



# **Standing Committee on Natural Resources and Economic Development**

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*ANNUAL REPORT*

*2019*

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Halifax

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Hon. Kevin Murphy  
Speaker  
House of Assembly  
Province House  
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Dear Mr. Speaker:

On behalf of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources and Economic Development I am pleased to submit the Annual Report of the Committee for the period from January 2019 to June 2019 of the Sixty-third General Assembly.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Suzanne Lohnes-Croft".

Ms. Suzanne Lohnes-Croft, MLA  
Lunenburg  
Chair  
Standing Committee on Natural Resources and Economic Development

Halifax, Nova Scotia  
2019

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## INTRODUCTION

The Standing Committee on Natural Resources and Economic Development, an all-party Committee of the House of Assembly, was struck at the beginning of the Second Session of the Sixty- Third General Assembly. Pursuant to Rule 60(2)(d) of the *Province of Nova Scotia Rules and Forms of Procedure of the House of Assembly*:

**(2)(d)** The Natural Resources and Economic Development Committee is established for the purpose of considering matters relative to natural resources and economic development including agriculture, aquaculture, business, energy, the environment, fisheries, forestry, infrastructure, marketing, mines, public works, science, technology, tourism, trade and transportation 1987 R. 60(2); am 1993; am. 1996; am. 2018

## MEMBERSHIP

There shall be no more than nine Members of the Legislative Assembly appointed to this committee. The current membership of the Natural Resources and Economic Development Committee is as follows:

Ms. Suzanne Lohnes-Croft, MLA (Chair)  
Lunenburg

Hon. Pat Dunn, MLA  
Pictou Centre

Mr. Hugh MacKay, MLA (Vice Chair)  
Chester-St. Margaret's

Ms. Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin, MLA  
Cumberland North

Ms. Rafah DiCostanzo, MLA  
Clayton Park West

Ms. Claudia Chender, MLA  
Dartmouth South

Mr. Keith Irving, MLA  
Kings South

Ms. Lisa Roberts, MLA  
Halifax Needham

Mr. Brendan Maguire, MLA  
Halifax Atlantic

## MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

As of July 3, 2019, there were no membership changes to the Standing Committee on Natural Resources and Economic Development.

## PROCEDURES AND OPERATIONS

The Natural Resources and Economic Development Committee traditionally meets once a month. These meetings are usually held on the fourth Tuesday of the month in the Legislative Committees Room, 1700 Granville Street, Granville Level, One Government Place.

## **NOTICES, TRANSCRIPTS AND REPORTS**

### **NOTICES**

Notices of committee meetings are sent to all members of the committee, caucus office staff, legislative staff and Communications Nova Scotia. The notices are also posted in Province House and are on the Nova Scotia Legislature website at the following address:

<https://nslegislature.ca/get-involved/calendar/>

### **TRANSCRIPTS**

Transcripts of the Natural Resources and Economic Development Committee meetings are available from the Legislative Library in Province House, the Legislative Committees Office or on the Natural Resources and Economic Development Committee web page at the following address:

<https://nslegislature.ca/legislative-business/committees/standing/natural-resources-and-economic-development/archive/natural-resources-and-economic-development>

### **REPORTS**

All reports of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources and Economic Development are compiled by the Legislative Committees Office and forwarded to committee members for consideration. Upon completion of the review and approval of the report, the Chair tables the report with the Speaker of the House of Assembly or with the Clerk of the House of Assembly.

Distribution of the report is as follows:

To the Speaker and the Clerk of the House of Assembly, committee members, all witnesses who appeared before the committee, the Nova Scotia Legislative Library, caucus offices and the media. This report is available to the general public upon request from the Legislative Committees Office, and is available on the Natural Resources and Economic Development Committee web page at the following address: <https://nslegislature.ca/legislative-business/committees/standing/natural-resources-and-economic-development>

## **RESEARCH MATERIAL**

All research for the Natural Resources and Economic Development Committee is compiled by the Legislative Library in consultation with the committee clerk. Research material is compiled in electronic format and is distributed by the committee clerk prior to the meeting to committee members, staff and witnesses.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The committee wishes to extend its gratitude to all witnesses for their time and co-operation. Special appreciation is extended to the Legislative Committees Office; Hansard Reporting Services; Legislative Television and Broadcast Services; and the Nova Scotia Legislative Library.

# **PUBLIC HEARINGS**



**WITNESSES**

There were no witnesses present during this meeting.

**MATTERS OF DISCUSSION**

The Chair opened the meeting by reviewing housekeeping procedures of the committee, reviewing the emergency evacuation procedures, and the Legislature Storm Policy among other things.

**COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

The Chair then read the new mandate of the committee:

“The Natural Resources and Economic Development Committee is established for the purpose of considering matters relative to natural resources and economic development including agriculture, aquaculture, business, energy, the environment, fisheries, forestry, infrastructure, marketing, mines, public works, science, technology, tourism, trade and transportation”.

After which the committee agreed to set their meeting dates to the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm and not meet in the summer and during House of Assembly sessions for the duration of the committees’ mandate. They also agreed to hold their agenda-setting meeting as soon as possible to avoid not having a witness the following month. Therefore, its agenda-setting meeting was scheduled for February 5, 2019 with its first witness being called in on February 26, 2019.

**Motion**

On the issue of meeting frequencies with respect to bi-weekly meetings, the following motion was put:

“At our agenda-setting meeting, that we would select a few months where we would meet a second time on a topic, under the umbrella of the two departments”.

By: Hon. Pat Dunn, MLA  
Motion: Defeated

The committee then discussed the method of choosing topics. The practice is to choose in the order that was put forward and agreed to by the committee whereby the Government chooses three topics, the Official Opposition chooses two topics and the NDP chooses one. It was mentioned during the discussion that every party provide two topics as opposed to the three, two, one practice.

After the discussion on the issue, the following motion was put:

“I move that the content of the meetings, the alignment of three, two and one of the selection of topics among the three caucuses as well as the normal procedures of order of questions in which all members are given equal opportunity to ask questions at the table”.

By: Mr. Keith Irving, MLA

Motion: Carried

**WITNESSES**

There were no witnesses present during this meeting.

**MATTERS OF DISCUSSION**

The Standing Committee on Natural Resources and Economic Development met to set its future agenda.

The committee agreed to the following topics as put by motion:

Office of Regulatory Affairs & Service Effectiveness  
Red Tape Reduction

Tourism Nova Scotia  
Nova Scotia Tourism 2018 Campaign and Results

NOW Lunenburg County

Department of Energy and Mines  
Shale Gas Development

Mining Association of Nova Scotia  
Department of Energy and Mines  
Uranium Exploration

Department of Business, Green Ecology Network  
Canadian Solar Industries Association  
Green Jobs and Economic Development

The committee also entertained and agreed to a request to appear by Mr. Patrick Crabb of BIRD Construction Re: Wood Use in Public Buildings

**WITNESSES**

**Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness**

Fred Crooks – Chief Regulatory Officer

Leanne Hachey – Executive Director of Regulatory Reform and Partnerships

**MATTERS OF DISCUSSION**

The primary purpose of regulatory reform is fundamentally economic in nature and it is external. The two main aspects of the economic import of red tape reduction is regulatory burden and the regulatory environment and business climate within Nova Scotia, the other is the regulatory frameworks in terms of other provinces and municipalities.

Within Nova Scotia, efficient regulation protects important social interests. The Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness (herein known as “the Office”) mandate is to streamline regulations so that those interests are well served and well protected, while at the same time not having a regulatory system that gets in the way of a vital and dynamic business environment, especially for smaller businesses and start-ups.

The Office’s business navigation service is in contact with over 3,000 people who are interested in getting into business or who are in business and struggling with the regulatory system. Advocacy organizations such as CFIB (Canadian Federation of Independent Business) and others, constantly present to the Office the impact of areas where regulation can improve on their members.

Fundamentally Nova Scotia is a trading province. Fifty-nine percent of GDP (Gross Domestic Product) in Atlantic Canada derives from interprovincial trade, compared to a national average of 35 - 36 per cent. The area is more dependent on trade and more affected when trade is impaired or slowed down by regulatory disharmony, regulatory conflict, discrepancies with partners, whether regionally or nationally.

This year, Nova Scotia is Chair of the national committee under the Canada Free Trade Agreement on regulatory reconciliation. Therefore, what happens at the regional level will help to drive the agenda on the national level.

The red tape reduction is about getting government’s house in order inside, but the rational for it is very much an external impact in terms of the economic environment for the province and region.

The Office has exceeded its \$25 million burden reduction target by achieving \$34 million. They have their business navigators' program, designed to help particularly small businesses and start-ups navigate through the regulatory maze. They had more than 3,000 separate contacts with Nova Scotia entrepreneurs. It is estimated that businesses that use their services, multiplied by a modest wage would contribute about \$3 million to the economy.

## **DOCUMENTATION**

The committee asked for and received the following documentation from Mr. Fred Crooks, Chief Regulatory Officer, Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness:

- Strategic work plans with respect to the growing economy
  - The Office of Regulatory and Service Effectiveness recent Annual Report
  - Report of the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council (APEC)
- A copy of the 23-item workplan of the Regulatory Reconciliation and Cooperation Table (RCT)
- A copy of the Office of Regulatory and Service Effectiveness final report to reduce burden to business which contains 60+ initiatives and details their costs/savings

## **COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

### Motion

The topic of the Nova Scotia to Maine Ferry was referred to the Standing Committee on Natural Resources and Economic Development from the Standing Committee on Public Accounts. It was said that there is a need to have this brought forward into a fulsome discussion at this committee. Following this the motion was put:

“I move that the Natural Resources and Economic Development committee meet to discuss the Nova Scotia to Maine ferry with the Deputy Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, or the deputy's designate or designates, as well as Mr. Mark Macdonald, the CEO of Bay Ferries Limited, and that the committee shall meet at a time when both of the aforementioned parties are available to meet, even during the House sitting.”

By: Mr. Hugh MacKay, MLA

Motion: Carried

**WITNESSES**

**Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal**

Royden Trainor, Senior Executive Director of Policy and Planning

Diane Saurette, Executive Director of Finance and Strategic Capital Planning

**Bay Ferries Limited**

Mark MacDonald, CEO

**Tourism Nova Scotia**

Michele Saran, CEO

Anna Moran, Director of Research and Policy

**MATTERS OF DISCUSSION**

Tourism is an important economic driver for Nova Scotia. It generates employment in both rural and urban communities and spending by Nova Scotians and non-residents which supports businesses and the economy overall. Tourism can be a catalyst for business start-ups, immigration and employee recruitment, which supports population growth and innovation.

2018 was the second-best tourism year on record. This success is rooted in hard work, positive economic conditions, strong marketing campaigns and an industry-wide movement to truly understand the wants and needs of travelers. Bay Ferries along with Marine Atlantic, Northumberland Ferries and all transportation providers provide travelers with safe and reliable ways to access the province.

In the Yarmouth and Acadian shores region, the ferry has been a catalyst for community development and tourism, with breweries, coffee shops, stores, and new visitor experiences coming on the scene. Since the ferry was reintroduced in 2014, there has been exceptional growth in room nights sold in the Yarmouth and Acadian Shores region. In 2018, approximately 36,100 room nights were sold, which is an increase of 54 per cent compared to 2013 (23,500 room nights sold in same area).

With such strong demand for accommodations in the region, more investment by operators is happening. Rodd Hotels and Resorts is moving ahead with plans to reopen the Colony Harbour Inn. There is also amazing new accommodation such as, La Boatique Floating B&B, which allows guests to rent accommodations on a boat in the Yarmouth Harbour.

Research conducted by Tourism Nova Scotia and Bay Ferries confirms that visitors who travel to and/or from Nova Scotia using the Yarmouth ferry are high-value visitors. They stay longer and spend more than the average visitor, and they travel throughout the province. Yarmouth is once again a major entry point to Nova Scotia, and there is a fresh vibe and strong effort under way to maximize the opportunities offered by the ferry link.

Reliable and consistent access to Nova Scotia is important for continued tourism growth. Tourism Nova Scotia is committed to working with Bay Ferries and the Yarmouth and Acadian Shores Tourism Association to align marketing efforts and attract more first-time visitors to Nova Scotia.

## **DOCUMENTATION**

### Tabled Documentation

The following documentation was tabled:

Article by Tri County Vanguard “Ferry tone and concerns causes investor to back away from Yarmouth” (February 28, 2019)

Tabled by: Hon. Zach Churchill  
Yarmouth

Article by Portland Press Herald “Nova Scotia candidate threatens to kill Maine ferry deal” (February 1, 2017)

Tabled by: Mr. Mark MacDonald  
CEO Bay Ferries Limited

Quotes from Warden of the Municipality of Clare, the president of the Chamber of Commerce in Clare, the president of the Digby and Area Board of Trade, the chairperson of the Digby Area Tourism, and the Warden for the Municipality of Digby re: Impact the Yarmouth Ferry has on the area.

Tabled by: Mr. Gordon Wilson, MLA  
Clare-Digby

Article by CBC re: Tourism operators express the difficulty in gaining access to capital. To quote: “Uncertainty affects the ability to secure capital”

Tabled by: Hon. Zach Churchill  
Yarmouth

## **COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

### Correspondence

The committee received and accepted correspondence from Mr. Fred Crooks, Chief Regulatory Officer, Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness from the February 26, 2019 meeting.

**WITNESSES**

**Department of Energy and Mines**

Simon d'Entremont – Deputy Minister

Sandy MacMullin – Executive Director, Petroleum Resources

**MATTERS OF DISCUSSION**

It should be noted that Nova Scotia has a moratorium on high-volume hydraulic fracturing in shales. In recent years much research has centred on the development of the department's onshore atlas. This helps the department to understand the geology, the size of the potential resource, where it is located and its economic potential.

To date, the department has studied two of seven areas of the province that have the right geology to contain oil and gas. The findings indicate that Nova Scotia could have significant petroleum resource potential. A safe estimate is 36 trillion cubic feet of gas potential, of which seven trillion cubic feet would be recoverable.

The department's work provides no guarantees that exploration and development would be successful. The province doesn't have a lot of data to draw on. Since 1970, Nova Scotia has had 54 exploration wells drilled in the onshore; only 34 of these wells exceeded a depth of 1,000 metres and 18 of these have a modern suite of data. Even with limited exploration in onshore, natural gas remains an important part of the province's energy future.

Until recently most of the supply came from the offshore. The province has safely retrieved 2.1 trillion cubic feet of natural gas from the Sable Offshore Energy Project and as a result, received nearly \$4 billion in payments. Now that Sable Offshore Energy Project and Deep Panuke have produced their last gas, the province will have access to gas needed by other means. In 2017, the government amended the Gas Distribution Act to give the Utility and Review Board (URB) the authority to consider a long-term pipeline contract. As a result, Heritage Gas has signed a 2-year contract to bring gas from central Canada to Nova Scotia.

This is a subject that has many perspectives and positions and also has significance for Nova Scotia's energy and economic future.



## **DOCUMENTATION**

### Tabled Documentation

The following documentation was tabled:

Article by Chronicle Herald “Cumberland County looks at fracking” (April 23, 2019)

Tabled by: Mr. Hugh MacKay, MLA  
Chester-St. Margaret’s

## **COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

### Correspondence

With respect to the topic of the day, the Standing Committee on Natural Resources and Economic Development did receive a written submission from a group called NOFRAC to which the Chair announced that it was tabled for members information only as this committee does not accept submissions from non-witnesses as part of the proceedings.

**WITNESSES****NOW Lunenburg County**

Tina Hennigar, Project Coordinator

Lynn Hennigar, Member

**MATTERS OF DISCUSSION**

NOW Lunenburg County was started in 2014 by a small group of community members and business owners who took their lead from the Ivany report. Within that report it was stated that Nova Scotia was in the early stages of a prolonged period of accelerating population loss. That by 2026 one in four people will be over the age of 65.

The group began hosting a series of community meetings to learn what the community needed to stay, live and thrive. The result was population growth. With more people there would be more kids in schools, more customers for businesses, more people working for manufacturers and creating more opportunity.

With the support of the Community Foundation of Nova Scotia and the Lunenburg County community fund, a project coordinator was hired to basically grow the population. A cross-Canada tour was set up to engage conversations at kitchen tables, farmers' markets and in local parks. People began to take notice of the initiative. Inquiries were answered, connections made with local lifestyle interests and possible employment opportunities. However, barriers prohibiting people from moving here needed to be addressed.

For example: the Nova Scotia doctor shortage, which is not unique, but NOW Lunenburg did a very good job of highlighting it. The group had a booth at a doctors recruiting conference and invited dozens of doctors to their community. They had a local doctor share her experience of living and working in rural Nova Scotia via video. From that interaction another doctor was interested in locating in the community but needed a place to stay that was close to the hospital. The group was given a two-bedroom executive-style apartment to use to host doctors, locums, clerks, and medical students.

Another barrier was real estate. Some properties have a lot less value because they still do not have access to high-speed Internet. Canadian families want to settle and invest in resilient communities where innovation is a priority. The group assembled a team of experts in broadband network, who have created Internet in other parts of the world and encouraged the group via video conference calls how they can do it too. The group has created an Internet co-operative with plans to create a sustainable model. The government could help by demanding open access to fibre, but communities are shut out of the process. NOW Lunenburg County is not eligible federally or provincially to apply for any of those funds.

What NOW Lunenburg is asking of the government is for the government to have the courage to make decisions in helping to create a more resilient Nova Scotia with future-proof broadband; help and encourage creativity in how communities are empowered to promote and market to host doctors, recognizing that doctors and their families come for community, and believe in Nova Scotians.

## **DOCUMENTATION**

No documentation requested.

## **COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

The committee agreed to accept the recommendation of bringing in a representative from the Ecology Action Centre instead of the Green Economy Network as both representatives from the Green Economy Network cannot attend.

**WITNESSES**

**Department of Business**

Bernie Miller, Deputy Minister

**Ecology Action Centre**

Emma Norton, Energy Conservation Coordinator

**Canadian Solar Industries Association**

Lyle Goldberg, Policy and Regulatory Affairs Manager

**MATTERS OF DISCUSSION**

The Department of Business, Canadian Solar Industries Association and Ecology Action Centre came before the committee to discuss green jobs and economic development within the province.

The Department of Business works collaboratively to develop and implement the province's inclusive economic growth strategy through the development of policies and programs. It ensures that the policy and program initiatives, implemented through Crown corporations, are meeting key objectives.

The department's general approach is about inclusive economic development, including environmental sustainability and diversity. A green economy is defined as a low-carbon, resource-efficient, and socially-inclusive economy. In Nova Scotia the health of the economy, the environment, and the people are interconnected.

Green jobs are not so much a sector as a characteristic of a healthy, diverse, inclusive, and sustainable economy. In Nova Scotia there are growing sectors such as the agri-food sector, the ocean sector, and local businesses such as local wineries, craft breweries, fishing and fish exporters, forestry and other industries. Each of these industries, in order to be effective, have to build sustainability into the manner in which activities are undertaken.

Additionally, Nova Scotia is a global leader in energy storage. The potential for energy storage is a testament to the importance of research and development. Many of the start-up companies that are getting their start in the Nova Scotia innovation-driven entrepreneurial ecosystem are born sustainable and born global.

According to the Department of Business, there are more than 1,400 jobs, and more than 200 businesses in the energy-efficiency industry. More than 50 jobs have been created in the solar industry in a six-month period as a result of the SolarHomes program alone. Nova Scotians have invested \$4 billion in a cleaner energy future through community feed-in tariffs for wind, the Maritime Link, and energy efficiency.

CanSIA works collaboratively with all orders of government: utilities, regulators, and various stakeholders to raise awareness on the benefits of solar. Solar reduces electricity bills and promotes energy independence so there is no reliance on other jurisdictions for power. In terms of electricity production, solar produces zero emissions. It is also flexible on scale and location making it inexpensive.

Solar does not require a harvesting of resources, but does require technicians for both installation and maintenance, therefore, in terms of global growth, it is the fastest growing sector. Over three million people are employed in installing solar PV (photovoltaic). Estimated revenues are \$86 billion, projected to hit \$422 billion globally by 2022.

CanSIA estimates that by 2030 production of close to 2 per cent of electricity consumption will be through solar, creating up to 1,170 jobs and displacing 960,000 tons of GHGs over 30 years, and solar will be installed in about 22,000 homes.

Research and development is also being done on solar and battery storage. A couple of emerging areas are attached to Solar storage which will be more on the commercial and utility scale side. As for EV (Electric Vehicles) chargers, it is projected there will be 38,000 to 100,000 EVs in Nova Scotia by 2030.

The federal government is moving to 100 per cent renewables for all their operations which will project 180,000 megawatt hours contributing to \$200 million to the local economy and 1,000 jobs. Solar skills and training – the community college has set up a solar training program, but right now there is a hodgepodge of solar training programs across the country. Marketing and advertising those areas of training maybe a way to create a hub for training in Nova Scotia.

Ecology Action Centre states, green jobs and climate jobs already exist. In Nova Scotia there are 1,400 people working in the energy efficiency industry. Across Canada, there are 436,000 jobs in the broader energy efficiency industry. In contradiction to the million dollars invested in solar, more jobs are created by investing in energy efficiency – about 16 jobs per million dollars spent versus the seven jobs in solar and the 2.3 jobs in oil and gas.

The Ecology Action Centre is interested in seeing the renewal of EGSPA (Environmental Goals & Sustainable Prosperity Act) and setting a target within that will help achieve the goal of staying below the 1.5 degree mark to avoid catastrophic climate change. Nova Scotia needs a 50 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emission below 1990 levels by 2030 and is well on its way.

Some cost benefits of climate action include:

- Supplying 90 percent Nova Scotia's electricity needs with renewables by 2030, this would create over 44,000 jobs,
- Retrofitting 100 per cent of social housing owned by Housing Nova Scotia to be net zero energy ready by 2030, this would create 980 jobs,
- Ramping up electricity efficiency to 3 per cent/year is feasible and doable. Currently it is 1.1. per cent efficiency/year. It is estimated that between now and 2030, 21,700 jobs would be created,

- Investment in sustainable transportation – electric vehicles, plug-in hybrid vehicles, and electric buses with the potential to create 103,000 jobs.

Ecology Action Centre has found the total benefits of green jobs and climate action by 2030, would see 185,000 jobs created, the GDP would be improved by \$10.2 billion, and provincial tax revenue would increase by \$900 million.

## **DOCUMENTATION**

### Tabled Documentation

Report entitled “Less is More” by Clean Energy Canada and Efficiency Canada (May 2018) and a 2030 Declaration signed by several associations

Tabled by: Emma Norton, Energy Conservation Coordinator  
Ecology Action Centre

Report entitled “Nova Scotia Residential Solar Market Outlook and Labour Force Study” (Final Report April 2019)

Tabled by: Lyle Goldberg, Policy and Regulatory Affairs Manager  
Canadian Solar Industries Association

## **COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

### Correspondence

The committee received correspondence from the past Chair of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts regarding a motion passed by that committee on June 12, 2019 “to write to the Natural Resources and Economic Development Committee and encourage the committee to request officials from the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal and the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage be scheduled at future meeting to discuss the Art Gallery project”

The Natural Resources and Economic Development Committee agreed to defer this issue to the agenda-setting meeting to be held in the Fall.

# **APPENDICES**

## APPENDIX A - MOTIONS

The following is a list of motions introduced by the Standing Committee on Natural Resources and Economic Development:

January 24, 2019

On the issue of meeting frequencies with respect to bi-weekly meetings, the following motion was put:

“At our agenda-setting meeting, that we would select a few months where we would meet a second time on a topic, under the umbrella of the two departments”.

By: Hon. Pat Dunn, MLA  
Motion: Defeated

The committee then discussed the method of choosing topics. The practice is to choose in order that was put forward and agreed to by the committee whereby the Government chooses three topics, the Official Opposition chooses two topics and the NDP chooses one. It was mentioned during the discussion that every party provide two topics as opposed to the three, two, one practice.

After the discussion on the issue, the following motion was put:

“I move that the content of the meetings, the alignment of three, two and one of the selection of topics among the three caucuses as well as the normal procedures of order of questions in which all members are given equal opportunity to ask questions at the table”.

By: Mr. Keith Irving, MLA  
Motion: Carried

February 5, 2019

The committee agreed to the following topics as put by motion:

Office of Regulatory Affairs & Service Effectiveness  
Red Tape Reduction

Tourism Nova Scotia  
Nova Scotia Tourism 2018 Campaign and Results

NOW Lunenburg County

Department of Energy and Mines  
Shale Gas Development



Mining Association of Nova Scotia  
Department of Energy and Mines  
Uranium Exploration

Department of Business, Green Ecology Network  
Canadian Solar Industries Association  
Green Jobs and Economic Development

The committee also entertained and agreed to a request to appear by Mr. Patrick Crabb of BIRD Construction Re: Wood use in Public Buildings

February 26, 2019

The topic of the Nova Scotia to Maine Ferry was referred to the Standing Committee on Natural Resources and Economic Development from the Standing Committee on Public Accounts. It was said that there is a need to have this brought forward into a fulsome discussion at this committee.

Following this the motion was put:

“I move that the Natural Resources and Economic Development committee meet to discuss the Nova Scotia to Maine ferry with the Deputy Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, or the deputy’s designate or designates, as well as Mr. Mark MacDonald, the CEO of Bay Ferries Limited, and that the committee shall meet at a time when both of the aforementioned parties are available to meet, even during the House sitting.”

By: Mr. Hugh MacKay, MLA  
Motion: Carried

## APPENDIX B – DOCUMENTATION

February 26, 2019

The committee asked for and received the following documentation from Mr. Fred Crooks, Chief Regulatory Officer, Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness:

- Strategic work plans with respect to the growing economy
  - The Office of Regulatory and Service Effectiveness recent Annual Report
  - Report of the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council (APEC)
- A copy of the 23-item workplan of the Regulatory Reconciliation and Cooperation Table (RCT)
- A copy of the Office of Regulatory and Service Effectiveness final report to reduce burden to business which contains 60+ initiatives and details their costs/savings

March 27, 2019

The following documentation was tabled:

Article by Tri County Vanguard “Ferry tone and concerns causes investor to back away from Yarmouth” (February 28, 2019)

Tabled by: Hon. Zach Churchill  
Yarmouth

Article by Portland Press Herald “Nova Scotia candidate threatens to kill Maine ferry deal” (February 1, 2017)

Tabled by: Mr. Mark MacDonald  
CEO Bay Ferries Limited

Quotes from Warden of the Municipality of Clare, the president of the Chamber of Commerce in Clare, the president of the Digby and Area Board of Trade, the chairperson of the Digby Area Tourism, and the Warden for the Municipality of Digby re: Impact the Yarmouth Ferry has on the area.

Tabled by: Mr. Gordon Wilson, MLA  
Clare-Digby

Article by CBC re: Tourism operators express the difficulty in gaining access to capital. To quote: “Uncertainty affects the ability to secure capital”

Tabled by: Hon. Zach Churchill  
Yarmouth

April 23, 2019

The following documentation was tabled:

Article by Chronicle Herald “Cumberland County looks at fracking” (April 23, 2019)

Tabled by: Mr. Hugh MacKay, MLA  
Chester-St. Margaret’s

June 25, 2019

The following documentation as tabled:

Report entitled “Less is More” by Clean Energy Canada and Efficiency Canada” (May 2018) and a 2030 Declaration signed by several associations

Tabled by: Emma Norton, Energy Conservation Coordinator  
Ecology Action Centre

Report Entitled “Nova Scotia Residential Solar Market Outlook and Labour Force Study” (Final Report April 2019)

Tabled by: Lyle Goldberg, Policy and Regulatory Affairs Manager  
Canadian Solar Industries Association

## APPENDIX C - CORRESPONDENCE

April 23, 2019

With respect to the topic of the day, the Standing Committee on Natural Resources and Economic Development did receive a written submission from a group called NOFRAC to which the Chair announced that it was tabled for members information only as this committee does not accept submissions from non-witnesses as part of the proceedings.

June 25, 2019

The committee received correspondence from the past Chair of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts regarding a motion passed by that committee on June 12, 2019 “to write to the Natural Resources and Economic Development Committee and encourage the committee to request officials from the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal and the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage be scheduled at future meeting to discuss the Art Gallery project”

The Natural Resources and Economic Development Committee agreed to defer this issue to the agenda-setting meeting to be held in the Fall.

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES OFFICE  
PO Box 2630, Station "M" Halifax,  
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