

March 29, 2021 at 10:15 by Telephone.

Good morning. My name is Barrie MacGregor, thank you for allowing me time to make a presentation and I'm speaking in support of Bill No 4, The Biodiversity Act as presented by Minister Porter on March 11, 2021.

I'm 75 years old and have lived in Canaan, Yarmouth County since 1978. I am an active environmentalist.. My wife and I live totally off grid in a small house we built 20 years ago from locally sourced and milled lumber.

Our woodlot holding was at a maximum 200 acres at one time and we operated it part time under the guidelines of a management plan supported by NS Lands and Forests. This involved selective cutting in a mostly hardwood forest. Since the mid 1980's my involvement in that lot has been harvesting firewood for our own use and cutting enough logs to satisfy a small need for lumber. We now own a remaining 50 acres in Canaan on the Tusket River, where we live. I am the current president and a founding member (1986) of TREPA, the Tusket River Environmental Protection Association. I am also an active member of the Healthy Forest Coalition and a board member of Nature Nova Scotia. I'm not a Halifax elitist.

I gather from the media that changes have been made to the bill I have a copy of. I'm not sure what has changed, when it was changed, who changed it on what authority or who was consulted. So I'm speaking in favour of the bill as presented by the minister on March 11, 2021.

For some time I have communicated with the provincial government in regard to forestry practices and the promotion of biodiversity and the care of endangered species. This communication was one way, me to the government. It also appeared that harvesting was going on at a rapid pace on crown land to get as much done before the Lahey report was implemented. When efforts on the part of many failed to get a meeting with government or a moratorium on harvesting until the report was implemented civil action became the only answer. A few people from Extinction Rebellion sat in the minister's office asking for a meeting and were arrested. A logging road blockade in Digby County held up movement of logging trucks from Oct 21 to December 15th when 9 of the Forest Protectors were arrested. My wife Sandra Phinney, was one of the 9 served by the RCMP.

Premier McNeil announced his retirement and Ian Rankin was chosen to be party leader and therefore Premier. His platform is a matter of record and included the passing of the Biodiversity Act and implementation of the Lahey report. My assumption along with that of many others was that these two measures would be taken early in Mr. Rankin's mandate.

But no. A rapidly created organization called Concerned Private Landowners Coalition (CPLC). begins its initiative with a full page ad in the Chronicle Herald misrepresenting the contents of the Biodiversity Act and successfully getting a lot of private land owners unnecessarily upset.

What has occurred over the past two weeks in our little province is truly alarming. Arguing points and perceptions is one thing, but it is quite another to outright lie and mislead so to whip the people into a frenzied weapon that destroys initiatives that are beneficial for the common good,

It appears from the media that some elements have been changed in the Biodiversity Act by removing some of its teeth. The CPLC smells victory in its two week effort and is celebrating with a large ad in the current Chronicle Herald.

The CPLC misrepresentations include:

Fines for violations that are said to be too high. Historically, when fines were low for environmental violations offenders could say they complied with all the rules as they had paid the fine and kept on offending. A fine that “hurts” is required if a judge needs that as a way of dealing with persistent or gross offenders. It’s totally up to the judge to set the amount of a fine.

Entering private land without permission. The act specifies that this can only happen with permission of the landowner and an agreement with the owner.

There has been no consultation: There was advertised consultation opportunities in at least 4 different parts of Nova Scotia.

There are no regulations: It is not abnormal to have the act put in place first and then the regulations created. This was done in the case of governing the mink industry.

My final point is that there are really not two sides to this discussion if we look at the long term. In forestry and biodiversity what other choice have you? The question is - what do we want to pass on to our grand children and great grandchildren? What’s your vision? I firmly believe it is the responsibility of the Nova Scotia government to clarify the long term plan of where we are headed as a province for our forest land. If we do not have a clear common destination we’ll never agree on how to get there.

Thank you for your time.

Barrie MacGregor

March 29, 2012

[REDACTED]

From: Brent Cosgrove [REDACTED]
Sent: March 29, 2021 5:25 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill4

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I think bill 4 should be passed. These private land owners should not be the ones to decide the fate of Nova Scotia's environment. We need to aggressively take action on behalf of the plants animals and all people who care about the future of our forests!
Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: David [REDACTED]
Sent: March 29, 2021 9:31 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Biodiversity Act

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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Dear Law Amendments committee members.

I believe the Biodiversity Act needs to have the sections restored that would allow emergency government regulation of all and any forests in Nova Scotia. I also believe that most of the "may" do such and such, by the government, should be changed to "shall" do such and such, in the Biodiversity Act wording.

Thank you.

David Cameron
[REDACTED]

BILL 4: COMMENTS TO THE LAW AMENDMENTS COMMITTEE

I am very concerned about Bill 4 that is currently before the House of Assembly.

My main concern is that the Bill contains almost no substantive provisions, except those on enforcement. Various sections allow the Minister of Lands and Forests to do certain things (quite wide-ranging things). Other sections allow the government or minister to do things by regulation or with the permission of the Governor-in-Council.

The entire bill can be summed up as a series of dreams and hopes (lots of whereas) that are not very specific, provisions delegating power, and provisions strengthening the enforcement of this and other statutes, all in very vague or open language.

Why would the House of Assembly pass legislation that basically gives power to make laws away from the legislature and almost whole-heartedly to a minister, department, or the Governor-in-Council (the governing party)? Our political leaders in the 19th century worked very hard to allow for a government of this province with democratic principles—values that allowed the people's representatives in the General Assembly to actually govern in a more democratic and open way (representative and responsible government principles).

I have to wonder out loud if this type of bill is even constitutional, in the sense that our constitution, as it currently exists, gives the House of Assembly the right to make laws, statutes, and ordinances for our good government in the province, not a minister or the Executive Council.

My hope is that the Legislature would stall this bill and ask the government to actually begin some of the important work on biodiversity. And, if the government were to need certain provisions to implement some of the work or directions that it feels it might need to go, then it could bring substantive provisions back to the Legislature. In this way, it could begin building a practical and understandable statute.

General Recommendation:

If the Committee intends to move this Bill forward, I would urge the Committee to insist on some provisions in the Bill that would require a review of any ministerial ordinances/actions or regulations by a committee of the legislature, as the nature of this bill unfolds. I would suggest a process much like the statutory instruments process of the federal parliament.

Specific Recommendations for change:

1. Definition of “private land” in Section 2(p) may not actually get at the real idea of private land. In law (at least based on the historical principles that our legal system currently operates under), the Crown holds or owns almost all the land in Nova Scotia. “Private owners” have a tenancy in the land. If you add in the historical reality that most of the land in Nova Scotia may not have ever been properly ceded or controled, this may add an additional complication with the definition.

My recommendation is that the Committee amend the definition to read,

(p) “private land” means lands that are not registered at a land registration office or land registry office in the name of or on behalf of Her Majesty in right of the Province or Canada.

2. Ensure that the definition of “camp” and “other structure” is included in a definition of “residence” and make sure that the Act is consistent about whether or not a warrant or telewarrant is required to enter a camp or temporary structure where someone is living. My recommendation is to always include camp in the requirement for a warrant.

For example, Section 32(2) does not necessarily require a warrant or telewarrant to enter a camp (as defined in the Bill), while Section 32(1) seems to allow for it.

I want to underscore that I greatly support the efforts of government in trying to protect biodiversity, species, and the environment.

Thanks for considering my comments.

Russell Prime



2021 March 27

Adam Malcolm

Law Amendments Committee

March 29, 2021

To the members of the Law Amendments Committee:

As a high school biology teacher, landowner, avid fisher, hunter, forager, snowshoer, hiker, and camper who has called River Inhabitants home for my 40 years of life, I am in support of a Biodiversity Act whose stipulations apply to all land in this province - public and private - and includes the recently redacted sections concerning biodiversity emergency orders, enforcement, powers of the minister and responsibilities of conservation officers.

I would like to share with you a few of my observations of local species decline, local causes for these declines, and why Bill 4, as originally tabled, is an indispensable tool for slowing biodiversity loss in our area.

I grew up hunting and fishing with my father and his older siblings. Now in their 90s, they tell stories of how men made their living on this river fishing smelt with nets under the ice through winter to sell to Leonard's fish plant in Mulgrave. Their preferred fishing area was the big bend just below where my father and I built the house I'm writing to you from. Their old rock piers are still there. Then the Canso causeway was built and overnight the smelt run became just a memory. A story that old people told. I am not an old person yet, but the story I have to tell about the changes I've seen in and around the river in my life sounds very much like that of someone twice my age. I can remember being a boy going salmon fishing with my father way up river in the fall, standing on a high bank under a giant elm tree (along with all the other DED-infected elms on the river floodplain, now a bark-less standing stump) looking down into a pool with hundreds of salmon in it. Catching salmon with fly rods was easy then. It used to be that you'd catch salmon fry/parr/smolt below the culverts along the roads all summer long. I haven't encountered a salmon, juvenile or adult, in this river for at least 20 years. The entire eastern Cape Breton population, encompassing 46 home rivers from the north cape southeast to the causeway, is now slated for listing as endangered under SARA.

Every May there were a couple of brooks near here that we'd go to to catch gaspereau with dip nets where they gathered in large pools. There were many thousands every spring. I still go to check some springs. I can hardly remember what a gaspereau looks

like anymore, that's how long it's been since I (or anyone else around here) have seen one.

In the first or second full moon in January Dad and I and sometimes one of Dad's cousins would go to another brook, nearer the mouth of the river, to spear frost fish (tom cod) through holes in the ice. We could fill a bucket in an hour then. Again, I've gone many times as an adult; the only place I've seen a tom cod since I was small is in the Arctic Ocean. The brooks are seldom frozen here in early January anymore.

I have distinct memories of seeing American eels upriver, coiled up together in knots, some half-buried in sand and gravel, resting in shaded water through the day. I have memories of hooking the odd one in the evening, all when I was under 12. I haven't seen a live eel in the river in that long. Now they are globally critically endangered.

The wood turtle is another species at risk (threatened) in the province. River Inhabitants and River Denys are the centres of their population in Cape Breton. I used to see them while fishing quite often. Now I more often see them in pictures in local news articles about new settlers who've accidentally disturbed a nest, or the scattered shells of nests raided by coyotes and other scavenger/predators whose number are kept artificially high in the area (more on this below).

Likewise the New Jersey rush, a globally endangered wetland species. 31 bogs in Richmond County and extreme southern Cape Breton county are home to well over half of the total known global population of the species - somewhere between 5000 to 10,000 plants. Small wood-hemmed bogs are being backfilled regularly for roads and house lots in this area, despite any nominal legal protection they might be afforded. I've raised this particular concern with the DLF's wildlife division. To my knowledge not one of those wetland areas was ever surveyed for the presence of New Jersey rush.

Not so long ago pine marten and lynx called these local woods home. No longer. Both are provincially endangered. The pine marten is known to be shy about leaving the cover of the forest canopy, so roads through wilderness are serious barriers to their free movement. The northern flying squirrel, another local species, is thought by researchers seldom if ever to cross a road too wide to glide over, so new roads, of which there are many, serve to further isolate subpopulations from each other, leading to the increased likelihood of inbreeding and decreased genetic health.

The major local problem for our species at risk in and around the lower stretch of River Inhabitants - about 15 km as the river flows from Cleveland south to the ocean - is the buying up by three land developers (1) of nearly all river frontage and adjacent private woodlots totalling thousands of acres to build waterfront and sprawling backwoods estates serving the European market. Today many of our brooks run brown from the many kilometres of new roads cut through the woods by the developers. One of the two brooks that hem my property in has run brown for 2 years now. No fish can live in the muddied brooks for long. (The brook on the other side of the property, not crossed by any new road upstream, still runs clear, and some fish are present through summer.)

Beneath the newly cleared, newly inhabited lots along the lower stretch of the river, few migratory shorebird species that used to nest and/or stop by at the until-recently-relatively-undisturbed low-tide mudflats to fill up on inveterate snacks any longer do so.

It was my hope that a strong Biodiversity Act that included provisions meant to help listed at-risk species on private land might make possible efforts to save some of the more critical local wildlife habitat from degradation and outright destruction.

On the upper stretch of River Inhabitants, which extends from Cleveland northwest to the Creignish Hills, many tens of kilometres as the river flows, the principal endangerment to at-risk wildlife is the enormous deadstock pile that a poultry and cattle-beef farm operation in the area keeps 50 metres from the riverbank and does not maintain according to best practices. It is known to every hunter, fisher, and nature enthusiast in this area that the deadstock pile keeps a large population of coyotes and other predator/scavengers well-fed year-round. It so happens that along the river where the deadstock pile is located, just about every bend has a sandbar suitable for local nesting wood turtles (threatened) and snapping turtles (vulnerable). Because of the deadstock pile, this entire region of the river is a death trap for them, not to mention all our other struggling wildlife that are natural prey of coyotes (there has not been a significant rebound in the local hare population, for example, in at least 25 years.) Where once hare tracks crisscrossed our woods in winter and there were what we jokingly called rabbit superhighways here and there, year after year now there are few hare tracks anywhere nearby in winter. The tracks of the coyotes in the mud and sandbars upriver, meanwhile, look like tire tracks in some areas there are so many on top of one another. The only prey I feel comfortable hunting in this area anymore are geese, which have become abundant year-round over the past 10 years or so.

To my knowledge Nova Scotia, unlike other provinces, lacks laws regulating how deadstock piles must be maintained. It was my hope that a strong Biodiversity Act might give officials the tools to do more than educate the farm owner about the harms of not properly maintaining his headstock pile, which, if it's happened at all (as I've requested to the DLF's wildlife division on several occasions over the years), has not resulted in any change in practices.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Citation:

(1) www.nationalpost.com/news/nazi-sympathizer-network-buying-up-cape-breton-properties-with-colony-in-mind-german-report

To Members of the Law Amendments Committee
March 29, 2021

Thank you for allowing me to appear before you today representing Large Private Non Industrial Landowners

I am addressing the Biodiversity Act, Bill 4 and the general scope of proposed changes announced by Minister Porter and Premier Rankin as well as concerns we provided as private landowners. With the broadness and vagueness of this Act it is difficult to understand and evaluate.

With this new Act we appreciated the changes to the Biodiversity Management Zone as detailed in Clause 16 that reflected additions we had requested. However, it was still unclear as to whether a landowner (such as myself) could refuse an agreement if it was initiated by Lands and Forestry. We appreciate that Minister Porter announced these zones will be totally voluntary and expect you will support an amendment to the section on Biodiversity Management Zones to include this.

All wording in this Act needs to be reviewed so it reads clearly that private land falls under NO part of this Act except as relates to Biodiversity Management Zones and then only when a landowner signs an agreement.

Biodiversity Emergency Orders and Offences and Fines were still too heavy handed and Conservation Officers had too much power under Bill 4. It suggests that a person is guilty of an offence immediately and subject to a fine of \$500,000; this again is extreme and would allow officers to act without discussion or investigation. We asked for more clarity of what a Biodiversity Emergency Order would be used for and how it would be managed with private land owners. That there needed to be methods for restoring land and compensation of our forest crops that might be damaged as a result of an order to get rid of unwanted pests, pathogens or invasive species.

We wanted more clarity for Offences and Fines. We didn't want to go to jail or be given a ticket for a fine as a result of unintended consequences, an act by someone who had access to our land or from people who feel they have the right to go wherever and whenever they want and do whatever they want.

Please understand we have NO feasible way to protect ourselves from third party damage or entry to our property. For example, it would take 5 kms of fence to go around a 100 acre woodlot.

We continue to put the message out that we as woodlot owners practice sustainable forest management and have been family landowners for generations. We want the

government, including yourselves, and the public to understand what it means to be a woodlot owner and as such our Private Landowner Rights are of utmost importance to us and we need them to be respected.

Therefore, we support the removal of the sections on Biodiversity Emergency Orders and Offences and Fines and removal of any related wording in the Act.

Focusing this Act on Crown Land only is the right and just thing to do and will avoid landowners having to consider further action to maintain control of our land.

Who landowners are, has changed over the last few decades. For some of us, our fathers worked with Lands and Forests but with changes to the department they were told the advise of educated staff had to be taken over themselves even with all the years of experience they had. So we were sent to college and as a result we are educated, experienced and knowledgeable. There is one thing many of us have that most of the scientists and experts government retains don't have; which is a long term knowledge of and a relationship with our woodlots. We feel there is a need to build a better relationship between Lands and Forestry and landowners and we have been working to do that and are very willing to continue to grow mutual respect, and collaborate in developing and growing programs.

We ask for and were included in the Claus 54 (2) for making and amending regulations for the Act. We would like to suggest the regulations include a committee of Lands and Forestry staff and landowners only to develop the guidelines and agreement for Biodiversity Management Zones. I personally do think there will be landowners who will enter into these agreements if they are written in the spirit of cooperation and respect they need to be.

We know the members of this committee are all people of integrity, knowledge and understanding. We are willing to place our trust in you, Minister Porter, Premier Rankin and his cabinet to make all the necessary changes to the Act. This includes those sections of the Act as mentioned in general terms by Minister Porter and supported by the Premier. It also means reviewing the entire Act to be sure the wording and the intent is clear and consistent throughout the Act.

This is another learning experience for us and we look to your leadership. As always we want to offer any assistance from ourselves that may be appropriate as you work through Amendments to Bill 4.



Law Amendments Committee:

STATEMENT from Mike Lancaster on behalf of the Healthy Forest Coalition

On behalf of the Healthy Forest Coalition, we are grateful for the opportunity to appear before the Law Amendments Committee this morning. We are pleased to see the government introduce the original Biodiversity Act - Bill 4, an Act that aimed to protect and enshrine the protection of all Nova Scotian biodiversity into legislation. Biodiversity health is not a function of some exterior portion of our world, it IS our world and thus it is also the health of our economies as well as our own. This means that biodiversity health must not simply be a goal to work towards but a mandate that is woven into the very fibre of all of our legislation and society.

We were tremendously disappointed to learn of the intended removal of the application of the Bill to private land; Offences and Emergency Orders. The fact that this effort largely came as a result of pressure from a publicly-funded, industrial lobby group, coupled with our inability to read these changes prior to this presentation, has created an anti-democratic process. This should be a concern to all Nova Scotians.

Through our combined countless decades of experience and research on topics of sustainable forestry, forest ecology, and biology we make the following specific recommendations:

1. The initial State of Biodiversity Report should be completed as soon as possible. We believe that a two year period for this initiative is reasonable and that five years, with many of our Species at Risk in precipitous decline, is too long to wait. This Act requires a strong baseline of comparison and therefore one must be established as soon as possible. After the establishment of the initial State of Biodiversity Report we believe that five years for subsequent Reports is appropriate. For example, the preamble touches on Mi'kmaq values and concepts which we believe should be moved to the purpose section.
2. The changing of the section 7 from "The Minister may.." to "The Minister shall"

3. Section 13(2) - The Minister shall begin reporting to the public on the state of the Province's biodiversity within three years of this Act coming into force and shall give regular updates no later than every five years thereafter. - In order to work to keep up with the ongoing collapse of biodiversity, the initial 'state of biodiversity' must be completed within a shorter timeframe and have the updates completed every three years thereafter.
4. As they are a crucial component to ecosystem function and biodiversity health, the Act should cover aquatic ecosystems, not just terrestrial. Many of our most harmful invasive species are aquatic-based organisms.

Our biodiversity is in decline, this is not in question but a settled matter. We are adding more and more species to the list of Species at Risk and dozens, perhaps hundreds, of others of conservation concern, in the queue to be formally protected. This legislation will help to reduce the threat to these species and ecosystems as well as human prosperity. However, now that private land application has been removed from the Bill, these efforts only have the potential to make substantial contributions to 30% of Nova Scotia's biodiversity.

All Nova Scotians benefit from a healthy biodiversity, both directly and indirectly, so all of our Members of the Legislative Assembly must ask themselves: "What legacy do we want to leave? Do we want to be bold, enacting changes that secure a prosperous future for successive generations, or do we want to continue the status quo?".

[REDACTED]

From: Dorothy Moores [REDACTED]
Sent: March 29, 2021 10:53 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: "PLEASE "STOP BILL 4

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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Bill 4 threatens the peaceful enjoyment of my land and must not become law.

Thank you,

Dorothy Moores and kris Sundquist

[REDACTED]

From: simjane [REDACTED]
Sent: March 29, 2021 8:26 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Stop bill 4 I say no. Sim land owners.

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Sent from my Bell LG device over Canada's largest network.

[REDACTED]

From: Fred Campaigne [REDACTED]
Sent: March 29, 2021 7:47 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Strengthen the Biodiversity act

** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE **

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This act must not be watered down by big forestry interests.

Our forests are now toothpicks. This is the first winter without the iconic dark-eyed junco not visiting our feeders. I've been feeding our winter birds for over 40 years now. We don't have enough oak and black cherry to host the insects required for our migratory birds.

The planet's bird and insect population is collapsing. We clear-cut our forests during breeding season. We cut our forest up to the edges of our streams, rivers and lakes.

We listened to fishermen that demanded the cod fishery remained open with unsustainable harvest limits and now we are doing that to our forests.

Support this act. We need to live sustainably with Mother Nature.

--

Nova Scotia Needs Healthy Forests
Fred Campaigne

Submission to the Law Amendments Committee on Bill 4 for a Biodiversity Act

I am making this submission as a private resident of Nova Scotia.

1.0 General

1.1 I do not know what Bill 4 says, only what it said before the government announced it would be gutted. I do not know if there is any point making specific comments on a clause-by-clause basis in light of the Bill's highly fluid state following second reading. If only the legislative drafters know what the legislation says until a few short hours before a clause-by-clause examination, legislators are similarly working in the dark. All around, this is a worrying development in democratic governance. It should not be tolerated, much less dignified.

1.2 If, as the Premier says, the Biodiversity Act will not apply to private land it will not apply to 71% of Nova Scotia. Proceeding with an Act on this basis will give the lie to statements, such as that found in the Preamble, that Nova Scotia is committed to a complete, holistic, integrated legislative framework that provides for all aspects of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Beyond the lie, this equates to a fundamental policy decision to deliver the protection and use of Nova Scotia's biodiversity into the hands of private property owners. This is not an approach that was given approval in principle by the Legislature on first and second reading. Nor is it a wise and responsible approach to protecting and sustainably using Nova Scotia's biodiversity. Unless intelligently regulated, our freedom to profit from privately owned property poses a threat to biodiversity. The sight of our government abandoning protection of biodiversity in response to a virulent private property rights lobby is appalling.

1.3 My more specific comments, which follow, are offered on the basis of Bill 4 as tabled on March 11, 2021.

2.0 Specifics

2.1 In order for Bill 4 to be meaningful and effective as a Biodiversity Act, it should be grounded in a view about the reasons for loss of biodiversity. The recitals in the Bill approach pure aspiration. They do not identify any sort of mischief to be remedied, whether through discretionary executive orders, voluntary engagement or otherwise. I request that the Law Amendments Committee amend Bill 4 to include the following as the first recital in the Act

in order to be clear about the nature of the problems to be addressed through the Act:

- Whereas biodiversity in Nova Scotia is under threat due to actions and processes, such as changes in land use, exploitation of natural resources, pollution, invasive alien species and climate change, which threaten or may threaten the survival or natural development of organisms or ecosystems;

2.2 I believe that responsibility for the Act should be conferred on the Minister of Environment, not the Minister of Lands and Forestry. The Minister of Lands and Forestry is mandated to increase the productivity of forests in Nova Scotia and that is a mandate which inherently conflicts with the protection of their biodiversity.

2.3 I believe that the Act should establish an independent advisory body to make recommendations to the Minister based on scientific evidence and Mi'kmaq ecological knowledge about threats to biodiversity, the establishment of biodiversity management zones and the appropriate measures to mitigate or remediate risks to biodiversity in the those zones. The Minister should be required to take all steps reasonably necessary to implement the recommendations unless the Governor in Council varies or rejects the recommendations with published, written reasons. This approach will give those impacted by the creation and operation of Biodiversity Management Zones assurance that the zones and measures are scientifically necessary and not based on political opinion or the arbitrary exercise of power.

2.4 I find it hard to support this Bill, even though I think it is needed and is overdue, because it kicks the actual regulatory regime down the road by placing power and responsibility in the hands of the Executive. If the Legislature is going to approach this difficult and complex issue by empowering the executive to make discretionary subordinate legislation I would feel a lot happier if I could see some efforts to establish checks and balances. In this context I refer to section 23 which gives rise to three problems.

(1) It should be amended to eliminate the power to delegate exercise of this important, order issuing, function to employees. All subsequent related references to employees should also be deleted, including section 28 in its entirety. This power is too important and potentially invasive to be wielded by the bureaucracy.

(2) The kind of time frames resulting from the interplay between sections 23, 26, 27 and 28, particularly the 30-day appeal period and ensuing judicial process, suggest that the need for immediate action of the kind usually associated with stop work orders is not being contemplated. In this context subsection 27(2) does not relate in any way to the right of appeal in subsection 28(1). Does 27(2) operate notwithstanding the right of appeal in 28(1) or is it subject to exhaustion of the appeal period and the appeal process? Clarification is essential.

(3) Crucially important, section 23 operates entirely in relation to contraventions of section 38. Section 38 does not, however, specify any offenses. Rather it serves to establish categories of offence for which the Minister may make regulations under section 54. It does so without referring to section 54. This kind of opaque sectional cascade makes the legislation difficult to read and understand and gives rise to suspicions about the government's agenda – as you may have noticed. Citizens are entitled to know what the offences are for which they may be penalized and the offences should be spelled out in the legislation. If the Legislature intends to delegate the power to create offences, the delegation should be to the Lieutenant Governor in Council rather than to the Minister and, contrary to section 55, the Act should be specified to come into effect 30 days after the proposed regulations have been tabled in the Legislature. This would ameliorate concerns about arbitrary and opaque laws which arise when offences are created beyond the reach of accountability to the Legislature.

2.5 There is mention in the Bill's Preamble of biodiversity being "a shared responsibility of all levels of government". In the body of the Bill there is reference to the Minister coordinating implementation of biodiversity policies and programs with municipal government (section 7(e)) and of the Minister entering into agreements with municipalities for purposes of the act (section 8). What the Bill fails to do, however, is empower municipal governments for purposes of protecting bio-diversity and its sustainable use. Municipal governments have to deal with the fact that they are implicated and involved in protecting biodiversity and regulating its sustainable use without receiving any guidance or clarification of their roles, responsibilities and powers. Why is there no consequential amendment to the *Municipal Government Act*, particularly the provisions respecting land use planning? I would like to see the Biodiversity Act take a robust approach to the role of our municipal governments in the protection of biodiversity and its use. In

that regard I have three suggestions developed in consultation with my daughter who is a municipal councillor.

First, section 14 (which empowers the Minister to authorize a person to engage in a prohibited activity if, in the Minister's opinion, the activity is not likely to cause an adverse effect and is necessary to satisfy a compelling public interest) trenches on an essential municipal government function. Provincial legislation gives land use planning, zoning and regulation to the municipalities as their responsibility and it is therefore essential that they play an informed and meaningful role in land use regulation and the permitting of land uses. Section 14 should be amended to require that before the Ministers issues a permit s/he must consult the municipal government having land use planning responsibilities for the area where the prohibited activity will be carried out after first providing

- written public information to support the conclusion that negative effects are unlikely,
- written identification of the public interest to be served, and
- an explanatory statement as to why it is of compelling interest.

Second, the Minister should be required to consult the municipal government before establishing a biodiversity zone under section 15 or 16 within the municipality.

Third, municipal governments should be specifically referenced in section 53(2) and (if my recommendation at paragraph 2.3(3) is not adopted) section 54(2), which deal with consultation requirements prior to the enactment of regulations. To be clear on this point, municipal governments are not simply “stakeholders” or members of the public, but are charged with the responsibility of local government with particular emphasis on land use regulation and the Minister should have a specific obligation to consult them before recommending or making regulations under the Act.

Respectfully submitted on 29 March 2021.

Veryan Haysom

March 24, 2021

Honourable Iain Rankin
Office of the Premier
7th Floor, One Government Place
1700 Granville Street
Halifax, NS B3J 1X5

Dear Premier Rankin:

I am writing today on behalf of Antigonish County Municipal Council and the numerous private landowners in Antigonish County who have reached out in the past week to express our deep disappointment to the way Bill 4, the Biodiversity Act, was introduced in the Nova Scotia Legislature.

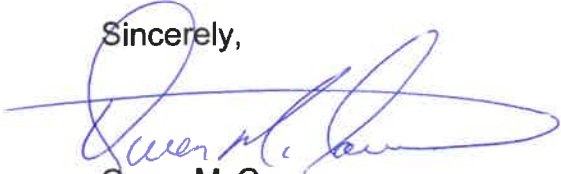
As originally introduced the Biodiversity Act was largely greeted in Antigonish County as a surprising attack on private land ownership, specifically the provisions relating to emergency orders and fines, and its application to all lands, public and private across the province.

Representing 70% of the land in Nova Scotia, private landowners are a crucial stakeholder in securing an environmentally sustainable and secure future. As introduced the Biodiversity Act and the government's communication surrounding it did not reflect the decades of proactive sustainable practices and environmental stewardship of our province's forests, farms and other lands. Further, the government's actions did not reflect its language around working collaboratively with those most directly affected by the legislation.

We are pleased to learn of your decision to eliminate these troubling aspects of the proposed legislation. As your government explores other ways to protect biodiversity and

encourage sound environmental stewardship you will find allies in Antigonish County. We have a common interest in the protection and sustainable use of our natural environment. To that end we strongly encourage you to tackle these significant and complex challenges in a highly collaborative way, involving those directly affected early and consistently.

Sincerely,



Owen McCarron

Warden, Municipality of the County of Antigonish

Cc: Honourable Chuck Porter, Minister of Lands and Forestry
Honourable Randy Delorey, MLA for Antigonish
Honourable Lloyd Hines, MLA for Guysborough-Eastern Shore-Tracadie
Deputy Mayor Emily Lutz, President, NSFM
Municipal Council

Office of the Legislative Counsel
CIBC Building
802-1809 Barrington Street
PO Box 1116
Halifax NS B3J 2X1

To the Law Amendments Committee,

Re: Bill 4, The Biodiversity Act

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Nova Scotia Invasive Species Council to confirm our support for Bill 4. The International Union for Conservation of Nature states that invasive species are the second biggest threat to biodiversity after habitat loss. Preventing the introduction and spread of invasive species is the priority for invasive species management practices. Invasive species are causing harm to Nova Scotian ecosystems and Species at Risk. Invasive species also pose a range of socioeconomic threats along with significant environmental problems. The annual cumulative lost revenue from just 16 invasive species in Canada is estimated at \$13-35 billion with additional damages to the agricultural and forestry sectors estimated at \$.5 billion.¹

Recently, a brand of aquarium moss balls sold in North America was found to be contaminated with zebra mussels, an invasive mussel that has serious ecological and economical implications. Zebra mussels were first confirmed in these moss balls in the United States and then made their way to Canada, where they were eventually confirmed in aquarium stores here in Nova Scotia. Zebra mussels are not yet present in Nova Scotia waters; elsewhere they are known to degrade ecosystems by reducing native biodiversity. They pose a serious threat to aquatic Species at Risk such as the brook floater and the yellow lampmussel, they clog pipes and affect water treatment facilities, and they reduce recreational opportunities as well. In Ontario, municipalities are spending \$4 million per year to manage zebra mussels. As damaging as zebra mussels can be, there is no legislation that can currently control the importation of contaminated moss balls into our province, or subsequently prevent the introduction of this invasive mussel into our waters.

There is a huge gap in regulating the pet and aquarium trade, and zebra mussels are unfortunately not the only problem. Frog Pond in HRM is experiencing an ecosystem crash due to the introduction of the invasive plant fanwort, which was likely brought in from the aquarium trade. It is now at the point where recreational activities in this lake have been significantly reduced, as you can no longer swim in these waters and it is becoming more difficult to canoe or kayak through the vast patches of this weed-like plant. We have over 3000 lakes in Nova Scotia, but there is currently nothing in place to prevent the introduction and control the spread of invasive species with current regulations.

1. <https://canadainvasives.ca/invasive-species/>

It is not just our waters that are at risk; many terrestrial invasive species are poised to have devastating impacts on biodiversity as well if we do not improve legislation. Hemlock woolly adelgid and emerald ash borer are two high profile invasive insects that threaten our forests. These forest pests kill trees very quickly, destroying habitats that many species rely on for survival.

Due to the geology in Nova Scotia, there are many diverse habitats. With climate change, we will see a lot of these habitats become ideal for new invasive species. In addition, Halifax is a major port in Canada and will be a point of introduction for invasive species; with little to no regulations on the importation or management of invasive species in Nova Scotia, we could end up allowing invasive species to proliferate and spread across the province.

Bill 4 and associated invasive species regulations will support the development of prevention and management programs for invasive species. We need more resources for research, education, and monitoring to assess the impacts and create awareness of invasive species in our province, which is why the Nova Scotia Invasive Species Council supports this Bill and is willing to assist in the implementation.

Thank you for taking the time to read our statement, we appreciate your consideration on this matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Kristen Noel', written in black ink.

Kristen Noel, Project Coordinator

Nova Scotia Invasive Species Council

[REDACTED]

From: Jodie Turner [REDACTED]
Sent: March 29, 2021 1:05 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Cc: Office
Subject: The Biodiversity Act

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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Good day to the Legislative Counsel Office
I am sure you are very busy, so will get right to the point.
I am a rural resident - and have been since 1974.
I ask that the Biodiversity Act is strengthened, not gutted.

Sincerely
Jodie Malinen

[REDACTED]

#StopClearcuttingNow

Dear Members of the Law Amendments Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback on the Biodiversity Act. I'm writing as an individual, as a board member of the Eastern Shore Forest Watch Association (a volunteer position), and a fifth-generation woodlot owner.

I'm turning 30 next month. Even within my lifetime, I've noticed a distressing decline in birds, other wildlife, plants, and insects.

To an extent, we've become desensitized to this loss. So, I'd like to share some examples that stand out to me. I remember the magic of watching fireflies as a kid. Sadly, I haven't seen any in years.

I used to love falling asleep to a chorus of frogs and crickets. Now, I fall asleep to a recording of frogs through an app on my smartphone.

I also remember what a pain it was to have to stop and clean dead bugs off the windshield on road trips. But I'd gladly do that chore today if it meant that our ecosystems were starting to recover.

The truth is, biodiversity is in peril. Nature is declining at rates never before seen in human history, which makes it hard for us to comprehend. A landmark report from the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) has shown that "grave impacts on people around the world [are] now likely" as a result of the biodiversity crisis. We're already seeing serious repercussions of our broken relationship with nature. (A grim but timely example is the Covid-19 pandemic).

Not only is the sixth mass extinction an ongoing extinction event, but the rate of species extinction is also accelerating. The Center for Biological Diversity reports, "The current rate of extinction of species is estimated at 100 to 1,000 times higher than natural background rates."

We've lost 60% of the planet's wildlife in less than 50 years, according to the World Wildlife Fund's 2020 Living Planet Report.

Our remaining wildlife is in trouble. The UN warns, "Around 1 million animal and plant species are now threatened with extinction, many within decades, more than ever before in human history."

It's okay if you don't remember these statistics. But I hope you do remember this:

Biodiversity loss is a *global crisis* that's enacted *locally*.

We are enabling this crisis.

Sir Robert Watson, Chair of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), says that "it is not too late to make a difference, but only if we start now at every level from local to global."

Our current conservation efforts are failing to adequately protect threatened species and their habitats. World Wildlife Fund's "Living Planet Report Canada 2020" revealed that populations of Canadian species that are of global conservation concern have declined

(in Canada) by an average of 42% between 1970 and 2016. Populations of Canadian species that are of national conservation concern have declined by an average of 59% between 1970 and 2016.

Biodiversity loss isn't restricted to species that are legally defined as endangered. Even once-common species have suffered staggering declines.

As a fifth-generation woodlot owner, I understand that responsible stewardship is both a right and a responsibility.

It is our collective responsibility to start treating biodiversity loss like the crisis it is.

We need to start by passing a strong Biodiversity Act in order to preserve biodiversity on public and private land. The Act should work to conserve both terrestrial and aquatic habitats.

I feel it's imperative that the Biodiversity Emergency Orders are re-introduced, in order to deal with acute threats (such as invasive species) when they occur on private land.

I'm extremely disappointed that the government has significantly weakened its own Legislation. The revised Act, as distributed a few hours ago, eliminated 10 pages straight of a 20-page document. We need a Biodiversity Act with enforcement mechanisms. It's imperative that the Biodiversity Emergency Orders are re-introduced, in order to deal with acute threats (such as invasive species) when they occur on private land.

After all, Crown Land only makes up approximately 30% of our province, and that percentage is fragmented across the province.

Projections from Dr. Karen Beazley of Dalhousie University show that we need to manage approximately ~60-65% of the province's landmass for biodiversity conservation objectives. That figure is consistent with other studies that determine what is needed to maintain native biodiversity over time.

From the air we breathe, to the water we drink, biodiversity is critical to human survival. The more biodiverse our province and our planet are, the more resilient they will be to weather disturbances, disease, and climate change.

We all have a responsibility to do better, for this generation, and the generations that follow.

I want my niece and nephew to have the opportunity to be enchanted by fireflies, lulled to sleep by real frogs croaking, and annoyed by bugs on the windshield.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Lee

Re: Proposed Biodiversity Act

Dear Members of the Law Amendment Committee,

I am writing you this letter to share my thoughts and concerns on the topic of the Proposed Biodiversity Act (Bill 4). I came to know the Biodiversity Act through my profession as a professional forester and blueberry farm manager, but I am writing this letter from my family perspective as a rural Nova Scotian. I enjoy rural life and downtime in the outdoors by camping, hiking, and dirt biking with my wife and 3 sons.

Stakeholder engagement:

From the onset of the first version of the Biodiversity Act (Bill 116), consultation has failed to reach and engage all stakeholders. While many that use the Forests in some way for their profession seem to be aware of the Act, most Nova Scotians are oblivious to the potential impacts of this Act. I have an example of this on both sides of my family. My parents and my wife's parents both hold land and use it for recreational walks, gardening, firewood, income from blueberries and forest products, and to live on. Neither set of parents realized there was a Biodiversity Act until it was in the first reading and it made the news. They were very upset at the thought of potentially having limitations placed on their land or being fined for unknowingly hurting an organism defined in the Act. Obviously they were not involved in any consultation.

Thinking of hiking, camping, and atv use, have all stakeholders been consulted properly? I believe the Public perceives this to be a mainly a Forestry issue, when in fact it affects anyone that uses land for any purpose, and especially those of us that live and play in rural areas. Adding a Biodiversity Management Zone could potentially cut off or fragment hiking trails to waterfalls, atv trails, or limit activities in Provincial Parks and Beaches. Adequate consultation has not been provided to all stakeholders.

Looking at where we are at now, I would say the trend is continuing. In a recent release from the Premier's Office (March 23, 2021) the scope of the Act is limited to Crown Land, and Private Land on a Voluntary basis. While this is a step in the

right direction at the time this letter is written there are no details on how the voluntary agreement would work, in fact the revised Act has not been published at all. At present we are at Law amendments, proceeding along the path to pass this Bill, and the latest version of the Act has not been made public. What is the rush? Why not take time to let Nova Scotians read and fully understand the proposed Act and its implications. If the authors of the proposed Act were more transparent, and provided details, Regulations, and education there may be more participation/buy in and less fear of worst case scenarios.

Potential Alternative to a Biodiversity Act:

I think as a potential alternative to creating a new Act to protect Biodiversity we should consider amending and adding Regulations to existing Acts that govern what takes place on land and water in Nova Scotia. We currently have over 18 Acts that regulate what we do on land in Nova Scotia, including: the Beaches Act, Conservation Easement Act, Crown Lands Act, Endangered Species Act, Environment Act, Expropriation Act, Forest Enhancement Act, Forest Act, Private Ways Act, Protection of Property Act, Provincial Parks Act, Trails Act, and the Wilderness Areas Protection Act. In addition to that, there are Acts that control what we do around brooks, lakes, and oceans, such as the Water Act, Coastal Protection Act, Fisheries Act, and Oceans Act.

In section 2) of the proposed Biodiversity Act the purpose states that the Act is to provide for the stewardship, conservation, sustainable use and governance of biodiversity in the Province. I think this is a noble goal and one that we should strive to achieve as a Province, but I wonder could it be done by adding to Regulations or modifying Acts we currently have in place. This may also address the issue of stakeholder engagement as it would involve a wide range of stakeholders that may be affected by the aforementioned Acts.

It is my understanding that there are changes tabled for the Crown Lands Act at this time. I would suggest that the Department of Lands and Forestry consider shelving Bill 4, but take the purpose of the proposed Act and apply it to existing legislation, similar to changes being made to the Crown Lands Act.

It is my wish that:

- 1) The Department of Lands and Forestry consider shelving the Biodiversity Act and amending existing legislation to reflect the protection of Biodiversity in the Province.
- 2) If 1) is not possible, the Biodiversity Act should be amended with the most recent changes, including Regulations, and provided to all stakeholders in its entirety for review and feedback before going forward to the Third Reading of the Bill.

Sincerely,

D. Jason Stewart

Jason Stewart, BscFE, RPF
1590 Thomson Road
RR#1 Collingwood, Cumb. Co., N.S.
B0M 1E0
902-686-3008
jason.stewart@bragglumber.com

Re: Proposed Biodiversity Act

Dear Members of the Law Amendment Committee,

I am writing you this letter to share my thoughts and concerns on the topic of the Proposed Biodiversity Act (Bill 4). I came to know the Biodiversity Act through my profession as a professional forester and blueberry farm manager, but I am writing this letter from my family perspective as a rural Nova Scotian. I enjoy rural life and downtime in the outdoors by camping, hiking, and dirt biking with my wife and 3 sons.

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From the onset of the first version of the Biodiversity Act (Bill 116), consultation has failed to reach and engage all stakeholders. While many that use the Forests in some way for their profession seem to be aware of the Act, most Nova Scotians are oblivious to the potential impacts of this Act. I have an example of this on both sides of my family. My parents and my wife's parents both hold land and use it for recreational walks, gardening, firewood, income from blueberries and forest products, and to live on. Neither set of parents realized there was a Biodiversity Act until it was in the first reading and it made the news. They were very upset at the thought of potentially having limitations placed on their land or being fined for unknowingly hurting an organism defined in the Act. Obviously they were not involved in any consultation.

Thinking of hiking, camping, and atv use, have all stakeholders been consulted properly? I believe the Public perceives this to be a mainly a Forestry issue, when in fact it affects anyone that uses land for any purpose, and especially those of us that live and play in rural areas. Adding a Biodiversity Management Zone could potentially cut off or fragment hiking trails to waterfalls, atv trails, or limit activities in Provincial Parks and Beaches. Adequate consultation has not been provided to all stakeholders.

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- 2) If 1) is not possible, the Biodiversity Act should be amended with the most recent changes, including Regulations, and provided to all stakeholders in its entirety for review and feedback before going forward to the Third Reading of the Bill.

Sincerely,

D. Jason Stewart

Jason Stewart, BscFE, RPF

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: russ donohoe [REDACTED]
Sent: March 29, 2021 9:06 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 4

** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE **

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No to bill 4

Sent from my iPhone

March 29 2021

Law Amendments Bill #4
Request of answers to my question.

To the members of the Committee.


For greater clarity to myself and the public, I request truthful and honest answers to the following questions in writing within 21 day.

- A. Who as in person or organization mandated bill #4 and #9 if not this legislature?**
- B. Do You agree, since this legislature was mandated by an undisclosed unknown unelected body, the province of Nova Scotia has lost it's independent governance?**
- C. Do you agree, that bill #4 and bill #9 give unlimited power to regulate and control organisms including humans alike. Without the requirements of actual scientific proof and without remedy for the population.**
- D. Where does the Minister draw his authority from to seize private real property that has exclusive rights awarded to the deed holder and property owner?**
- E. Do you agree, that Nova Scotians have not been told and not given the free choice to decide wether or not to be part of the ongoing restructuring of the local political framework and laws and to align them with the geo political rollout for a One world Government also called New World Order under the guise of "Build back better".**

Exhibit A

The true goal of Bill#4 and Bill#9 Agenda 2030 as shared by the liberal party under the “New green deal” “The Great Reset” or “Build back better”

2030, "You'll own nothing." And you'll be happy!

 @wef

You'll own nothing, and you'll be happy. This is how our world could change by 2030. Read more: wef.ch/2gmbN7M

1

You'll own nothing.
And you'll be happy.

Based on the input of members of the World Economic Forum's Global Future Councils

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

Exhibit B

It is evident that the focus is on changing the overall use of crown lands away from forestry and timber production.

Object and purpose old version Bill 114

- 2 The object and purpose of this Act is to provide for the most effective utilization of Crown lands by
- (a) the application of proven forest management techniques to enhance productivity on Crown lands and to provide for an increasing harvest of better quality forest products;
 - (b) **requiring that leasing and licensing arrangements on Crown lands are providing for equitable stumpage rates, adequate investments in forest improvements and improved market access for privately produced wood;**
 - (c) the integration of wildlife and outdoor recreation considerations in the forest management planning process on Crown lands; and
 - (d) the more effective administration and management of all Crown lands. R.S., c. 114, s. 2.

New Version amended Bill #9

- 2 The purpose of this Act is to
- (a) provide the legislative and regulatory framework that will ensure Crown lands are **sustainably used, protected, and managed to maintain and enhance biodiversity** and for purposes that include wilderness conservation, recreation, **economic opportunity in forestry, tourism and other sectors, community development, and for the cultural, social and aesthetic enjoyment of Nova Scotians;** and
 - (b) **require that forestry leasing and licensing on Crown lands provide equitable stumpage rates, provide adequate investments in forest improvements and establish an overall preference for timber produced on privately owned land.**

Exhibit C

Government introduced and potential becoming invasive species spreading across Canada. But classified as biological controls.



Exhibit D

Official page of approvals of areal spraying including of parks and watersheds

novascotia.ca

Pesticide Applications Approvals | Pests and Pesticides | Nova Scotia Environment

Nova Scotia Environment

4-5 minutes

Any pesticides that are used in Canada must be registered through [Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency](#). This federal agency determines whether a product is safe for use.

Approvals issued in Nova Scotia are posted below, and [key details of approvals issued in 2020](#) are also available.

Please note that the approvals include property identification number (PIDs) where spraying has been approved. It is important to note that many of the PIDs are quite large and only a small site within each one has been approved for spraying. Because of this, the location closest to the actual spray site may not be the same one listed in the approval as the PID location. For example, in approval #2017-107493, West Loon Lake in Halifax County is listed as the location of the PID, but the spray site is closer to Eastville in Colchester County.

Application #	Start Date	Status
2020-2707963	August 17, 2020	Approved
2020-2706292	August 17, 2020	Approved

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL Nova Scotia Environment

Approval Holder: NORTHERN PULP NOVA SCOTIA CORPORATION

Project: Chaswood, Ten Mile, Shingle Lake, Fairbanks Lake, College Lake East, Long lake, Georgiefield, Riversdale, Dickey Lake, Camden, Bentley Lake, Moose Lake, Moose Lake West, Kent Brook, Gerrish Valley

Site:

PID	Civic #	Street Name	Street Type	Community	County
20013249				West River Station	Pictou
20046793				Camden	Colchester
20051132				South Branch	Colchester
20055448				West Loon Lake	Halifax
20058186				Older Brook	Colchester
20138988				Simpson Lake	Colchester
20158085				Wittenburg	Colchester
20434288	64	Stevens	Rd.	Folly Lake	Colchester
40208787				Eastville	Colchester
40209090				West Loon Lake	Halifax
40219123				Long Lake	Halifax
40249039				Long Lake	Halifax
40249096				Long Lake	Halifax
45386242				Upper Kennetcook	Halifax

Approval No: 2017-107493-00

File No: 35200-30-TRU-2017-107493

Reference Documents

- Application submitted June 27, 2017 and attachments.

1. Definitions

- Act means Environment Act, Chapter 1 of the Acts of 1994-95, and includes, unless the context otherwise requires, all regulations made pursuant to the Act.

Exhibit E

The Province of Nova Scotia is a publicly traded Corporation.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://sec.report/CIK/0000842639>. The page title is "Province Of Nova Scotia" with the SEC CIK #0000842639. The main content area contains a paragraph explaining that the Province of Nova Scotia is regulated by the U.S. Security and Exchange Commission and is primarily in the business of foreign governments. Below this is a "Company Details" table with the following information:

Company Details	
Reporting File Number	033-25297
Fiscal Year End	12-31
Date of Edgar Filing Update	2007-08-21
SIC	8898 [FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS]
Business Address	CANADIAN CONSULATE GENERAL 1251 AVE OF THE AMERICAS NEW YORK NY 10020
Business Phone	2127682400

At the bottom of the page, there is a "Ticker: AAPL" field and an "Email Notifications" button with a RSS icon.

Committee!

I am Franz Fraitzl and presenting my opinion and evidence with honourable and peaceful intentions.

It is not my intention to harass, intimidate, offend, conspire, blackmail, coerce, cause anxiety, alarm or distress.

As the executor/beneficiary and private landowner

I am rejecting Bill#4 and #9 both must die!

A brief background about myself, I received formal education through a technical agriculture College in applied conventional Agriculture and Forestry practices in Germany.

Further studied Biodynamic Agriculture by Rudolf Steiner along with knowledge in Viniculture, Herb farming and Wildcrafting.

With additional certifications in:

Municipal Solid Waste management and recycling,

Fecal sludge management and

Household Water Treatment and Safe Storage.

A Business Approach to Sustainable Landscape Restoration

Environmental Management & Ethics as well as
Unethical Decision Making in Organizations

In Bill #4 the WHEREAS are mere pleading recitals to justify a framework of control that already exists to impose further regulations based on made-up science and fiction as in the "Wizard of OZ" in order to advance the global Agenda 2030.

In Bill #9 the amendments of object and purpose of the Crown lands act 114 to create the framework and alignment to modify the use or the restriction of use, based on the assumptions in Bill #4.

The purpose of bill #4 and #9 as both state are fundamentally to use and govern biodiversity and organisms in the Province held under human control or in nature. But also represents the model to be rolled out across Canada to facilitate a Bio Security State as part of Agenda 2030. Plainly put, what this means that, if the Minister decides because it has a bad hair day pets are bad, granny will lose her companion or go to jail or get fined or lose her home! In nature, the creation of a pathogen narrative or a bio threat and allow through this bill #4 and #9 the destruction and repurposing of private and crown lands also called community developments and tourism turning forests and food production into hotels and golf courses.

Nature as in bio diversity is self regulating if not messed with and does not need governance by men or corporate bodies. The so called invasive species introduced or naturally through wildlife migration and weather into a healthy ecosystem will naturally regulate and balance based on the environmental conditions given. There have been many incidents where governments introduced on purpose beetle species to threaten and control many valuable herbs.

The approach this legislature has taken in the rollout of bill#4 and bill #9, has shown that this government cannot be trusted.

Public records clearly show that this government has been permitting the controlling of biodiversity through mass areal herbicide and pesticide spraying programs, including in provincial parks and watersheds.

These spray operations take place without the publics full knowledge and understanding. It is a fact that areal spraying can be extremely hazardous to wildlife, the population and the foods we grow near the spray zones.

I am rejecting bill#4 and bill#9 both must die!

With the resent public backtracking of the Liberals and their handlers in the mainstream propaganda media. The public must understand that there is a greater Agenda at work that requires for the bill#4 and #9 to be passed. Once passed no matter of an added clause to review after 5 years the only way to repeal a bill is how it is created. Lets remember the 2 weeks flatten the curve scenario that has now turned into over a year, showing us a perfect example what Bill#4 and #9 can look like!

By removal of parts of article 7 of bill #4 section (k) that can be easily misused you have added the same back in now reading as article 8 section a).

This act in it's entirety cannot exist in a free society!

I am rejecting bill #4 and bill #9 both must die!

The revision shows a removal of 60 percent of the original tabled bill #4. But you still insists on keeping a bill in place that shows an alternative undisclosed Agenda.

For greater clarity to myself and the public,I request truthful and honest answers to the following questions in writing within 21 day.

- A. Who as in person or organization mandated bill #4 and #9 if not this legislature?**
- B. Do You agree, since this legislature was mandated by an undisclosed unknown unelected body, the province of Nova Scotia has lost it's independent governance?**
- C. Do you agree, that bill #4 and bill #9 give unlimited power to regulate and control organisms including humans alike. Without the requirements of actual scientific proof and without remedy for the population.**
- D. Where does the Minister draw his authority from to seize private real property that has exclusive rights awarded to the deed holder and property owner?**
- E. Do you agree, that Nova Scotians have not been told and not given the free choice to decide wether or not to be part of the ongoing restructuring of the local political framework and laws and to align them with the geo political rollout for a One world Government also called New World Order under the guise of "Build back better".**

It is time that the public realizes that the true threats to Bio Diversity come from Corporations, NGO's and Governments which are equally for profit traded corporations.

It is time that the public needs to understand that politician and CEO's of Corporation are hiding behind dead entities or fiction also called corporate fictions.

A corporation without the actions performed by politician or CEO's is just that a dead entity or fiction.

Yet the actions of the politician and CEO are what cause the harm and injury through coercion and governance. It is time that you are held accountable personally for you actions and behaviour.

Accountable personally and liable to your families, your kids and potential grandkids.

Accountable personally and liable to your community, neighbours and friends.

To finish:

Once you leave this legislature and finished your Agenda that you are being used for you will become equally bound by the framework you are trying to impose and put in place!

I am rejecting Bill#4 and #9 both must die!

[REDACTED]

From: Brian Budden [REDACTED]
Sent: March 29, 2021 9:46 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: No to Bill 4

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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Stop this Bill. Land owner should have control over their properties.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

Presentation on Bill#4, March 29, 2021, 14:00

First I would like to say that I am a landowner in rural Nova Scotia but I do not feel threatened by Bill 4 and I am in no way represented by the “Concerned Private Landowner Coalition”, a coalition in name only. On the contrary I support the bill in its original form.

I am privileged to have a small brook running on my property and into a salt water bay. When we started to live there in 1984 we discovered that there was a run of smelts in that brook. Every spring for a week to 10 days they gathered at the mouth of the stream by the thousands and circled, waiting for the high tide to climb the small waterfall. Sometimes they were joined by gaspereaux. We did not have to go check if they had arrived because we were told by the cries of the blue herons and gulls that gathered to feed on the fish caught between the rocks when the tide went down. The run was an amazing phenomenon to watch, and because very few smelts, if any, made it up the fall, my children and I would scoop some with buckets and quickly release them above the fall. We probably did not make much difference, as I learned later that smelts can successfully reproduce by spawning on the shore at the mouth of the freshwater brook. But my children learned to respect life of all animals and marvel at the workings of nature.

Then, one spring, a man in a small boat came and put a net across most of the inlet. He came again the next spring, and there has not been a single smelt trying to go up the little brook since, nor a gaspereau. We do not see herons strutting on the shore for most of the summer anymore. The man did not come back either, but that is not surprising, he killed the goose that laid the golden eggs.

This is biodiversity loss. It is difficult to express in words the deep sense of loss, of sadness, of frustration and sometimes anger that this smelt run is no more. I will not be able to share the awe with my grandchildren. When I tell this story to them, it will be a story in the past, like so many stories Grandma tells. But it will not be a story of their present and future. This is why we need the biodiversity act, with emphasis on awareness, education and enforcement.

You may think that this is only a small fish run, in a small brook, of a small population of smelts. But I am only one of the many Nova Scotian from all over the province who can tell similar stories about many different species of flora and fauna. Sometimes the cause is evident, as in the case of a forest clear-cut, sometimes not so evident because habitat fragmentation and loss is such an insidious phenomenon. But biodiversity loss happens every day in Nova Scotia and more and more species become endangered. Practically no land owner has enough land to preserve biodiversity on his or her own, we must collaborate and work as a team, and this is why we need the biodiversity act; it should transcend property boundaries and work at the landscape scale.

It is very disappointing that Bill 4 has been modified already even before today's public consultation. It is even more concerning that the changes were made to appease people that reacted to a completely false and alarmist representation of Bill 4, mounted by a special interest group, Forest Nova Scotia, hiding behind an assumed name and purporting to represent small private land owners.

In shaping Bill 4 I urge you not to forget the very many Nova Scotians that need and want the biodiversity bill, such as

- the families that do not walk their favourite trail because it now crosses a clear-cut,
- the fishermen that do not go fishing because there are no salmon and too few trouts swimming in our streams,
- the wild berry and mushroom pickers who do not pick anymore because of herbicide spraying,
- the farmer that is concerned for his crop because pollinator insects become fewer every year.

Please do not water down the biodiversity bill, most importantly for our children and grandchildren. They are so worried for the natural environment of their future that they feel compelled to have demonstrations even before they are out of school and to do a hunger strike to save the moose.

I thank you for your time and attention.

Patricia Egli, MES, Ph.D.

[REDACTED]

From: Gary Cameron [REDACTED]
Sent: March 30, 2021 8:40 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Biodiversity bill 4

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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Bill 4 needs to be taken off the table, studied and rewritten correctly, so that the bill identifies exactly what curtails. It is wrong for the Premier to do a patch job just to get it through Please stop Bill 4 completely.

Sent from my iPad

[REDACTED]

From: David [REDACTED]
Sent: March 30, 2021 9:36 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Re: Bill 4 - Law Amendments submission

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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Law Amendments Committee
Re: Biodiversity Act

I am 75 years old and have spent most of those years on the shores and in the woods of Nova Scotia. However I have also traveled in other countries and was raised in the Adirondack Mountain Range, so I do know what healthy, diverse forests look like. For fifty years I have watched the continuous degradation of NS forests through repeated and ever expanding clear-cutting, fragmentation of habitat, compaction of soils, disturbance and resultant drying up of streams, greatly increased imbalance of wood species, diminishment of old-growth, and more recently, removal of even aesthetic buffer strips of forest along our highways. I have also been aware of the extensive herbicide spraying that has increased decade by decade, (I'm old enough to remember Elizabeth May commencing her political activism career in the successful challenge to spraying in Cape Breton).

For all these decades NS has needed a legislative act that could underpin true conservation and environmental protection. An act based on scientific evidence and best practices. An act with the whole forest milieu under its jurisdiction on Crown and privately held lands. An act that can be instrumental in the process of reconciliation, that honours the precepts of First Nations whose people lived here on the unceded territory of Mi'kmaki in harmony with the forests and its denizens for millennia.

Now we almost have such an act, a new underpinning for a fresh appreciation of the gifts and services of our forests, for the development of new forestry goals and practices that honour, encourage and protect the biodiversity so essential to the wellbeing of all. An act that can underpin our attempts to lessen and mitigate the effects of climate change on an emergency footing. To do all of that, the Act needs to retain its original intended mandate over all NS lands, Crown and private. To avoid confusion, departmental and public, the language of the act needs to be more specific and nuanced regarding what is being protected and specific as possible about what activities will be under scrutiny, proscribed or prohibited.

I would suggest strongly that catch-all and nebulous terms be removed from the act to avoid both witting and unwitting misconstruing of intent by industry, woodlot owners and the general public. Further I would suggest strongly conversion of the "may" language of the act to "shall", reinforcing the sense of intent to act and accountability.

Thank you for your attention.
David Cameron

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: byron aucoin [REDACTED]
Sent: March 31, 2021 2:22 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: No to bill 4

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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Not sure where to go to vote against bill 4 but as the owner of 2 property's on the south shore and want to vote no.

Sent from my Bell Samsung device over Canada's largest network.

[REDACTED]

From: Christina Davis [REDACTED]
Sent: March 31, 2021 12:41 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel; toryrushtonmla@bellaliant.com
Subject: Bill 4 Biodiversity Management Zones

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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I am a resident of Cumberland County and a Canadian citizen.

My concerns regarding the proposed bill are extreme. Any law in Canada must have a clearly defined purpose, scope of authority and accountability of enforcement. Usurping the rights and responsibilities of landowners is I believe an offence under our constitution. It is certainly an infringement on the treaty rights of First Nations peoples. Urban activists are often lacking in real knowledge and understanding of rural land usage. Biodiversity is nothing new in rural areas. Easy fix solutions rarely fix anything.

Public consultation with all stakeholders and other interested parties is essential. Special interest organizations trying an endrun is completely unacceptable.

I expect the government to quash this bill. Look for accountable ways to promote healthy land use and the biodiversity we all need in order to survive. Looming climate change means looking at the big picture not simply looking at the issue in a piecemeal fashion.

--

Christina

"I have not failed. I just found 10,000 ways that won't work. Thomas Edison

Rev Christina Davis
[REDACTED]



Virus-free. www.avg.com

[REDACTED]

From: linda geddes [REDACTED]
Sent: March 31, 2021 8:18 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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Sent from my iPad. We do not want this bill. 4. „this is a very poor way for our government of Nova Scotia to treat Nova Scotia people !!! Have we not been through enough !!! What and the heck are you thinking

From: [Xavier Redden](#)
To: [Office of the Legislative Counsel](#)
Subject: Bill 4
Date: April 2, 2021 7:59:04 AM

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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Do not infringe on our right to OUR private property!

From: [Frank Eckhardt](#)
Subject: Hello Mrs. Paon, Do you own Land or a property in Nova Scotia ? than you should know Bill4 !!!
Date: April 3, 2021 2:18:27 PM

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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Hello Mrs. Paon,

I was very surprised to learn of the efforts of provincial officials to control and regulate private land ownership. When the investors outside Nova Scotia find out about this, no one will buy land here anymore. That is one thing. The other is that in all socialist and fascist systems, the justification is always to protect someone from something in order to enforce the further restriction of personal and natural liberties of the people. Protection from the evil terrorists, protection from the evil CO2, protection from the evil Russians or Chinese, protection from the Covid 19 cold etc.

At the end of the story there is always one or more bans for the people. Of course only for "their own safety".

Who gives up his personal freedom to gain security will always lose both in the end.

Socialism and fascism are everywhere. Even if he comes in the guise of anti-fascism and leadership. Just then it is the most dangerous for the people of a country.

I and some neighbors are just thinking about a large-scale signatures and Web campaign against it to found.

How do you intend to stop this **Bill4 nonsense Mrs. Paon ?**

With kind regards

Frank Eckhardt

<https://stopbill4.com/>

Larken Rose:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gMAcVL25LS0>

[REDACTED]

From: Brian Douglas [REDACTED]
Sent: April 4, 2021 8:09 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: No to Bill 4

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking on links / Faites preuve de prudence si vous ouvrez une pièce jointe ou cliquez sur un lien

I am writing to advise as a multiple property land owner I don't agree with Bill 4 and will not support the liberal government with this abrasive and hasty implemented Bill.

We as landowners pay for and pay taxes for the land we possess to the day we die. Then our children keep paying for it.

I will not sit idle and have a government regulate how I want to utilize MY land.

If the liberal government want a fight from the constituents of NS then they are going to get one. Smarten up.

Nelson Brian Douglas

[REDACTED]

From: Bertrand Bouchard [REDACTED]
Sent: April 4, 2021 11:25 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: No

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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No to Bill 4

Bertrand Bouchard
Makaira Holdings
[REDACTED]

A Brief Response to Bill 4, Nova Scotia
April 2021

I grew up on the Lahave River and as a child and watched the ospreys suffer from DDT. I also watched the seaweed disappear due to affluent and sewage destroying the water quality and salinity levels. As a young person, we fished large codfish for personal use. Salmon travelled the Lahave waterway and many of our lakes had large trout populations. (Much of the pollution along our "Rhine of North America" has been highlighted by the work of Stella Bowles and Co.) Our waterways are precious, yet development along them defies logic. Infilling of water edges and marshes seems to continue unchecked at a break neck pace. We have watched the development of the lakes that surround us and what has happened to the water quality and many of the marshes along them is disgraceful....yet it continues. Old camps with limited septic systems are being turned into modern homes with the amenities that result...why are they not required to install proper septic systems when a building permit is issued? It is hard to comprehend the toll human interaction exacts on Mother Nature.

On the other hand, I have witnessed vague, over reaching legislation take a toll on private landowners who do not have the resources to contest the action. When reading the supporting articles for the bill, the focus appears to be on clearcutting. The local news reported that the protest leader in our area addressed clearcutting. Yet, when I try to work my way through the written bill, its scope seems to be far more reaching than that. It makes me leery of the intention and implementation of the legislation.

We make our home on approximately 200 acres of land, parts of which have been in the family since the 1930's. There is about 6 acres of cleared land and the remainder was put under a forestry management plan in the late 1970's which has produced a healthy mixed wood forest. During these decades, riparian waterways have been respected and wildlife corridors developed. We have selectively cut to improve the genetic quality of trees in our woodlot and we are willing to learn more regarding good stewardship of our property. People are welcome to walk, ski or peddle a bike, but motorized vehicles are not welcome. The only unnatural damage that has occurred on our property has been as a result of OHV's cutting trails wide enough for the side by sides and blazing red paint to mark the trail. Sadly, the mindset of so many OHV drivers is if private property is interrupting their route, or as soon as they see a trail, they take full advantage causing many of us to absolutely restrain from giving permission to the respectful drivers. The erosion that has occurred is annoying to say the least and the noise pollution is most aggravating. We are frequently unable to have peaceful enjoyment of our land and have been decades combating this trespass.

In keeping with environmental practices that are critically needed, I can appreciate the push for clean energy. To reduce our fuel consumption, we replaced our oil furnace with a heat pump last year. Yet, the amount of fossil fuel used for watersports and OHV's is a major contributor to fossil fuel consumption. The incredible volume of boat activity threatens wildlife, yet that remains unchecked. The hobby of "mudding" with OHV's of all types damages habitat. Where is the check on those activities? Last year our neighbourhood was alive with song birds...possibly due to the quiet that ensued as a result of Covid. As the noise levels return to the pre-pandemic levels, the birds are not as cheerful this year.

I am not against protecting habitat to sustain biodiversity...in fact, I am pro habitat protection, including limited clear cutting. What I am opposed to is sweeping legislation that can be manipulated by far reaching advocates that do not own the land.

My initial thoughts on the bill that addresses biodiversity are: attention should first deal with Crown land, government parks, the issuance of development and building permits along sensitive waterways and other habitats as well as reliable enforcement. If there is vital habitat at risk, maybe the governments could team up with the Nature Conservatory and buy the land at a fair price. Lead by example.

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