



**STANDING COMMITTEE**

**ON**

**RESOURCES**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2012**

© 2012 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://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/reports/resources>



**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. Gordie Gosse  
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 period from September 2011 to August 2012 of the Sixty-First General Assembly.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Sidney Prest, MLA  
(Eastern Shore)  
Chair  
Standing Committee on Resources

Halifax, Nova Scotia  
2012



Printed on paper that  
contains recycled fibre

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

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

### PUBLIC HEARINGS

Emera Inc. / Department of Energy <i>Lower Churchill Falls Project</i>	1
Mining Association of Nova Scotia <i>Provincial Fuel Tax Regulations</i>	3
Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture <i>Coastal Zone Management</i>	4
Shubenacadie Canal Commission	5
Statement of Submission	6

## 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 Sixty-First General Assembly. Pursuant to Rule 60(2)(e) of the *Province of Nova Scotia Rules and Forms of Procedure 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. Sidney Prest, MLA – Chair  
Eastern Shore

Mr. Leo Glavine, MLA  
Kings West

Mr. Howard Epstein, MLA  
Halifax Chebucto

Mr. Andrew Younger, MLA  
Dartmouth East

Mr. Jim Boudreau, MLA – Vice-Chair  
Guysborough – Sheet Harbour

Mr. Alfie MacLeod, MLA  
Cape Breton West

Mr. Gary Ramey, MLA  
Lunenburg West

Mr. Chuck Porter, MLA  
Hants West

Ms. Lenore Zann, MLA  
Truro – Bible Hill

## MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

During the period from September 2011 to August 2012, there were no membership changes.

## PROCEDURES AND OPERATIONS

The Resources Committee traditionally meets once a month. These meetings were usually held on the third Thursday of the month in the Legislative Committees Office. During the period from September 2011 to August 2012 of the Sixty-First General Assembly, the Committee met on the following dates:

October 20, 2011  
January 19, 2012

February 23, 2012  
March 1, 2012

## NOTICES, TRANSCRIPTS AND REPORTS

### Notices

Notices of the Committee meetings are sent to all members of the Committee, staff of the caucus offices, legislative staff and Communications Nova Scotia. The notices are also posted in Province House and are on the Committee's website at the following address: <http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/calendar/>

### Transcripts

Transcripts of the Resources Committee meetings are available from the Legislative Library in Province House, the Legislative Committees Office or on the Resources Committee's website at the following address: [http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee\\_hansard/C10/](http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee_hansard/C10/)

### Reports

All reports of the Standing Committee on Resources are compiled by the Legislative Committees Office and forwarded to Committee members for consideration. Once the report is finalized, it is then distributed as follows:

To the Speaker and the Clerk of the House of Assembly, Committee members, all witnesses who appeared before the Committee, the Legislative Library in Nova Scotia, the caucus offices and the media. The report is also available to all persons interested in obtaining a copy from the Legislative Committees Office or on the Committee's website at the following address: <http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/reports/resources>

## **RESEARCH MATERIAL**

All research for the Resources Committee is compiled by the Legislative Library and distributed by the Committee Clerk prior to the meeting to Committee members, caucus researchers, the Legislative Library in the Province of Nova Scotia and Hansard Reporting Services.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Committee wishes to extend its gratitude to all witnesses for their time and co-operation. Special appreciation is extended to: the staff of the Legislative Committees Office; 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, with special thanks to Ms. Heather Ludlow, Information Services Librarian, for her research assistance.

## WITNESSES

October 20, 2011	<b>Emera Inc. / Department of Energy</b> Lower Churchill Falls Project
January 19, 2012	<b>Mining Association of Nova Scotia</b> Provincial Fuel Tax Regulations
February 23, 2012	<b>Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture</b> Coastal Zone Management
March 1, 2012	<b>Shubenacadie Canal Commission</b>



# **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

## **WITNESSES**

### **Emera Inc.**

Mr. Christopher Huskilson, President and CEO

Ms. Nancy Tower, Executive Vice-President, Business Development and CEO, Emera  
Newfoundland and Labrador

Mr. Gerald Weseen, Senior Director, Government Relations

### **Department of Energy**

Mr. Murray Coolican, Deputy Minister

## **MATTERS OF DISCUSSION**

The purpose of the meeting was to provide information about the Lower Churchill Falls project, its impact for the Province of Nova Scotia, and involvement of Nova Scotia Power.

The members also discussed matters under Committee Business, including selection of witnesses for future meetings.

## **MOTIONS**

The Committee did receive correspondence from the Mining Association of Nova Scotia, asking to present to the Committee regarding provincial fuel tax regulations.

The Committee discussed the matter and agreed to the following:

...“to bring the Mining Association before us as soon as we possibly can...” and ...  
“ write back to them to let them know that we are not going to be able to see them  
probably for two or three months”... and ...“that they should not miss the opportunity to  
present to the Minister of Finance.”

## **DOCUMENTATION**

There was no documentation requested.

**TRANSCRIPT**

A transcript of this meeting can be found at the following address:

[http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee\\_hansard/C10/re\\_2011oct20](http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee_hansard/C10/re_2011oct20)

**WITNESSES**

**Mining Association of Nova Scotia**

Mr. Pat Mills, President

Ms. Linda Deschenes, Executive Director

Mr. Kim Conrad, Owner, Conrad Brothers

**MATTERS OF DISCUSSION**

The purpose of the meeting was to provide information about the provincial fuel tax regulations and the mining industry.

**MOTIONS**

There were no motions made during the meeting.

**DOCUMENTATION**

There was no documentation requested.

**TRANSCRIPT**

A transcript of this meeting can be found at the following address:

[http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee\\_hansard/C10/re2012jan19](http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee_hansard/C10/re2012jan19)

**WITNESSES**

**Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture**

Mr. Paul LaFleche, Deputy Minister

Mr. Greg Roach, Associate Deputy Minister

Mr. Justin Huston, Coastal Zone Coordinator

**MATTERS OF DISCUSSION**

The purpose of the meeting was to provide information about coastal zone management.

**MOTIONS**

There were no motions made during the meeting.

**DOCUMENTATION**

There was no documentation requested.

**TRANSCRIPT**

A transcript of this meeting can be found at the following address:

[http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee\\_hansard/C10/re2012feb23](http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee_hansard/C10/re2012feb23)

**WITNESSES**

**Shubenacadie Canal Commission**

Mr. Allan Billard, Managing Director

Mr. Cameron Ells, Chairperson

**MATTERS OF DISCUSSION**

The purpose of the meeting was to provide information about the Commission, its mission and activities. Shubenacadie Canal is a historic waterway that spans from Halifax Harbour to the Bay of Fundy.

**MOTIONS**

There were no motions made during the meeting.

**DOCUMENTATION**

There was no documentation requested.

**TRANSCRIPT**


A transcript of this meeting can be found at the following address:

[http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee\\_hansard/C10/re2012mar01](http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee_hansard/C10/re2012mar01)

**STATEMENT OF SUBMISSION**

All of which is respectfully submitted to the House of Assembly

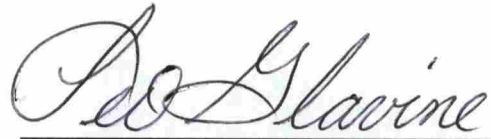
This 20 day of SEPTEMBER, 2012



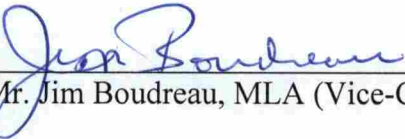
Mr. Sidney Prest, MLA  
Chair



Mr. Howard Epstein, MLA



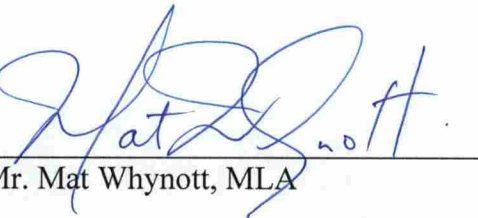
Mr. Leo Glavine, MLA



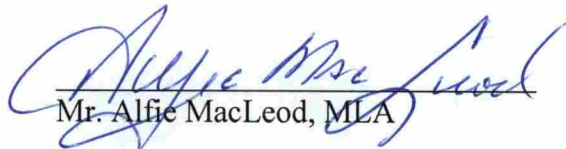
Mr. Jim Boudreau, MLA (Vice-Chair)



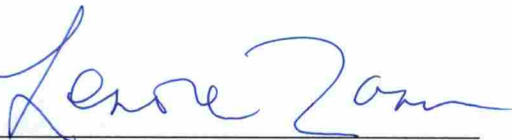
Mr. Andrew Younger, MLA



Mr. Mat Whynott, MLA



Mr. Alfie MacLeod, MLA



Ms. Lenore Zann, MLA



Mr. Chuck Porter, MLA

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES OFFICE**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Dennis Bldg.  
1740 Granville Street  
PO Box 2630, Stn. M  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3P7**

**Telephone: (902) 424-4432 or Toll Free 1-888-388-6489**

**Fax: (902) 424-0513**

**E-mail: [legcomm@gov.ns.ca](mailto:legcomm@gov.ns.ca)**

**Website: [http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/standing\\_committees/resources](http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/standing_committees/resources)**