

From: Minister, Lands and Forestry <MINDNR@novascotia.ca>

Sent: March-17-20 4:22 PM

To: Debbie Mader <dmader@barringtonmunicipality.com>

Subject: Re: Request that Crown land harvesting be put on hold in the Deception Lake area (Log # 2020-00298)

Lindsay Nickerson, Warden
Municipality of the District of Barrington
PO Box 100
Barrington NS B0W 1E0
dmader@barringtonmunicipality.com

Dear Lindsay Nickerson:

I am responding to your correspondence requesting that Crown land harvesting be put on hold in the Deception Lake area.

The Forestry Review, led by Professor Lahey, followed an extensive consultation with stakeholders from across Nova Scotia. The 45 recommendations in the report provide a major advancement towards ecological forestry in which biodiversity is a key value. Many of the recommendations are aimed to address the issues being raised, and work is progressing to implement this direction:

- Soils – soil health and productivity initiatives include work to incorporate soil nutrient budget model into landscape and operational level planning, site disturbance guidelines, soil classification and mapping, soil and water restoration through liming to counteract years of acid rain.
- Forest harvesting – revision of Forest Management Guides to recommend more partial harvesting to encourage uneven aged forests, including addition of “irregular shelterwood” methods, introduction of an Interim Retention Guide for clearcut type harvests to mandate much higher retention levels and encourage long-lived shade tolerant species, introduction of Forest Biodiversity Stewardship field guide.
- Landscape level planning – guidelines for long-term maintenance of mature forest cover across landscapes while also ensuring natural levels of immature forest habitat are available to support biodiversity.
- Climate and carbon budgets – addition of climate and carbon modelling to ensure that forest management planning includes resilience to climate change and consideration of carbon budgets and sequestration.

We continue to implement the recommendations in the Forestry Review and do not plan to put a hold on Crown land harvesting.

As part of the Forestry Review implementation, Professor Lahey will provide regular assessments of the department's progress. He has assembled an expert team that is currently undertaking the 1-year review which will be reported in coming months. On October 18, 2019, the department released a new Ecological Forestry website (<https://novascotia.ca/ecological-forestry>), which provides project team updates on work being completed as the Province moves towards a triad approach to forest management on Crown land. Additionally, an advisory panel has been appointed to oversee work related to ecological forestry, specifically for the implementation of Professor Lahey's Independent Review of Forest Practices recommendations. A list of the panel members along with additional information can be found at <https://novascotia.ca/news/release/?id=20191018001>.

Thank you for your interest in our forests.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Iain Rankin
Minister of Lands and Forestry