

Environmental, conservation, and fish and wildlife organizations, scientists, private woodlot owners call for new *Crown Lands and Forests Act*

The *Crown Lands and Forests Act* became law in 1980 and reflects 1970s goals for forest management. At that time, production of timber products was seen as more important than other uses of forests, and the government was prepared to delegate many management responsibilities to industry. Since then, society has changed, the Supreme Court has issued many decisions on aboriginal and treaty rights, and New Brunswickers expect forests to be managed for water, wildlife, recreation and other uses, as well as for jobs and revenue. Forest management is more complex than it used to be. The *Act* needs to reflect the interests of the whole province.

In June 2015, Auditor General Kim MacPherson released Volume II of her 2015 Auditor General Report, which included two chapters related to forest management. The report stated that forests are a cornerstone of the economic, environmental, and social foundation in New Brunswick and need to be managed for all values. However, the Auditor General highlighted that the recommendations made in many reports over the last number of years have not been adopted or responded to by the Department of Natural Resources. MacPherson also stated that from 2009-2013 the total losses incurred by the Department for forest management operations exceeded \$53 million.

Given that the current *Crown Lands and Forests Act* and supporting strategies are inadequate to protect values the public has repeatedly demanded be safeguarded, including community-based forest jobs and biodiversity conservation on Crown lands, and given that financial losses we are experiencing from forest management cannot continue, we urge the government to develop a new *Crown Lands and Forests Act* that will advance a wide range of goals including forest-based jobs, both timber and non-timber, and the conservation of fish and wildlife and the intact ecosystems they need to survive.

The new legislation should:

- (1) State clear principles for managing public forests to protect ecosystem services, native biodiversity, a wide variety of sustainable, forest-based business opportunities, and recreational values all in the context of climate change;
- (2) Establish a comprehensive framework of regulation, land tenure, and policy that clarifies and reinstates government as the trustee responsible to the public for the stewardship of Crown lands;
- (3) Ensure transparency in setting, and a timetable for revising, goals, objectives, and their implementation, including a robust system of public involvement and consultation throughout;
- (4) Respect the Peace and Friendship Treaties and establish mechanisms for consultation through free, prior, and informed consent with indigenous peoples;

(5) Support diversification and value-added processing within New Brunswick's forest products sector; and

(6) Ensure that private woodlots provide a proportional share of the wood supply and promote productivity from private woodlots through stronger management, pricing, and marketing measures.

The undersigned strongly urge government to immediately initiate the development of a new *Act*.

Signed

Fishing and Wildlife Organizations

1. NB Salmon Council
2. NB Wildlife Federation
3. Canaan River Fish and Game Association
4. Club Chasse et Peche de l'île de Lamèque
5. NB Professional Guides and Outfitters Association
6. Petitcodiac Sportsman's Club
7. St. John Basin Salmon Recovery INC
8. The Ruffed Grouse Society of Canada

Woodlot Owners

9. NB Federation of Woodlot Owners
10. Carleton-Victoria Forest Products Marketing Board
11. Madawaska Forest Products Marketing Board
12. North Shore Forest Products Marketing Board
13. Northumberland County Forest Products Marketing Board
14. South East New Brunswick Forest Products Marketing Board
15. Southern New Brunswick Forest Products Marketing Board
16. York Sunbury Charlotte Forest Products Marketing Board

Naturalist Organizations

17. Nature NB
18. Dalhousie Naturalists' Club
19. Miramichi Naturalists' Club
20. Nature Moncton
21. Restigouche Naturalists' Club

Environmental Organizations

22. Canaan-Washademoak Watershed Association
23. Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – NB
24. Conservation Council of NB

25. Council of Canadians, Fredericton Chapter
26. Council of Canadians, Kent County NB Chapter
27. Feu Vert/Green Light, Grand Falls
28. Friends of Mount Carleton Provincial Park Inc.
29. Friends of Rockwood Park Inc., Saint John
30. Groupe de développement durable du Pays de Cocagne Sustainable Development Group Inc.
31. New Brunswickers Against Fracking
32. PEACE-NB, Saint John
33. Public for the Protection of the Forests of NB, Kent County
34. Red Head Anthony's Cove Preservation Association, Saint John
35. Tantramar Alliance Against Hydro-Fracking
36. Voices for Sustainable Environments and Communities, Gagetown

Scientists and Academics

1. Andrea Bear Nicholas, Professor Emeritus, St. Thomas University
2. Alain Patoine, Professeur en gestion de l'environnement, v.-p. Société canadienne de limnologie (SCL), Représentant sur le Comité environnement Science Atlantic, Université de Moncton, Campus de Shippagan
3. Bradley B. Walters, PhD, Professor of Geography & Environment, Mount Allison University
4. Corinne Hersey, PhD, Department of Sociology, St. Thomas University
5. David Coombs, PhD, Professor of Biology (ret.), University of New Brunswick
6. Emmanuelle Tremblay, Secteur arts et sciences, Université de Moncton, campus de Shippagan
7. Hector G. Adégbidi, PhD, École de Foresterie, Université de Moncton, campus d'Edmundston
8. Jeannette Gaudet, St. Thomas University
9. John A. Kershaw, Jr., PhD, Acting Associate Dean of Graduate Studies/Professor of Forest Mensuration, School of Graduate Studies/Faculty of Forestry and Environmental Management, University of New Brunswick
10. Kelly Bronson, PhD, Acting Director, Science and Technology Studies, St. Thomas University
11. Lucy Wilson, Geology, UNB Saint John
12. Marc-André Villard, Professeur titulaire, Département de biologie, Université de Moncton
13. Marilee Reimer, St. Thomas University
14. Marilyn Dupre, PhD, Director of the School of Social Work, St. Thomas University
15. Martin Béland, PhD env., r.p.f.NB, Professeur agrégé, sylviculture et écologie forestière, École de foresterie, Université de Moncton, campus d'Edmundston
16. Michael Duffy, Associate Professor of Biology, University of New Brunswick
17. Michel Soucy, PhD, Professeur agrégé, Économie et opérations forestières, Université de Moncton, campus d'Edmundston
18. Monika Stelzl, PhD, Chair, Department of Psychology, St. Thomas University
19. René Blais, PhD, Professeur titulaire de géographie, Université de Moncton, campus d'Edmundston
20. Roderick E. Cumberland, BScF, Certified Wildlife Biologist, Wildlife Instructor, Maritime College of Forest Technology

21. Roger J. Roy Ph.D., forestier agréé (N.-B.), Directeur et professeur titulaire, École de foresterie, Université de Moncton, campus d'Edmundston
22. Ron Smith, VarFor Ltd., Adjunct professor, Faculty of Forestry and Environmental Management, University of New Brunswick
23. Stephen M. Law, PhD, Head of the Department of Economics, Mount Allison University
24. Stephen Wyatt, Professeur agrégé / Associate Professor, École de foresterie / School of forestry, Université de Moncton, campus d'Edmundston
25. Suzanne Dudziak, Associate Professor, St. Thomas University
26. Tom Beckley, Professor, Faculty of Forestry and Environmental Management, University of New Brunswick
27. Tony Diamond, PhD, Research Professor, Wildlife Ecology, Director, Atlantic Lab for Avian Research, University of New Brunswick
28. William Anderson, PhD candidate, Faculty of Forestry and Environmental Management, University of New Brunswick
29. Y. H. Chui, PhD, Professor, NB Innovation Research Chair - Advanced Wood Products, and Director of Wood Science and Technology Centre, University of New Brunswick
30. Yacine Benahmed, Professeur adjoint, Baccalauréat en gestion de l'information, Université de Moncton, campus de Shippagan