



# **Standing Committee on Resources**

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

**2014**

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Halifax

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<http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/reports/resources>



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Honourable Kevin Murphy  
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 January 2014 to June 2014 of the Sixty-Second General Assembly.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gordon Wilson".

Gordon Wilson, MLA  
(Clare-Digby)  
Chair  
Standing Committee on Resources

Halifax, Nova Scotia  
2014



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## 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-Second 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

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

Mr. Gordon Wilson, MLA (Chair)  
Clare Digby

Mr. Alfie MacLeod, MLA  
Sydney River-Mira-Louisbourg

Mr. Keith Irving, MLA (Vice Chair)  
Kings South

Mr. John Lohr, MLA  
Kings North

Mr. Lloyd Hines, MLA  
Guysborough-Eastern Shore-Tracadie

Hon. Sterling Belliveau, MLA  
Queens-Shelburne

Mr. Bill Horne, MLA  
Waverley-Fall River-Beaver Bank

Ms. Lenore Zann, MLA  
Truro-Bible Hill-Millbrook-Salmon River

Ms. Margaret Miller, MLA  
Hants East

## MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

There were no membership changes during the period from January 2014 to June 2014.

## 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. The Committee met on the following dates:

January 16, 2014	May 22, 2014
February 20, 2014	June 19, 2014
March 20, 2014	

## 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: <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 webpage 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. 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 Legislative Library in Nova Scotia, the 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 Resources Committee webpage at the following address: <http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/reports/resources>

## **RESEARCH MATERIAL**

Research material for the Resources Committee is compiled by the Legislative Library in consultation with the Committee clerk and distributed to members by the Committee clerk. Reference material is provided to members and caucus staff prior to the meeting date. A copy of this material is also made available to the witnesses appearing before the Committee, to the Legislative Library in Province House and to Hansard Reporting Services.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Committee wishes to extend its gratitude to all witnesses for their time and co-operation; to Ms. Kim Langille, Committee Clerk, and the staff of the Legislative Committees Office for the coordination of Committee meetings; and to Ms. Heather Ludlow, Information Services Librarian, for the organization of research for Committee meetings. Others whose assistance has been invaluable to the Committee are: 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**

<b>January 16, 2014</b>	<b>Organizational/Agenda Setting Meeting</b>
<b>February 20, 2014</b>	<b>Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture</b>
<b>March 20, 2014</b>	<b>Forest Products Association of Nova Scotia</b>
<b>May 22, 2014</b>	<b>Nova Scotia Mink Breeders Association</b>
<b>June 19, 2014</b>	<b>Christmas Tree Council of Nova Scotia/Agenda Setting</b>



# **PUBLIC HEARINGS**



**ORGANIZATIONAL/AGENDA SETTING  
MEETING**

**January 16, 2014**

**WITNESSES**

There were no witnesses present at the meeting.

**MATTERS OF DISCUSSION**

The Committee met to organize their agenda of potential witnesses and topics for future meetings. As this was the first meeting of the newly constituted Committee, the Chair provided a brief overview of the Committee mandate, meeting time and procedures.

**COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

The Committee reviewed agenda items and set its agenda for upcoming meetings.

The Committee agreed that the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month would be used as a backup date should a meeting need to be rescheduled due to unexpected circumstances, such as inclement weather.

**MOTIONS**

The Committee discussed its agenda and the following witness list was proposed:

Maritime Lobster Panel Report; Mink Breeders Association, Dan Mullen; Community Shared Agriculture Program; Forest Products Association, Jeff Bishop; Department of Agriculture regarding the Strawberry Industry; and, Christmas Tree Council of Nova Scotia. A motion was introduced:

To accept these witnesses.

-Moved by Mr. Lloyd Hines, MLA

-Motion carried

**DOCUMENTATION**

There were no documents requested.

**TRANSCRIPT**

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

[http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee\\_hansard/C10/re2014jan16](http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee_hansard/C10/re2014jan16)



**REPORT OF THE MARITIME LOBSTER PANEL**

**February 20, 2014**

**WITNESSES**

**Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture**

Mr. Barry MacPhee - Acting Executive Director

**MATTERS OF DISCUSSION**

The Maritime Lobster Panel is an independent panel appointed by the fisheries ministers representing the Maritime Provinces to review the state of the lobster industry. The purpose of the meeting was to obtain information on the panel's work and its report.

**COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

The Committee agreed not to meet during the upcoming session of the House of Assembly.

**MOTIONS**

A member of the Committee wished to change the focus of a witness presentation that had been agreed to by the Committee at its agenda setting meeting. A motion was introduced:

That a change of topic be that we have the Nova Scotia Mink Breeders Association to address the state of the mink industry.

-Moved by Mr. John Lohr, MLA

-Motion carried

**DOCUMENTATION**

The following information was requested and has been received:

Information on the Lobster Summit that is being held in Halifax on March 26 and 27, 2014.

**TRANSCRIPT**

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

[http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee\\_hansard/C10/re2014feb2](http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee_hansard/C10/re2014feb2)

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**FOREST PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION OF NOVA  
SCOTIA**

**March 20, 2014**

**WITNESSES**

**Forest Products Association of Nova Scotia**

Mr. Jeff Bishop - Executive Director

Ms. Cassie Turple - President (Ledwidge Lumber)

Mr. Rick Archibald - 1st Vice-President (Northern Pulp Nova Scotia)

Mr. Kent Dykeman - 2nd Vice-President (LP Canada)

Mr. Kari Easthouse - Immediate Past President (Nova Scotia Landowners and Forest Fibre Producers Association)

**MATTERS OF DISCUSSION**

The Forest Products Association of Nova Scotia promotes sustainable forest management and a viable forest industry. It is the province's largest forestry related organization and serves as the voice of the forest industry. The purpose of the meeting was to obtain an overview of the forest products industry.

**COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

The Committee reviewed correspondence from the Department of Agriculture indicating that they would not be able to appear before the Committee regarding the Community Shared Agriculture Program. The Committee also reviewed information provided by Barry MacPhee regarding the Lobster Summit, which had been requested by the Committee at the February meeting.

The Committee agreed to hold May 22 as a tentative meeting date should it not be able to meet on May 15 because of the sitting of the House of Assembly.

**MOTIONS**

The Committee was interested in the amount of financial support the province provides annually for silviculture activities. A motion was introduced:

That the Committee petition the Department of Natural Resources to find out the amount of dollars that the province puts into silviculture annually in the province.

-Moved by Mr. Lloyd Hines, MLA

-Motion carried

The Minister of Natural Resources provided the following response:

I am pleased to inform you that for the 2014 fiscal year the Department of

Natural Resources has budgeted \$11,577,600 for silviculture work in the forests of Nova Scotia.

## **DOCUMENTATION**

The following information was requested from the Forest Products Association of Nova Scotia.

The value of the silviculture work being done by county in the province.

The Committee was advised by the Forest Products Association of Nova Scotia that it is unable to provide this information but indicated that the Committee should contact the Department of Natural Resources. The information was requested from the Department of Natural Resources and has been received.

## **TRANSCRIPT**

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

[http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee\\_hansard/C10/re2014mar2](http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee_hansard/C10/re2014mar2)

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**NOVA SCOTIA MINK BREEDERS  
ASSOCIATION**

**May 22, 2014**

**WITNESSES**

**Nova Scotia Mink Breeders Association**

Mr. Daniel Mullen - President

Mr. Simeon Roberts – Managing Director

**MATTERS OF DISCUSSION**

The Nova Scotia Mink Breeders Association's mission is to facilitate the continued viability, profitability, and economic contribution of the mink industry in Nova Scotia. The purpose of the meeting was to obtain information on the state of the mink industry in the province.

**COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

The Committee discussed its summer meeting schedule and agreed that it would not hold meetings during the months of July and August and that an agenda setting session would be held at the June 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**MOTIONS**

The Honourable Sterling Belliveau informed the Committee that he has heard from a number of firewood suppliers who are very concerned as they have not been able to get access to hardwood to fill their orders. The Hon. Mr. Belliveau indicated that this was a matter that required the Committee to hold an emergency meeting. A motion was introduced:

That an emergency meeting of the Resources Committee be held as soon as possible before the summer recess to call in the Department of Natural Resources to investigate the inability of firewood suppliers to get access to hardwood to fill their orders.

-Moved by Hon. Sterling Belliveau, MLA

-Motion defeated

Further discussion was held on the matter and a second motion was introduced:

That the chairman send a letter to the Department of Natural Resources requesting an update on the actions being taken to deal with this crisis situation.

-Moved by Hon. Sterling Belliveau, MLA

-Motion carried

The Department of Natural Resources provided the following response:

This winter was unusually cold and long. Jurisdictions across Canada experienced firewood shortages. The private sector and woodlot owners are the primary suppliers of firewood for domestic use. DNR is encouraging licensees on Crown lands who harvest firewood as a by-product of their sawlog and pulpwood harvest, to make firewood available to homeowners and firewood processors.

## **DOCUMENTATION**

The following documents have been requested:

A copy of the Economic Impact Study that is being conducted by the Association.

## **TRANSCRIPT**

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

[http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee\\_hansard/C10/re2014may22](http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee_hansard/C10/re2014may22)

**CHRISTMAS TREE COUNCIL OF NOVA  
SCOTIA/AGENDA SETTING**

**June 19, 2014**

**WITNESSES**

**Christmas Tree Council of Nova Scotia**

Mr. Forrest Higgins – President

Ms. Colette Wyllie – Industry Coordinator

**MATTERS OF DISCUSSION**

The Christmas Tree Council of Nova Scotia is the coordinator for the three regionally based grower associations in Nova Scotia. The Associations are the Lunenburg County Christmas Tree Producers' Association, the Cobequid Christmas Tree Producers' Association, and the Northeastern Christmas Tree Association. The purpose of the meeting was to obtain an overview of the Christmas tree industry in the province.

**COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

The Committee reviewed correspondence received from the Minister of Natural Resources providing information requested at the March, 2014 meeting. An Information Note provided by the Department of Natural Resources in response to a motion passed at the May, 2014 meeting, was reviewed. The Committee also reviewed agenda items and set its agenda for upcoming meetings. It was agreed to change the September meeting date from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> of September, 2014.

**MOTIONS**

The Committee discussed its agenda and the following witness list was proposed:

Geoscience Research for Nova Scotia's Offshore Growth-Witness: Department of Energy, Deputy Coolican; Natalie Smith, President, and Keltie Butler, Executive Director-Farmers' Markets of Nova Scotia; and Nova Scotia Beekeepers. A motion was introduced:

To approve the items put forth.

-Moved by Mr. Ben Jessome, MLA

-Motion carried

**DOCUMENTATION**

There were no documents requested.

**TRANSCRIPT**

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

[http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee\\_hansard/C10/re2014jun19](http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee_hansard/C10/re2014jun19)

# **STATEMENT OF SUBMISSION**





**STATEMENT OF SUBMISSION**

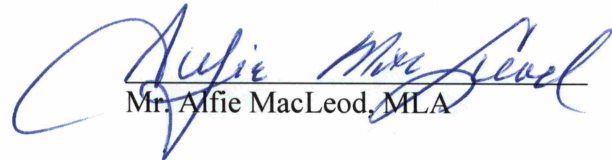
All of which is respectfully submitted to the House of Assembly  
this 20<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2014.



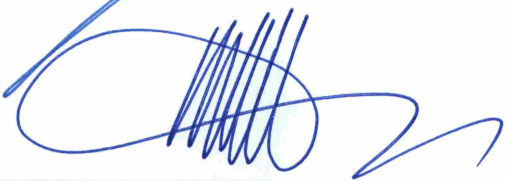
Mr. Gordon Wilson, MLA  
Chair



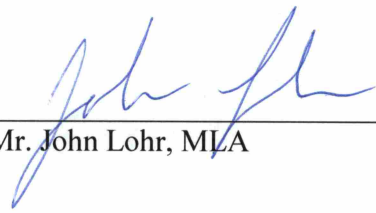
Mr. Keith Irving, MLA (Vice Chair)



Mr. Alfie MacLeod, MLA



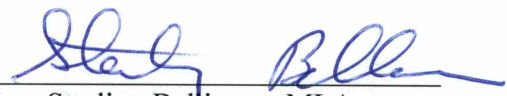
Mr. Lloyd Hines, MLA



Mr. John Lohr, MLA



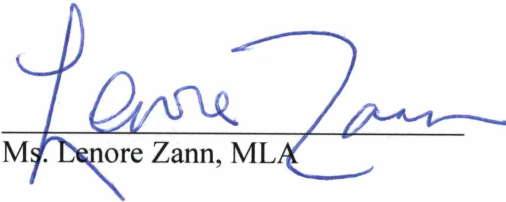
Mr. Bill Horne, MLA



Hon. Sterling Belliveau, MLA



Ms. Margaret Miller, MLA



Ms. Lenore Zann, MLA



# **APPENDICES**



## APPENDIX A - MOTIONS

The following is a list of motions introduced by the Standing Committee on Resources:

### **January 16, 2014**

The Committee discussed its agenda and the following witness list was proposed:

Maritime Lobster Panel Report; Mink Breeders Association, Dan Mullen; Community Shared Agriculture Program; Forest Products Association, Jeff Bishop; Department of Agriculture regarding the Strawberry Industry; and, Christmas Tree Council of Nova Scotia. A motion was introduced:

To accept these witnesses.

-Moved by Mr. Lloyd Hines, MLA  
-Motion carried

### **February 20, 2014**

A member of the Committee wished to change the focus of a witness presentation that had been agreed to by the Committee at its agenda setting meeting. A motion was introduced:

That a change of topic be that we have the Nova Scotia Mink Breeders Association to address the state of the mink industry.

-Moved by Mr. John Lohr, MLA  
-Motion carried

### **March 20, 2014**

The Committee was interested in the amount of financial support the province provides annually for silviculture activities. A motion was introduced:

That the Committee petition the Department of Natural Resources to find out the amount of dollars that the province puts into silviculture annually in the province.

-Moved by Mr. Lloyd Hines, MLA  
-Motion carried

### **May 22, 2014**

The Honourable Sterling Belliveau informed the Committee that he has heard from a number of firewood suppliers who are very concerned as they have not been able to get access to hardwood to fill their orders. The Hon. Mr. Belliveau indicated that this was a

## **APPENDIX A - MOTIONS (continued)**

matter that required the Committee to hold an emergency meeting. A motion was introduced:

That an emergency meeting of the Resources Committee be held as soon as possible before the summer recess to call in the Department of Natural Resources to investigate the inability of firewood suppliers to get access to hardwood to fill their orders.

-Moved by Hon. Sterling Belliveau, MLA  
-Motion defeated

Further discussion was held on the matter and a second motion was introduced:

That the chairman send a letter to the Department of Natural Resources requesting an update on the actions being taken to deal with this crisis situation.

-Moved by Hon. Sterling Belliveau, MLA  
-Motion carried

### **June 19, 2014**

The Committee discussed its agenda and the following witness list was proposed:

Geoscience Research for Nova Scotia's Offshore Growth-Witness: Department of Energy, Deputy Coolican; Natalie Smith, President, and Keltie Butler, Executive Director-Farmers' Markets of Nova Scotia; and Nova Scotia Beekeepers. A motion was introduced:

To approve the items put forth.

-Moved by Mr. Ben Jessome, MLA  
-Motion carried

## **APPENDIX B - DOCUMENTATION**

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

**February 20, 2014**

**Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture**

Information on the Lobster Summit that is being held in Halifax on March 26 and 27, 2014.

**March 20, 2014**

**Forest Products Association of Nova Scotia/Department of Natural Resources**

The value of the silviculture work being done by county in the province.

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

**May 22, 2014**

**Nova Scotia Mink Breeders Association**

A copy of the Economic Impact Study that is being conducted by the Association.

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