

From: Timothy Gillespie  
Sent: March-07-19 2:34 PM  
To: Chris Frotten <cfrotten@barringtonmunicipality.com>  
Subject: Letter to Minister Rankin

March 7, 2019

Chris Frotten  
CAO, Municipality of Barrington

re: Community Forests | Shelburne County letter to Iain Rankin, Minister Lands & Forestry

Mr. Frotten,

For Community Forests | Shelburne County, I am hoping you might bring the matter below to the attention of Council.

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It would appear that Shelburne County has become the beachhead for what appears to be the McNeil government's war against the woodlands and forests of the province - and the nearby communities who have been given no say in the deforestation programme.

As you may know, a ten-year harvesting concession worth tens of millions of dollars has been granted to Westfor Management, a consortium of 13 industrial lumber interests, led by Northern Pulp and Paper, whose massive furnaces require millions of tonnes of wood fibre per year and whose ink-black effluent has been choking the Northumberland Strait for years.

Northern Pulp is owned by Asia Pulp and Paper (APP), a multi-billion dollar, Indonesia-based multinational implicated by the World Wildlife Fund and others in the rapid deforestation of 80,000 acres of prime rain forest in Indonesian in the past four years. APP claims to operate in 26 countries the world over.

Citizens have been asked to send their message to the McNeil government that the current plan to allow thousands of acres of woods and forests in this province to be clearcut is **SIMPLY NOT ACCEPTABLE**. These are the woods and forests we grew up in and around; that we still walk and hike in; snowshoe and ski in; hunt and fish in.

There has been **NO CONSULTATION** with us whatsoever.

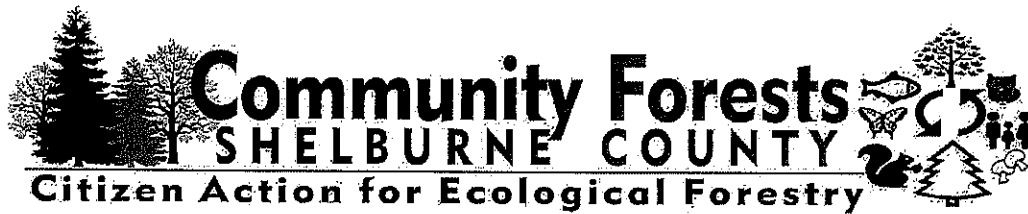
In fewer than three days, more than 450 people from Shelburne County and beyond have signed the attached letter to Minister Rankin to let him know that he must stop the clearcutting rampage and sit down with us to hear what kind of future **WE WANT** for the woods and forests in **OUR COMMUNITIES**.

We are hoping that, in support of the citizens of Shelburne County, that the Council might send a letter to the Minister, simply asking him to agree to sit down with a small group of folks from this area and listen to our concerns.

For more information about the clear-cutting and other forestry issues, you might want to visit:  
<http://www.southcoasttoday.ca/content/community-forests>

Regards,

Timothy Gillespie  
for Community Forests | Shelburne County



**March 1, 2019**

**The Honourable Iain Rankin  
Minister of Lands and Forestry  
3rd Floor Founders Square  
1701 Hollis Street  
P.O. Box 698  
Halifax, NS B3J 2T9**

**Via email and Canada post**

**Dear Minister Rankin:**

**We are writing to inform you of matters that we believe require your immediate attention to avoid irreparable damage to our community's forests with risks to both lives and property.**

**These forests have been designated for clear cutting in spite of the following:**

- 1. The decision to clear cut was made using a deeply flawed and improper review process in which residents of Shelburne County were not adequately informed or consulted, despite commitments by the government to do so.**
- 2. These forests contain mainland moose and other vulnerable, threatened and endangered species as defined in the Endangered Species Act which will be subject to destruction by clear cutting.**
- 3. Clear cutting will degrade these forests' already thin and vulnerable soils. It will result in the loss of fragile ecosystems together with serious loss owing to the impossibility of replacing the harvested biomass with anything remotely close to the current biodiversity.**

4. Our repeated requests to discuss these matters have been ignored by your department.

Your department's website states that "Crown land is owned by the Province and managed by the Department of Natural Resources on behalf of the citizens of Nova Scotia. It is a collective asset which belongs to all of us." It further states that "Crown land is a finite asset which we strive to use effectively *for the good of all Nova Scotians.*"

There is deep concern in our community that your decisions are solely and improperly influenced by your staff with ties to the forestry industry rather than the best interests of the citizens to whom the ownership of these lands belong and to whom you and the government are accountable.

Unfortunately, your department's refusal to properly respond to date has left us without means to communicate other than through physical protest which, while non violent, runs the risk of putting lives and property at risk. Lacking corrective action, the responsibility and liability for this, we believe rests with you.

To avoid irreparable damage and liability we request that you immediately declare a moratorium on clear cutting on Crown Lands in Shelburne County pending a thorough and proper review and consultation with our community.

We look forward to your response and to working with you to resolve these matters in an orderly and peaceful manner and propose a meeting with you here in Shelburne County (preferably) or at your offices in Halifax.

Note: In view of the difficulty in communicating with your department we are publishing this as an open letter to ensure that it receives your attention. We expect that our meeting will be with you and the deputy minister and not include staff since as noted above we view them as a significant contributors to the problem.

Sincerely,