



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

STANDING COMMITTEE

on

RESOURCES

2006 - 2007

First Session of the Sixtieth General Assembly

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Nova Scotia

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Honourable Alfie MacLeod
Speaker
House of Assembly
Province House
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Dear Mr. Speaker:

On behalf of the Standing Committee on Resources, I am pleased to submit the Annual Report of the Committee for the First Session of the Sixtieth General Assembly.

Respectfully submitted

John MacDonell, MLA
(Hants East)
Chair
Standing Committee on Resources

Halifax, Nova Scotia
November 27, 2007



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Public Hearings	.....	i-ii
Introduction	.....	iii
Membership	.....	iii-iv
Membership Changes	.....	iv
Procedures and Operations	.....	v
Notices	.....	v
Verbatim Transcripts	.....	v
Research Material	.....	v
Annual Reports	.....	vi
Acknowledgments	.....	vi
Witnesses	.....	vii-ix

PUBLIC HEARINGS

<i>Organizational Meeting</i>	.....	1
Witnesses	.....	1
Request for Documentation	.....	1
Transcript	.....	1
<i>Grey Seal Conservation Society</i>	.....	2
Witnesses	.....	2
Background	.....	2
Motion	.....	2
Request for Documentation	.....	2
Transcript	.....	3
<i>Pork Nova Scotia</i>	.....	4
Witnesses	.....	4
Background	.....	4
Motion	.....	4
Transcript	.....	4
<i>Winery Association of Nova Scotia</i>	.....	5
Witnesses	.....	5
Background	.....	5
Transcript	.....	5
<i>Dr. Boris Worm</i>	.....	6
Witnesses	.....	6
Background	.....	6
Motion	.....	6
Transcript	.....	6

<i>Wild Blueberry Producers</i>		
<i>Association of Nova Scotia</i>		7
Witnesses		7
Background		7
Request for Documentation		7
Transcript		7
<i>Department of Natural Resources</i>		8
Witnesses		8
Background		8
Transcript		8
<i>Canadian Food Inspection Agency</i>		9
Witnesses		9
Background		9
Transcript		9
<i>Friends of Point Pleasant Park</i>		10-11
Witnesses		10
Background		10
Motions		10-11
Transcript		11
 PUBLIC HEARINGS – SUBCOMMITTEE ON FISHERIES		
<i>Forum on the</i>		
<i>New Federal Fisheries Act</i>		12-13
Witnesses		12
Background		12
Motions		13
Transcript		13
<i>Partnership for Sustainable Development of</i>		
<i>Digby Neck and Island Society</i>		14
Witnesses		14
Background		14
Transcript		14
 STATEMENT OF SUBMISSION		
<i>Statement of Submission</i>		15
 APPENDICES		 16

INTRODUCTION

The Standing Committee on Resources, an all-party Committee of the House of Assembly, was struck at the beginning of the First Session of the Sixtieth General Assembly. Pursuant to Rule 60(2)(e) of the *Province of Nova Scotia Rules and Forms of Procedures of the House of Assembly*:

(e) the Resources Committee is established for the purpose of considering matters normally assigned to or within the purview of the Departments and Ministers of Agriculture and Marketing, of the Environment, of Fisheries and of Natural Resources. 1987 R. 60(2); am. 1993; am. 1996.¹

MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the Resources Committee currently is as follows:

Mr. John MacDonell, MLA - Chair
Hants East

Hon. Barry Barnet, Minister of Health Promotion and Protection
MLA, Hammonds Plains-Upper Sackville

Hon. Karen Casey, Minister of Education
MLA, Colchester North

Mr. Pat Dunn, MLA
Pictou Centre

Mr. Clarrie MacKinnon, MLA
Pictou East

Mr. Sterling Belliveau, MLA
Shelburne

Mr. Wayne Gaudet, MLA
Clare

Mr. Leo Glavine, MLA
Kings West

Mr. Harold Theriault, MLA
Digby-Annapolis

¹ Province of Nova Scotia Rules and Forms of Procedure of the House of Assembly, July 1999, Rule 60(2)(e) Page 61.

MEMBERSHIP – SUBCOMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Mr. Harold Theriault, MLA - Chair
Digby-Annapolis

Mr. Alfie MacLeod, MLA
Cape Breton West

Mr. Sterling Belliveau, MLA
Shelburne

Mr. Clarrie MacKinnon, MLA
Pictou East

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

During the session the Resources Committee underwent one membership change, which was:

Mr. Alfie MacLeod, MLA – Cape Breton West, was replaced by Hon. Karen Casey, Minister of Education, MLA – Colchester North.

PROCEDURES AND OPERATIONS

The Resources Committee traditionally meets once a month. These meetings are usually held on the middle Tuesday of the month in the Legislative Committees Office. During the First Session of the Sixtieth General Assembly the Committee met on the following dates:

September 5, 2006
October 3, 2006
November 14, 2006
December 12, 2006
January 23, 2007
February 13, 2007
March 27, 2007
May 15, 2007
June 5, 2007

NOTICES

Notices of the Committee meetings are sent to all members of the Committee, staff of the caucus offices, the Legislative staff and the House of Assembly Press Gallery. The notices are also posted in Province House and are on the Committees' web-site at the following address:

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/committees/schedr.html>

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPTS

Transcripts of all Resources Committee meetings are available from the Legislative Library in Province House, the Legislative Committees Office or on-line at the Resources Committees' web page at the following address:

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/r/>

RESEARCH MATERIAL

All research for the Resources Committee is compiled by the Committee's clerk, and distributed to the members. Reference material is placed in binders and distributed one week prior to meetings. A copy of this material is also made available to the witnesses appearing before the Committee, the Legislative Library in Province House and to Hansard Reporting Services.

ANNUAL REPORTS

All reports from the Resources Committee are compiled and written by the Committee's clerk. The draft is then sent to the individual Committee members for consideration. Upon completion of the review and approval of the Report, the Chairman tables the Report with the Clerk of the House.

Distribution of the report is as follows: to the Speaker/Clerk of the House, all members of the Legislature, all witnesses that appeared before the Committee, the Legislative Library in Nova Scotia and in all other provinces and territories, the caucus offices and the Media. This report is also available to the general public upon request through the Legislative Committees Office or on-line at the Committee's web page at the following address:

http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/COMMITTEES/resources_pubs.html

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Standing Committee on Resources wishes to extend its gratitude to witnesses for their time and cooperation; Ms. Mora Stevens and Ms. Rhonda Neatt, Clerks of the Resources Committee and the staff of the Legislative Committees Office for the organization and research for Committee meetings. Others whose assistance has been invaluable to the Committee are: Mr. Robert Kinsman, Editor of Hansard Reporting Services, and Hansard staff; Mr. James MacInnes, Coordinator/Director of Legislative Television and Broadcast Services, and staff; and Ms. Margaret Murphy, Legislative Librarian, and staff.

WITNESSES

Tuesday, September 5/06 Organizational

Tuesday, October 3/06 Grey Seal Conservation Society
Ms. Debbie MacKenzie – Chair
Ms. Ronda Brennan – Vice-Chair
Mr. Ian Bruce – Director
Ms. Hope Swinimer – Director

Tuesday, November 14/06 Pork Nova Scotia
Ms. Martin Porskamp – Chair
Mr. Dennis Boudreau – Vice-Chair
Mr. Henry Vissers – Executive Manager

Tuesday, December 12/06 Winery Association of Nova Scotia
Mr. Hans Christian Jost – President
Ms. Martha Reynolds – Executive Director

Grape Growers Association of Nova Scotia
Dr. Jim Warner – President

Tuesday, January 23/07 Dr. Boris Worm
Dr. Boris Worm – Assistant Professor
Marine Conservation, Dalhousie University

Tuesday, February 13/07 Wild Blueberry Producers Association of Nova Scotia
Mr. Ken MacPhee – President
Mr. Neil Erb – Vice-President
Mr. Dave Sangster – Executive Director
Ms. Karen Geddes – Director, Alexander Children's Centre

Tuesday, March 27/07 Department of Natural Resources
Mr. Peter Underwood – Deputy Minister
Mr. Walter Fanning – Manager, Forest Protection Division
Ms. Gina Penny – Entomologist, Forest Protection Division
Mr. Peter MacQuarrie – Director,
Program Development Division
Mr. Jorg Bayeler – Director, Forestry Division

Canadian Food Inspection Agency
Mr. Gregg Cunningham – Lead Specialist
Forest Pest Emergencies Program, Network-Atlantic

Tuesday, May 15/07

Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Mr. Gregg Cunningham –
Program Network Specialist, Forestry
Mr. Leonard Boudreau – Manager,
Brown Spruce Longhorn Beetle Project

Tuesday, June 5/07

Friends of Point Pleasant Park

Friends of Point Pleasant Park

Dr. Ian Taylor – President
Ms. Stephanie Robertson – Vice-President
Mr. Chris Majka – Entomologist

Lawrencetown/Cole Harbour Citizens Action Committee

Dr. Donald Grady – Member of the Executive Committee
Ms. Carol O’Neil – Chair

Ecology Action Centre

Ms. Joanne Cook – Standing Tall Campaign Coordinator

WITNESSES – SUBCOMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Thursday, May 3/07

Forum on the New Federal Fisheries Act

Eastern Shore Fishermen’s Protective Association

Ms. Nellie Baker Stevens – Coordinator
Ms. Sara MacInnis – Observer

Nova Scotia Fish Packers Association

Mr. Denny Morrow – Executive Director

Xsealent

Mr. Terry Zinck – Owner

Atlantic Fishing Industry Alliance

Mr. Jay Lugar – Coordinator

Thursday, May 3/07

Forum on the New Federal Fisheries Act - Continued

LFA 34 Management Board/Advisory Committee

Mr. Ashton Spinney – Executive/Co-Chair
Ms. Mary Kenneally – Assistant

Guysborough County Inshore Fishermen’s Association

Ms. Virginia Boudreau – Managing Director

Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries
Mr. Greg Roach – Assistant Deputy Minister

Tuesday, May 22/07

**Partnership for Sustainable Development of
Digby Neck and Island Society**

Mr. Kemp Stanton – Chair
Mr. Don Mullin – Vice-Chair
Mr. Andy Moir – Public Affairs

PUBLIC

HEARINGS

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Tuesday, September 5, 2006

WITNESSES

There were no witnesses as it was an organizational meeting.

REQUEST FOR DOCUMENTATION

The Committee decided to have each of the caucuses prioritize a list of potential witnesses and then forward the top two items to the Clerk for distribution to the other caucuses so that they can determine at the next meeting what the priority items will be for the coming months.

The above information was received in full prior to the meeting of Tuesday, October 3, 2006.

TRANSCRIPT

A copy of the transcript for this meeting is available at the Legislative Committees Office or on-line at the following address:

http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/r/re_2006sep05.htm

GREY SEAL CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Tuesday, October 3, 2006

WITNESSES

Grey Seal Conservation Society

Ms. Debbie MacKenzie – Chair

Ms. Ronda Brennan – Vice-Chair

Mr. Ian Bruce – Director

Ms. Hope Swinimer – Director

BACKGROUND

The Grey Seal Conservation Society has been in existence for the last two and a half years. They were founded in order to stimulate dialogue and raise public awareness concerning the ocean's ecosystem. As the Committee had been involved to this point in a number of discussions on seals in general and their effects on the environment, they were interested in hearing from the Conservation Society on that topic as well.

MOTION

A motion was made that the Committee hold a forum, bringing together scientists, people within the fishing industry, environmentalists, Department of Fisheries and Oceans scientists, and representatives from the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, in order to have an in-depth discussion on the state of the fishing industry in Nova Scotia.

By: Harold (Junior) Theriault, MLA Digby-Annapolis
Motion: Withdrawn

REQUEST FOR DOCUMENTATION

The Committee requested that Ms. MacKenzie submit names of Department of Fisheries and Oceans scientists that the Committee may want to have appear concerning Nova Scotia's ecosystem.

The above information was received in full on October 10, 2006.

TRANSCRIPT

A copy of the transcript for this meeting is available at the Legislative Committees Office or on-line at the following address:

http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/r/re_2006oct03.htm

PORK NOVA SCOTIA

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

WITNESSES

Pork Nova Scotia

Mr. Martin Porskamp – Chair

Mr. Dennis Boudreau – Vice-Chair

Mr. Henry Vissers – Executive Manager

BACKGROUND

Pork Nova Scotia was founded in 1950 in order to create the most favourable environment possible for the production and marketing of pork in Nova Scotia and to assist in maximizing returns for Nova Scotia producers. They were asked to appear before the Committee for an update on the state of the industry in Nova Scotia, as well as to inform the Committee about the Post-Weaning Multisystemic Wasting Syndrome (PMWS) and its effects on the industry.

MOTION

A motion was made to call in witnesses from the retail sector, such as Michael McCain, representatives from the Atlantic Superstore, and Sobeys to discuss the retail aspect of products such as pork and beef, and the costs associated with their industry.

By: Hon. Barry Barnet

Motion: Approved

TRANSCRIPT

A copy of the transcript for this meeting is available at the Legislative Committees Office or on-line at the following address:

http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/r/re_2006nov14.htm

WINERY ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA

Tuesday, December 12, 2006

WITNESSES

Winery Association of Nova Scotia

Mr. Hans Christian Jost – President

Ms. Martha Reynolds – Executive Director

Grape Growers Association of Nova Scotia

Dr. Jim Warner – President

BACKGROUND

The Winery Association of Nova Scotia (WANS) was formed in 2003 to represent the interests of wine producers in Nova Scotia, to serve as a voice for local industry, and to promote the growth and development of Nova Scotia wines. The Committee wanted an update on the state of the industry.

TRANSCRIPT

A copy of the transcript for this meeting is available at the Legislative Committees Office or on-line at the following address:

http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/r/re_2006dec12.htm

DR. BORIS WORM

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

WITNESS

Dr. Boris Worm – Assistant Professor, Marine Conservation, Dalhousie University

BACKGROUND

Dr. Boris Worm recently published a paper in the journal *Science* predicting the collapse of the fisheries by 2050. His presentation was concerning Nova Scotia and the world, the reasons for the decline in the fisheries.

MOTION

That the Standing Committee on Resources form a Subcommittee on Fisheries consisting of at least three members (one member from each caucus) in order to investigate issues in the Nova Scotia fishing industry. The Subcommittee would meet with representatives from the fishing industry, as well as officials from Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

If approved, the Subcommittee will meet and outline a detailed proposal of items and witnesses for the full Committee's approval.

The possibility of also having a Subcommittee on Agriculture was mentioned.

By: Mr. Harold (Junior) Theriault, MLA Digby-Annapolis
Motion: Approved

TRANSCRIPT

A copy of the transcript for this meeting is available at the Legislative Committees Office or on-line at the following address:

http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/r/re_2007jan23.htm

WILD BLUEBERRY PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA

Tuesday, February 13, 2007

WITNESSES

Wild Blueberry Producers Association of Nova Scotia

Mr. Ken MacPhee – President

Mr. Neil Erb – Vice-President

Mr. Dave Sangster – Executive Director

BACKGROUND

The Wild Blueberry Producers Association of Nova Scotia was established in 1970 and incorporated in 1975. Wild blueberry crops in Nova Scotia contribute at least \$60 million per year to the provincial economy. Wild blueberries are the number one horticultural crop in terms of acreage, export sales and value to the Nova Scotia economy. The Resources Committee asked the Association to appear before them in order to get an update on the state of the industry.

REQUEST FOR DOCUMENTATION

The Committee requested the following additional documentation:

When they become available, a copy of the employment figures that can be directly and indirectly linked to wild blueberries in Nova Scotia.

To date, the above documentation has not been received.

TRANSCRIPT

A copy of the transcript for this meeting is available at the Legislative Committees Office or on-line at the following address:

http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/r/re_2007feb13.htm

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

WITNESSES

Department of Natural Resources

Mr. Peter Underwood – Deputy Minister

Mr. Walter Fanning – Manager, Forest Protection Division

Ms. Gina Penny – Entomologist, Forest Protection Division

Mr. Peter MacQuarrie – Director, Program Development Division

Mr. Jorg Beyeler – Director, Forestry Division

Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Mr. Gregg Cunningham – Lead Specialist Forest Pest Emergencies Program
Network-Atlantic

BACKGROUND

The Department of Natural Resources was asked to appear before the Resources Committee for an update on the Brown Spruce Longhorn Beetle (BSLB) situation in the province. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency is a key partner of the Department in trying to deal with the beetle infestation.

TRANSCRIPT

A copy of the transcript for this meeting is available at the Legislative Committees Office or on-line at the following address:

http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/r/re_2007mar27.htm

CANADIAN FOOD INSPECTION AGENCY

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

WITNESSES

Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Mr. Gregg Cunningham – Program Network Specialists, Forestry

Mr. Leonard Boudreau – Manager, Brown Spruce Longhorn Beetle Project

BACKGROUND

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency's involvement with the Brown Spruce Longhorn Beetle (BSLB) situation began in the spring of 2000. The Canadian Forest Service of Natural Resources Canada first identified the beetle as an exotic pest, not native to the North American environment, in the fall of 1999. The Resources Committee wanted experts from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to provide an update on the Brown Spruce Longhorn Beetle and its effects on the forests of Nova Scotia.

TRANSCRIPT

A copy of the transcript for this meeting is available at the Legislative Committees Office or on-line at the following address:

http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/r/re_2007may15.htm

FRIENDS OF POINT PLEASANT PARK

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

WITNESSES

Friends of Point Pleasant Park

Dr. Iain Taylor – President

Ms. Stephanie Robertson – Vice-President

Mr. Chris Majka – Entomologist

Lawrencetown/Cole Harbour Citizens Action Committee

Dr. Donald Grady – Member of the Executive Committee

Ms. Carol O'Neil – Chair

Ecology Action Centre

Ms. Joanne Cook – Standing Tall Campaign Coordinator

BACKGROUND

The Resources Committee wanted to meet with the Friends of Point Pleasant Park to hear their point of view on how the Brown Spruce Longhorn Beetle (BSLB) situation is being handled in the province. The Ecology Action Centre and the Lawrencetown/Cole Harbour Citizens Action Committee appeared in support of the Friends of Point Pleasant Park and their stance on the beetle and its effects on forests in the BSLB quarantine zone.

MOTIONS

That a letter from the Committee be written to the provincial Minister of Natural Resources, David Morse, requesting that a commissioner be appointed to undertake an independent study on the science around the Brown Spruce Longhorn Beetle.

By: Mr. Clarrie MacKinnon, MLA Pictou East

Motion: Approved

That a letter from the Committee be written to federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, Chuck Strahl, to request compensation for Hurricane Juan clean-up, using parameters around previous examples, i.e. Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) compensation.

By: Mr. John MacDonell (Chair), MLA Hants East
Motion: Approved

TRANSCRIPT

A copy of the transcript for this meeting is available at the Legislative Committees Office or on-line at the following address:

http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/r/re_2007jun05.htm

SUBCOMMITTEE

ON

FISHERIES

FORUM ON THE NEW FEDERAL FISHERIES ACT

Thursday, May 3, 2007

WITNESSES

Eastern Shore Fishermen’s Protective Association

Ms. Nellie Baker Stevens – Coordinator

Ms. Sara MacInnis – Observer

Nova Scotia Fish Packers Association

Mr. Denny Morrow – Executive Director

Xsealent

Mr. Terry Zinck – Owner

Atlantic Fishing Industry Alliance

Mr. Jay Lugar – Coordinator

LFA 34 Management Board/Advisory Committee

Mr. Ashton Spinney – Executive/Co-Chair

Ms. Mary Kenneally – Assistant

Guysborough County Inshore Fishermen’s Association

Ms. Virginia Boudreau – Managing Director

Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries

Mr. Greg Roach – Assistant Deputy Minister

BACKGROUND

The Standing Committee on Resources, due to interest from fishery stakeholders in Nova Scotia, formed the Subcommittee on Fisheries to debate and clarify matters relating to Bill C-45, the new federal Fisheries Act. The Subcommittee voted in favour of holding a forum on the new federal Fisheries Act, in order to meet with senior staff from the provincial Department of Fisheries and representatives of various fisheries sectors across the province. The forum consisted of a morning session of formal presentations from witnesses, followed by a round-table discussion involving interested witnesses and Subcommittee members.

MOTIONS

That the comments and highlights of discussion in this Forum be summarized and recommended to the Nova Scotia Resources Committee for their support, and that a letter be drafted to the Honourable Loyola Hearn, Minister of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Fisheries Standing Committee, to review concerns raised.

By: Mr. Sterling Belliveau, MLA Shelburne
Motion: Approved

That concerns raised about Clause 30 be identified and taken back to the Resources Committee for full consideration, and that additional information be provided by the honourable member for Shelburne regarding clarification statements that were made by the Minister and the Chair of the Subcommittee on Fisheries.

By: Mr. Sterling Belliveau, MLA Shelburne
Motion: Approved

TRANSCRIPT

A copy of the transcript for this meeting is available at the Legislative Committees Office or on-line at the following address:

http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/r/re_2007may03.htm

PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF DIGBY NECK AND ISLAND SOCIETY

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

WITNESSES

Partnership for Sustainable Development of Digby Neck and Island Society

Mr. Kemp Stanton – Chair

Mr. Don Mullin – Vice-Chair

Mr. Andy Moir – Public Affairs

BACKGROUND

The Subcommittee wanted to meet with representatives from the Partnership for Sustainable Development of Digby Neck and Island Society, commonly known as the Stop the Quarry Group, to hear their points of view with regard to the proposed Bilcon basalt quarry in Whites Point, Digby Neck, Nova Scotia.

TRANSCRIPT

A copy of the transcript for this meeting is available at the Legislative Committees Office or on-line at the following address:

http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/r/re_2007may22.htm


STATEMENT

OF

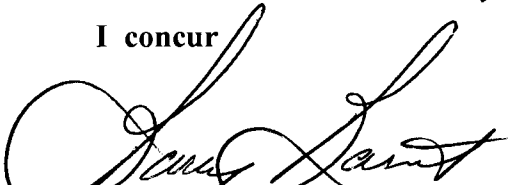
SUBMISSION

STATEMENT OF SUBMISSION


All of which is respectfully submitted to the
House of Assembly this 26th day of Nov., 2007


John MacDonell, MLA
Chairman

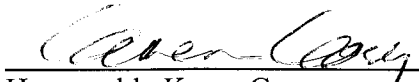
I concur


Honourable Barry Barnet

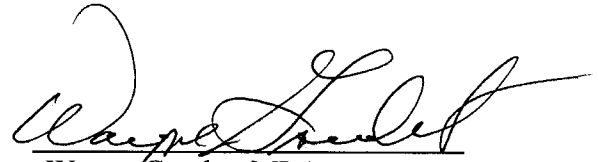
I concur


Clarrie MacKinnon, MLA


I concur


Honourable Karen Casey


I concur


Wayne Gaudet, MLA
(Vice-Chairman)

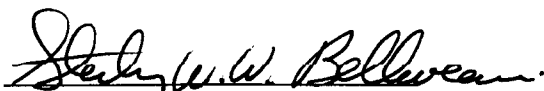
I concur


Pat Dunn, MLA

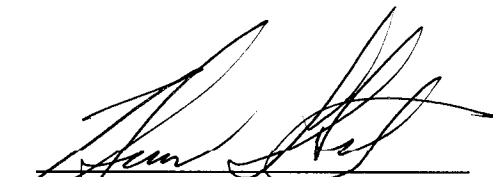
I concur


Leo Glavine, MLA

I concur


Sterling Belliveau, MLA

I concur


Harold Theriault, MLA

APPENDICES

The following is a list of documents requested and received by the Standing Committee on Resources:

Grey Seal Conservation Society – October 3, 2006

- Names of Department of Fisheries and Oceans scientists that the Committee may want to have appear concerning Nova Scotia's ecosystem.

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