



Town Of Lockeport

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December 10, 2019

Honourable Iain Rankin
Minister of Lands and Forestry
3rd Floor, Founders Square
1701 Hollis Street
P.O. Box 689
Halifax, NS
B3J 2T9

Re: Clearcutting in Shelburne County

Dear Minister Rankin:

As you likely know, many citizens in Shelburne County are very concerned about the approval by Lands and Forestry for the clearcutting contracts in the County.

The Council of the Town of Lockeport voted unanimously at our Council meeting yesterday to convey to you our concerns. Council feels that a moratorium should be placed on this clearcutting. Once the Lahey Report is implemented and regulations developed by your Government, citizens will have more confidence in forestry decisions and harvesting practices in Shelburne County. Forestry decisions should take into consideration the condition of our course and infertile soils, the subsequent challenge of reforestation, and the impact of clearcutting on climate change. It is our belief that the present clearcutting and extensive harvesting in Shelburne County would not be approved by Government if decisions were based on William Lahey's report and sustainable forestry practice regulations.

Governments of all levels, as well as citizens and industry, must put considerable emphasis on sustainability of our forests and the overriding impact on the health of the ecology. There are environmental, economical, and social consequences of poor forestry practices. Our forests are used for recreation and have economic value to the Tourist Industry. We must be mindful of maintaining a sustainable ecology for plant, insect and animal habitat. It is our hope that the Department of Lands and Forestry's harvesting decisions would strike a balance focusing on all these factors.

Sincerely,

George R. Harding
Mayor

My Town . . .

Lockeport – where we partner to build a prosperous future with services that provide value and a quality of life in which we take pride.