



HIGH PRIORITY: NS's 2010 Natural Resources Strategy

Phase II of the NS Natural Resources Strategy has resulted in a report with over 200 recommendations handed to government on May 7, 2010. Forest Products Association of Nova Scotia (FPANS) is very concerned with many of the recommendations – what they mean to your rights as landowners, how they will affect wood supply across the province, and what they mean to every Nova Scotian who makes a living or income from the forest.

Many of the recommendations are impractical. They are not based on credible science and come from a few vocal people who would prefer to see our industry die. These people forget the forest industry is the backbone of the rural economy of Nova Scotia. Without a viable forest industry – we will see rural communities fade off the map.

Recommendations that concern FPANS include:

- Requiring private landowners to have a certified management plan before allowing any cutting or access to silviculture assistance funding
- Removing the forest-resource tax rate on lands without an ecologically based management plan
- Establishing a permit-only system for use of clearcutting on private lands
- Blanket expansion of riparian zones along lakes and streams from the current 20m to 50m – 100m at the expense of the landowner
- More and bigger wildlife clumps
- Exclusive recognition of the FSC certification program which in effect excludes small private woodlot owners and most industrial and Crown lands
- Prohibiting any export of raw biomass
- Banning whole-tree harvesting and intensive silviculture on Crown lands
- Severely limiting the use of intensive silviculture on private lands through permits and regulations
- Reducing the annual harvest levels on both Crown and private lands
- Requiring the sale of lands over 800ha (2,000 acres) to be approved by government
- Setting up a permit system for all forest contractors who operate on private lands and requiring contractors to post performance bonds

FPANS strongly encourages you to contact Hon. John MacDonnell, Minister of Natural Resources (min_dnr@gov.ns.ca); Premier Darrell Dexter (premier@gov.ns.ca) and your local MLA to share your concerns with these recommendations and the impact on the future of the forest industry in Nova Scotia.

Read more about the Phase II Report and Recommendations online at:
www.gov.ns.ca/natr/strategy2010/phase2report.asp