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Open Letter About Forestry Demise

October 15, 2015

Open Letter to: The Premier of Nova Scotia
The Leader of the Opposition
The Leader of the NDP
Ecology Action Centre

RE: The never-ending destruction of rural Nova Scotia

Dear Sir or Madame,

Cause and Effect

A person driving through a national park threw a lit cigarette out of the car window on a hot summer's day. This cigarette caused a large forest fire which destroyed hundreds of acres of the park. The next day when the person read about the big fire he said to his wife, "We were very lucky to have seen the park before it was destroyed".

I feel Nova Scotia politicians, bureaucrats and the environmental movement are the same as this person. They have very little idea of cause and effect.

Dictionary meaning of a Hypocrite:

- A person who professes certain ideals but fails to live up to them.
- A person who pretends to be a certain way, but acts the total opposite.

I feel that the majority of our elected officials and environmental movement say they are supporting rural employment and forestry and are obtaining local public input but are doing the opposite. Such as after pressuring previous government to completely take out of production up to 12% of Nova Scotia Forest land. They are now pushing for 15 to 20%.

Examples of how rural forestry communities are being destroyed:

- Proposing to take an extra 47,895 acres out of forestry production in the proposed Medway Wildlife Protected area. An area that forests workers and industry have been protecting for generations.
- Talking about doing the same in the St Margaret's Bay area.
- Planning to deny adjacent land owners' access to their timber holdings by closing off existing forestry roads.
- Planning on designating thousands of acres of Forest Land as protected areas, at numerous sites all over Nova Scotia, without even notifying adjacent land owners of what is going on. I was informed that the second public consultation has been done (was this done behind closed doors by "PEOPLE FROM AWAY" making the decisions to destroy a way of life in rural Nova Scotia). My information is that the government, with the help of the environmental movement, are planning on ramming this through this fall, denying many forestry landowners' input and access to their own land, besides putting another nail in the forestry coffin.
- Not recognizing that it is the forest industry of Nova Scotia that is and has been protecting forest land and providing Nova Scotia jobs for generations.
- To heck with the forest workers, employers and the economic vitality of areas of Nova Scotia that greatly need it.
- Using the new city slicker system of saying they have obtained local public input by renting a hall and putting up some posters saying what they are going to do, (a game of smoke and mirrors) WITH REALLY NO MEANINGFUL COMMUNITY INPUT from the local general public or worse making decisions behind closed doors.

WHY CAN'T FORESTRY LAND AREA CONTINUE TO BE USED FOR MULTIPLE USE LIKE IT HAS BEEN FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS.

For the last 30 to 40 years previous Nova Scotia governments with the help of environmental organizations which are mostly "FROM AWAY", by means of laws, regulations and protected areas have taken out of production up to 50% of the forest in Nova Scotia thus having already destroyed up to 50% of the forest industry in the process. If the government continues this trend of making more forest land idle without the concept of multiple use, politicians and the environmental movement will finish the job of completely destroying forestry and rural forestry communities in Nova Scotia.

I believe that all Governments and the environmental movement have so brainwashed themselves into thinking they have all the answers in sustainable forestry that, by way of laws and regulations, they are destroying that which they profess to support.

I ask you Mr. Premier, the Leader of the Opposition, the Leader of the NDP and the Leaders of the Environmental Movement to take a stand and say "enough is enough" and stop further down zoning of forest land which in turn is destroying the forest industry in Nova Scotia.

As an example of how the general public and forest industry can co-exist, I include the Barrett Lumber Company (BLC) Family Forest Stewardship Agreement (copy enclosed). This is an agreement, in operation since 1978, where BLC allows the general public to use our private forestry property, PROVIDED THEY BEHAVE THEMSELVES. This is an agreement where up to 3,000 families use our land for recreational uses. We also have a written yearly contract with the Beaver Bank All Terrain Vehicles Club where they have permission to give yearly access to BLC graded, ditched, culverted Forestry Extraction roads for Off Highway Vehicles (OHV) users providing the OHV users are in good standing with their clubs.

For almost 50 years I have personally built, graveled, ditched, culverted, maintained and policed, at BLC's cost, over 40 miles of forestry roads on our approximately 15,000 acres of forest land.

Yours Truly,



David F. Barrett
Woodlands Manager

Copies to: Mayor of HRM
Nova Scotia Members of Parliament
Nova Scotia Members of the Legislative Assembly
Councillors of HRM
Various Forestry Associations
Canadian Association of Family Enterprise (Halifax Office)
Canadian Federation of Independent Business (Halifax Office)
Fraser Institute
National Citizens Coalition
Road Builders Association of Nova Scotia
Mr. Raymond Plourde – Ecology Action Centre
Media

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CANADIAN HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION (CHBA)
CANADIAN WOODLANDS FORUM (CWF)
CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY ENTERPRISE (CAFE)