



STANDING COMMITTEE

ON

RESOURCES

ANNUAL REPORT

2008

Standing Committee on Resources Annual Report 2007 - 2008

© 2008 Her Majesty the Queen in right of the Province of Nova Scotia
Printed and Published by the Queen's Printer
Halifax

ISSN: 0837-2551

This document is available on the Internet at
<http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/committees/index.html>



**Legislative
Committees Office**

House of Assembly
Nova Scotia

3rd Floor, Dennis Building
1740 Granville Street
PO Box 2630, Station M
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3N5

Hon. 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 Second Session of the Sixtieth General Assembly.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Halifax, Nova Scotia
2008



Printed on paper that
contains recycled fibre

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	ii
Membership	ii
Membership Changes	ii
Procedures and Operations	iii
Notices	iii
Transcripts	iii
Research Material	iii
Annual Reports	iv
Acknowledgements	iv
Witnesses	v

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Organizational Meeting	1
Renewable Energy	2
Food Miles Project	3
State of the Forestry Industry	4
Uranium Moratorium	5
Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers & Hunters	7
Statement of Submission	8
Appendices	9

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

MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the Resources Committee is currently as follows:

Mr. John MacDonell, MLA-Chair
Hants East

Mr. Charlie Parker, MLA
Pictou West

Hon. Barry Barnet
Minister of Health Promotion & Protection
Hammonds Plains-Upper Sackville

Mr. Wayne Gaudet, MLA
Clare

Hon. Karen Casey
Minister of Education
Colchester North

Mr. Leo Glavine, MLA
Kings West

Mr. Pat Dunn, MLA
Pictou Centre

Mr. Harold Theriault, MLA
Digby-Annapolis

Mr. Sterling Belliveau, MLA
Shelburne

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

During the Second Session of the Sixtieth General Assembly, the Committee underwent the following membership changes:

Mr. Charlie Parker, MLA (Pictou West) replaced Mr. Clarrie MacKinnon, MLA (Pictou East) as a member of the Committee.

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 Second Session of the Sixtieth General Assembly the Committee met on the following dates:

September 18, 2007
October 23, 2007
December 18, 2007

January 22, 2008
April 15, 2008
June 17, 2008

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>

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 Legislative Library, and distributed by the Committee clerk to the members. Reference material is placed in binders and distributed on week prior to the meetings. A copy of this material is also made available to the witnesses appearing before the Committee, the Legislative Library in Province and to Hansard Reporting Services.

ANNUAL REPORTS

All reports from the Resources Committee are compiled and written by the Committee clerk. The draft is then sent to the Legislative Library for editing, then to the individual Committee members for consideration. Upon completion of the review and approval of the Report, the Chair 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 Committee, all witnesses who appeared before the Committee, the Legislative Library in Nova Scotia and in all other provinces and territories, the caucus office 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 Committee wishes to extend its gratitude to the following witnesses for their time and cooperation: Scotian Windfields, Inc., Nova Scotia Power, Inc., Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture, Forest Products Association of Nova Scotia, Mining Association of Nova Scotia, Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers & Hunters. Special appreciation is extended to Mr. Robert Kinsman, Editor of Hansard Reporting Services and staff; Mr. James MacInnes, Coordinator/Director of Legislative Television and Broadcast Services and Staff; and Ms. Margaret Murphy, Legislative Librarian and staff.

WITNESSES

September 18, 2007 Organizational Meeting

October 23, 2007 Renewable Energy
Scotian Windfields, Inc.
Mr. Barry Zwicker - President
Nova Scotia Power, Inc.
Mr. Rob Bennett – Executive Vice-President, Revenue & Sustainability
Mr. James Taylor – General Manager, Environment Planning & Monitoring
Mr. Gerald Weseen – General Manager, Communications & Public Affairs

December 18, 2007 Food Miles Project
Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture
Mr. Laurence Nason – Chief Executive Officer
Mr. William Versteeg – President

January 22, 2008 State of the Forestry Industry
Forest Products Association of Nova Scotia
Mr. Steve Talbot – Executive Director
Mr. Garth Spencer – President
Mr. John MacLellan – Past President
Mr. Jonathan Porter – Past President
Mr. Jeff Bishop – Communications Coordinator

April 15, 2008 Uranium Moratorium
Mining Association of Nova Scotia
Mr. Gordon Dickie – President
Ms. Michelle Landreville – Executive Director

June 17, 2008 Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers & Hunters
Mr. Michael Pollard – President
Mr. Tony Rodgers – Executive Director

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

September 18, 2007

WITNESSES

There were no witnesses present at this time as it was an organizational meeting.

MATTERS OF DISCUSSION

The Committee discussed potential witnesses for future meetings of the Committee.

Concerns were raised regarding the sub-Committee on Fisheries. The Chair is sending a letter to the Speaker for clarification on those concerns.

TRANSCRIPT

Reference to the transcript for this meeting can be found at the following address:
http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/r/re_2007sept18.htm

WITNESSES

Scotian Windfields, Inc.

Mr. Barry Zwicker - President

Nova Scotia Power Inc.

Mr. Rob Bennett - Executive Vice-President, Revenue & Sustainability

Mr. James Taylor - General Manager, Environment Planning & Monitoring

Mr. Gerald Weseen - General Manager, Communications & Public Affairs

MATTERS OF DISCUSSION

The purpose of the meeting was to obtain information on current activities with respect to harnessing renewable energy.

TRANSCRIPT

Reference to the transcript for this meeting can be found at the following address:

http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/r/re_2007oct23.htm

FOOD MILES PROJECT

December 18, 2007

WITNESSES

Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture

Mr. Laurence Nason – Chief Executive Officer

Mr. William Versteeg – President

MATTERS OF DISCUSSION

The purpose of the meeting was to obtain an overview of the Food Miles Project.

There were no recommendations, motions or requests for documentation made by the Committee at this meeting.

However under Committee business several issues were raised.

One was the issue of the Sub-Committee on Fisheries; the second was the proposed move of three Canadian Coast Guard ships from Nova Scotia to Newfoundland and the third was the issue of the Brown Spruce Longhorn Beetle quarantine and the extensive damage of Hurricane Juan in the area of Cole Harbour and Lawrencetown.

TRANSCRIPT

Reference to the transcript for this meeting can be found at the following address:

http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/r/re_2007dec18.htm

WITNESSES

Forest Products Association of Nova Scotia

Mr. Steve Talbot – Executive Director

Mr. Garth Spencer – President

Mr. John MacLellan – Past President

Mr. Jonathan Porter – Past President

Mr. Jeff Bishop – Communications Coordinator

MATTERS OF DISCUSSION

The purpose of the meeting was to examine the current state of the forest industry of Nova Scotia.

There were no recommendations, motions or requests for documentation made by the Committee during this meeting.

TRANSCRIPT

Reference to the transcript for this meeting can be found at the following address:

http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/r/re_2008jan22.htm

URANIUM MORATORIUM

April 15, 2008

WITNESSES

Mining Association of Nova Scotia

Mr. Gordon Dickie – President

Ms. Michelle Landreville – Executive Director

MATTERS OF DISCUSSION

The purpose of the meeting was to examine the uranium moratorium in Nova Scotia.

Motion:

The Standing Committee on Resources unanimously passed the following motion as a result of the discussions surrounding the uranium moratorium:

“That the Standing Committee on Resources expresses its support for continuing the moratorium on the mining of Uranium in Nova Scotia; and

That the Committee recognized that the current wording of the uranium section of the Mineral Resources Regulations may have the unintended consequence of discouraging exploration for and mining of other minerals and metals; and

That the Committee recommends that the Minister of the Department of Natural Resources mandate a thorough, science-based and fully open public process, led by an eminent person independent of the Department, to examine possible changes to the uranium section of the Mineral Resources Regulations with respect to removing any unnecessary impediments to exploration for and mining of resources other than uranium, while continuing to promote public safety with respect to uranium and radon”.

Also the Committee requested the following information:

- A list of the chain of decay for Radon Gas
- Information on some of the oldest mining exploration sites in Canada especially Saskatchewan emphasizing the following: level of exposures of workforce, what their limits are, what they have achieved, what their tailing management practices are.

Further to this the Committee received additional unrequested information from Ms. Gillian Thomas who wished to bring further attention to certain matters arising from the testimony of Mr. Gordon Dickie.

Under Committee business the Standing Committee received a response from the Assistant Commissioner, Coast Guard, Maritimes of the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans declining the invitation of the Committee to meet with them as previously noted. The Committee then discussed what further steps to take.

TRANSCRIPT

Reference to the transcript for this meeting can be found at the following address:
http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/r/re_2008apr15.htm

WITNESSES

Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers & Hunters

Mr. Michael Pollard – President

Mr. Tony Rodgers – Executive Director

MATTERS OF DISCUSSION

The purpose of the meeting was to examine the overall scope of the industry within the Province of Nova Scotia.

There were no recommendations, motions or requests for documentation during this meeting; however, under Committee business the Standing Committee on Resources filed a Certificate for Summoning of Witness (Rule 64(1)) for the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans re: Coast Guard Ships, to appear before them on September 16, 2008.

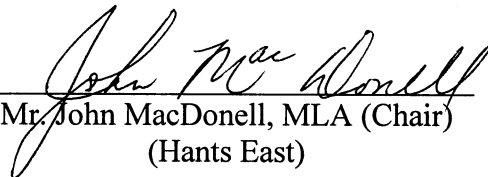
TRANSCRIPT

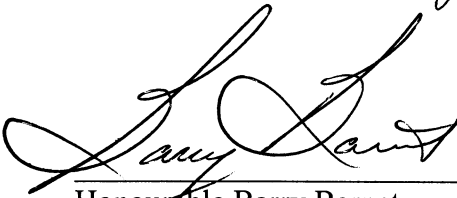
Reference to the transcript for this meeting can be found at the following address:

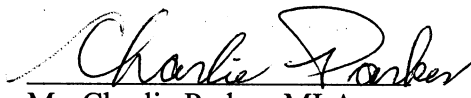
http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/r/re_2008jun17.htm

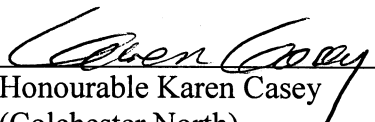
STATEMENT OF SUBMISSION

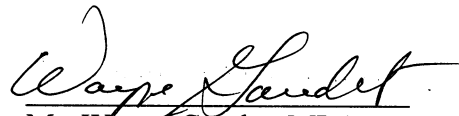
All of which is respectfully submitted to the House of Assembly
This 9th day of December, 2008



Mr. John MacDonell, MLA (Chair)
(Hants East)

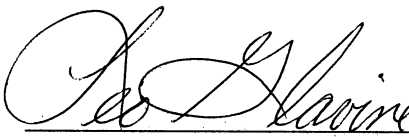

Honourable Barry Barnet
(Hammonds Plains-Upper Sackville)



Mr. Charlie Parker, MLA
(Pictou West)

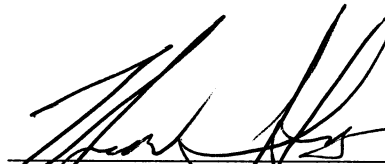

Honourable Karen Casey
(Colchester North)


Mr. Wayne Gaudet, MLA
(Clare)


Mr. Pat Dunn, MLA
(Pictou Centre)


Mr. Leo Glavine, MLA
(Kings West)


Mr. Sterling Belliveau, MLA
(Shelburne)


Mr. Harold Theriault, MLA
(Digby-Annapolis)

APPENDICES

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

Mining Association of Nova Scotia

- A list of the chain of decay for Radon Gas
- Information on some of the oldest mining exploration sites in Canada especially Saskatchewan emphasizing the following: Level of exposure to workforce, their limitations, their achievements, and their tailing management practices.

NOTE: As of November 24, 2008, the Committee has not received the requested documentation.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES OFFICE

**3rd Floor, Dennis Bldg.,
1740 Granville Street
PO Box 2630 Stn "M"
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3N5**

Telephone: (902) 424-4494 or Toll Free 1-888-388-6489

Fax: (902) 424-0513

E-mail: Legcomm@gov.ns.ca

Website: <http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/COMMITTEES/index.html>