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**Lands and Forestry
Office of the Minister**

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JUN 18 2019

Mr. Chris Frotten, Chief Administrative Officer
The Municipality of Barrington
2447 Highway 3
PO Box 100
Barrington NS B0W 2T9

Dear Mr. Frotten:

I am responding to your letter concerning harvesting scheduled in Shelburne County. We will also be responding directly to the Community Forests Shelburne County organization.

Since our response to the Forestry Review report in December, we have been extremely busy developing internal teams, supported by external experts, to work on the priorities outlined in that response. At the end of May we provided an update on our website (https://novascotia.ca/natr/forestry/Forest_Review/) with details of the work being carried out by our teams and the external experts involved. The proposed harvests in Shelburne County were only approved after a review of all the information and comments provided by members of the public. Every proposed harvest plan on Crown lands goes through an in-depth review by an Integrated Resource Management team comprised of foresters, biologists, and other resource professionals who provide recommendations and are responsible for approvals for each proposed operation. Wildlife corridors, wet area exclusions, special management zones along watercourses, and special management practices for at-risk species are all incorporated into the design of harvest plans. One of the items taken into consideration when harvest methods are proposed is the proportion of long-lived intermediate to tolerant (LIT) tree species in the forest as these are species that are considered for retention in areas where partial harvesting is appropriate.

On March 26, 2019, Professor Lahey was interviewed on CBC information morning (<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/1464874051731>). In that interview Professor Lahey spoke about natural disturbance regimes and how Nova Scotia's forests can be separated into two main types. Firstly, multi-aged mixed species (Acadian) forests that are infrequently disturbed in small patches in which natural examples would be individual tree mortality due to senescence (old age) or wind events. The second type of forest being even aged, single species forests that are frequently disturbed in large patches in which natural examples would be fire or insect outbreaks. Specifically, Professor Lahey stated that "in forests largely dominated by certain spruce (black spruce) and balsam fir, clearcutting can be an appropriate forest practice and consistent with protecting ecosystems and biodiversity."

We appreciate public feedback and thank you for expressing your concerns.

Sincerely,



Iain Rankin
Minister