



Standing Committee on Resources

ANNUAL REPORT

2015

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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 Resources, I am pleased to submit the Annual Report of the Committee for the period from September 2014 to August 2015 of the Sixty-Second General Assembly.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Mr. Gordon Wilson, MLA, Clare-Digby
Chair
Standing Committee on Resources

Halifax, Nova Scotia
2015

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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

Hon. Pat Dunn, MLA
Pictou Centre

Mr. Terry Farrell, MLA (Vice Chair)
Cumberland North

Mr. John Lohr, MLA
Kings North

Mr. Stephen Gough, MLA
Sackville-Beaver Bank

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

Mr. Derek Mombourquette, MLA
Sydney-Whitney Pier

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Hon. Pat Dunn, MLA, replaced Hon. Alfie MacLeod, MLA, in February 2015.

Mr. Terry Farrell, MLA, replaced Mr. Keith Irving, MLA, in August 2015.

Mr. Stephen Gough, MLA, replaced the Hon. Lloyd Hines, MLA, in August 2015.

Mr. Derek Mombourquette, MLA, replaced Ms. Margaret Miller, MLA, in August 2015

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.

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 web page at the following address: 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 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 Resources Committee web page 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 in consultation with the committee clerk. Research material is compiled in an electronic format and is distributed by the committee clerk prior to the meeting to 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

Department of Agriculture

Mr. Ernest Walker – Director of Policy

Ms. Sally Stanford – Acting Director of Programs

Ms. Peggy Weatherbee – Manager, Programs

Ms. Karen Wong-Petrie – Acting Manager, Animal Crop Services

Mr. John Lewis – Strawberry Specialist, Perennia

MATTERS OF DISCUSSION

Department representatives appeared before the committee to provide an overview of the strawberry industry, the impact of disease and assistance offered by the province. The Department of Agriculture provides various forms of assistance to the strawberry industry to deal with disease. The first signs of disease were found in late fall 2012/early spring 2013. An intense monitoring program was implemented and hundreds of acres of strawberry crops were plowed down to stem the spread of the disease. Assistance was offered via the AgriRecovery program, a federal/provincial cost shared program, and the province offered interest assistance on the portion of the federal advance payment loan when producers replanted. An aphid disease monitoring project has also been funded over a 3-year period. In 2014, nursery stock was tested and the vast majority was disease free and the viruses in commercial fields were significantly reduced.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

The following correspondence was received by the committee:

- Correspondence from the Minister of Natural Resources providing information requested at the March 20th meeting.
- Correspondence from the Nova Scotia Landowners and Forest Fibre Producers Association requesting to appear before the committee. A motion was introduced:
 - To move the request to an upcoming agenda setting meeting.
 - Moved by Hon. Alfie MacLeod, MLA
 - Motion carried

It was agreed that an agenda setting session would be held at the December 18th meeting.

The committee discussed the 2014 Annual Report. A motion was introduced:

- To approve the 2014 Annual Report of the Standing Committee on Resources.
 - Moved by Hon. Lloyd Hines, MLA
 - Motion carried

DOCUMENTATION

The following information was requested from the Department of Agriculture and has been received:

- The cash value of the strawberry industry in the province for 2013.

TRANSCRIPT

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

http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee_hansard/C10/re2014nov20

WITNESSES

Nova Scotia Beekeepers Association

Mr. Joe Goetz – President

Mr. Perry Brandt – Vice President

MATTERS OF DISCUSSION

Officials from the Nova Scotia Beekeepers Association appeared before the committee to provide an overview of the industry in the province. The Nova Scotia Beekeepers Association is a volunteer organization that provides representation for the beekeeping industry in the province. There are approximately 330 registered beekeepers in the province, of which 93 are members of the Nova Scotia Beekeepers Association.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

An agenda setting session was held and witnesses were selected to appear before the committee. Motions were introduced to invite:

- Gillian Mainguy with the Winery Association of Nova Scotia, and Stewart Creaser of Avondale Sky Winery.
 - Moved by Ms. Margaret Miller, MLA
 - Motion carried

- Medway Community Forest Co-operative
 - Moved by Hon. Sterling Belliveau, MLA
 - Motion carried

- Nova Scotia Sheep Producers and the Nova Scotia Turkey Producers Marketing Board.
 - Moved by Hon. Pat Dunn, MLA
 - Motion defeated

- Turkey Farmers of Nova Scotia
 - Moved by Hon. Pat Dunn, MLA
 - Motion defeated

- Pictou North Colchester Federation of Agriculture
 - Moved by Hon. Pat Dunn, MLA
 - Motion defeated

- Department of Natural Resources, Timber Harvesting and Use of Bowater Lands
 - Moved by Hon. Pat Dunn, MLA
 - Motion defeated

- Group Savoie, Sourcing Wood Fibre
 - Moved by Hon. Pat Dunn, MLA
 - Motion defeated

- Nova Scotia's Silviculture Contractors' Association
 - Moved by Hon. Pat Dunn, MLA
 - Motion carried

DOCUMENTATION

No documents/information were requested.

TRANSCRIPT

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

http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee_hansard/C10/res2014_dec18

OVERVIEW

January 15, 2015

WITNESS

Farmers' Markets of Nova Scotia

Ms. Keltie Butler – Executive Director

MATTERS OF DISCUSSION

Farmers' Markets of Nova Scotia (FMNS) appeared before the committee to provide an overview of the organization and its activities. FMNS offers support and services to its members and their vendors through business development, skills building, research, advocacy and promotion. Nova Scotia has the highest number of farmers markets, per capita, in Canada, with 43 markets; 24 of which are members of FMNS. A provincial economic impact study was conducted in 2013 which showed that more than 55,000 people shop at farmers markets weekly and spend approximately 20% of their food budget.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

The following correspondence was received by the committee:

- Correspondence from the Department of Agriculture providing information requested at the November 20th meeting.

It was agreed that the March 19th meeting would be rescheduled as it fell during the school March Break and that there would be no meeting in February.

DOCUMENTATION

No documents/information were requested.

TRANSCRIPT

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

http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee_hansard/C10/re2015jan15

**GEOSCIENCE RESEARCH FOR NOVA SCOTIA'S OFFSHORE
GROWTH**

March 24, 2015

WITNESSES

Department of Energy

Mr. Murray Coolican – Deputy Minister

Mr. Sandy MacMullin – Executive Director, Petroleum Resources

MATTERS OF DISCUSSION

Officials from the Department of Energy appeared before the committee to provide information on the geoscience research being conducted by the province and its impact on offshore oil and gas growth. Nova Scotia has been active in conducting geoscience research and has created the “Play Fairway” analysis which it uses to market the provinces offshore potential around the world. This research assisted in attracting six companies to invest in the province. These investments provide the opportunity for significant economic growth for the province.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

It was agreed that the committee would not meet when the Legislature was in session.

DOCUMENTATION

No documents/information were requested.

TRANSCRIPT

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

http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee_hansard/C10/re2015mar24

WITNESSES

Winery Association of Nova Scotia

Ms. Gillian Mainguy – Manager

Mr. Gerry McConnell – Interim Chair and President

MATTERS OF DISCUSSION

The Winery Association of Nova Scotia (WANS) appeared before the committee to provide an overview of the wine industry in the province. WANS is the voice of the wine industry in the province and promotes the growth and development of Nova Scotia wines. There are 20 wineries in the province with annual sales of \$20 million. Nova Scotia's wine industry contributes \$196 million to the provincial economy and has room for growth within the sector.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

It was agreed to hold an agenda setting session at the June 18th meeting.

DOCUMENTATION

No documents/information were requested.

TRANSCRIPT

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

http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee_hansard/C10/re2015may21

WITNESS

Nova Scotia Silviculture Contractors' Association

Mr. David McMillan - President

MATTERS OF DISCUSSION

The Nova Scotia Silviculture Contractors' Association appeared before the committee to provide an overview of the sector. The association aims to promote the repair, restoration and invigoration of the province's Acadian forests. Approximately one third of the province's forest have silviculture work performed on them, which the association would like to see increased. The association noted that insufficient funding, a shrinking workforce and corporate control of small private silviculture creates challenges for the sector.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

The following correspondence was received by the committee:

- Correspondence from the Nova Scotia Liquor Corporation indicating its availability to meet with the committee regarding Nova Scotia wine should the committee be interested in the future.

An agenda setting session was held and witnesses were selected to appear before the committee. Motions were introduced to invite:

- The Department of Energy on Ocean Tech and Tidal Research
 - Moved by Ms. Margaret Miller, MLA
 - Motion carried
- Mining Association of Nova Scotia
 - Moved by Hon. Alfie MacLeod, MLA
 - Motion defeated
- Dairy Farmers of Nova Scotia
 - Moved by Hon. Alfie MacLeod, MLA
 - Motion carried
- Department of Natural Resources on Harvest Operation Maps
 - Moved by Ms. Lenore Zann, MLA
 - Motion defeated

- Department of Environment on Consolidation of Conservation Officers
 - Moved by Ms. Lenore Zann, MLA
 - Motion carried

- Wild Blueberry Sector
 - Moved by Mr. Keith Irving, MLA
 - Motion carried

The correspondence from the Nova Scotia Landowners and Forest Fibre Producers Association requesting to appear, which had been deferred, was reviewed by the committee. It was agreed that the committee would not entertain their request at this time as the organization had also contacted the various caucus offices to make a presentation.

DOCUMENTATION

No documents/information were requested.

TRANSCRIPT

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

http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee_hansard/C10/re2015jun18


STATEMENT OF SUBMISSION

STATEMENT OF SUBMISSION

All of which is respectfully submitted to the House of Assembly
on this 15 day of October, 2015.



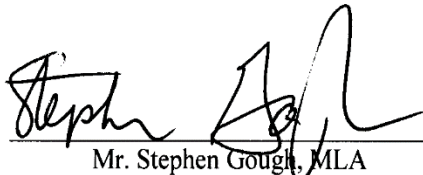
Mr. Gordon Wilson, MLA - Chair
Clare-Digby



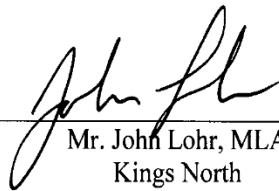
Mr. Terry Farrell, MLA (Vice Chair)
Cumberland North



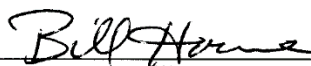
Hon. Pat Dunn, MLA
Pictou Centre



Mr. Stephen Gough, MLA
Sackville-Beaver Bank



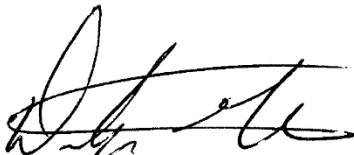
Mr. John Lohr, MLA
Kings North



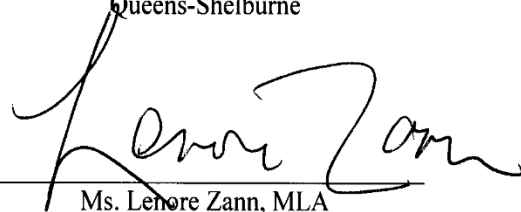
Mr. Bill Horne, MLA
Waverley-Fall River-Beaver Bank



Hon. Sterling Belliveau, MLA
Queens-Shelburne



Mr. Derek Mombourquette, MLA
Sydney-Whitney Pier



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

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A - MOTIONS

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

November 20, 2014

The committee received correspondence from the Nova Scotia Landowners and Forest Fibre Producers Association requesting to appear before the committee. A motion was introduced:

- To move the request to an upcoming agenda setting meeting.
 - Moved by Hon. Alfie MacLeod, MLA
 - Motion carried

The committee discussed the 2014 Annual Report. A motion was introduced:

- To approve the 2014 Annual Report of the Standing Committee on Resources.
 - Moved by Hon. Lloyd Hines, MLA
 - Motion carried

December 18, 2014

An agenda setting session was held and witnesses were selected to appear before the committee. Motions were introduced to invite:

- Gillian Mainguy with the Winery Association of Nova Scotia, and Stewart Creaser of Avondale Sky Winery.
 - Moved by Ms. Margaret Miller, MLA
 - Motion carried
- Medway Community Forest Co-operative
 - Moved by Hon. Sterling Belliveau, MLA
 - Motion carried
- Nova Scotia Sheep Producers and the Nova Scotia Turkey Producers Marketing Board.
 - Moved by Hon. Pat Dunn, MLA
 - Motion defeated
- Turkey Farmers of Nova Scotia
 - Moved by Hon. Pat Dunn, MLA
 - Motion defeated

APPENDIX A - MOTIONS (cont'd)

- Pictou North Colchester Federation of Agriculture
 - Moved by Hon. Pat Dunn, MLA
 - Motion defeated

- Department of Natural Resources, Timber Harvesting and Use of Bowater Lands
 - Moved by Hon. Pat Dunn, MLA
 - Motion defeated

- Group Savoie, Sourcing Wood Fibre
 - Moved by Hon. Pat Dunn, MLA
 - Motion defeated

- Nova Scotia's Silviculture Contractors' Association
 - Moved by Hon. Pat Dunn, MLA
 - Motion carried

June 18, 2015

An agenda setting session was held and witnesses were selected to appear before the committee. Motions were introduced to invite:

- The Department of Energy on Ocean Tech and Tidal Research
 - Moved by Ms. Margaret Miller, MLA
 - Motion carried

- Mining Association of Nova Scotia
 - Moved by Hon. Alfie MacLeod, MLA
 - Motion defeated

- Dairy Farmers of Nova Scotia
 - Moved by Hon. Alfie MacLeod, MLA
 - Motion carried

- Department of Natural Resources on Harvest Operation Maps
 - Moved by Ms. Lenore Zann, MLA
 - Motion defeated

- Department of Environment on Consolidation of Conservation Officers
 - Moved by Ms. Lenore Zann, MLA
 - Motion carried

APPENDIX A - MOTIONS (cont'd)

- Wild Blueberry Sector
 - Moved by Mr. Keith Irving, MLA
 - Motion carried

APPENDIX B - DOCUMENTATION

November 20, 2014
Department of Agriculture

The following information was requested from the Department of Agriculture and has been received:

- The cash value of the strawberry industry in the province for 2013.

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