

Who Should Manage Our Public Forest? Call for Public Meetings Today!

Crown Lands Network Steering Committee

We are seeing the most drastic changes to our Crown Lands and Forests Act since its creation in 1982.

In late March, Natural Resources Minister Wally Stiles tabled amendments to the Act in the Legislature in the form of Bill 39. Bill 39 lifts the requirement that licensees holding a Crown wood allocation operate a local processing plant.

Bill 39 breaks the legal link between mills and licenses, and could open the door for community-based cooperatives, woodlot owner organizations, non-profit associations, First Nations, municipalities and other organizations to hold licenses on Crown land. However, the Legislature needs to give the Department of Natural Resources clear direction on what sorts of license-holders should be given priority to best serve the common good and local communities. Without any clear direction, Bill 39 could promote the unsustainable exploitation of our precious forest resource. As trustee of our forest commons, the provincial government is obliged to maintain the forest's inherent value for all people in this generation and future generations.

Members of the Crown Lands Network are recommending that 1) the amendments to the Crown Lands and Forests Act go before the Law Amendments Committee, 2) public consultation be done and 3) alternative forest tenures, such as community forestry or other tenures that benefit local communities, be considered as applicable under the Act.

Please share your thoughts with Premier Shawn Graham and Natural Resources Minister Wally Stiles today.

Premier Shawn Graham P.O. Box 6000 Fredericton, NB E3B 5H1 Phone: 453-2144
Email: premier@gnb.ca

Hon. Wally Stiles Natural Resources Minister P.O. Box 6000 Fredericton, NB E3B 5H1
Phone: 453-2510 Email: wally.stiles@gnb.ca

For more information, contact Tracy Glynn at 458-8747 or
forest@conservationcouncil.ca

The Crown Lands Network Steering Committee members are: Simon Mitchell, Falls Brook Centre Tracy Glynn, Conservation Council of New Brunswick Beth McLaughlin, PANE, for a new perspective on energy Roberta Clowater, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - NB Chapter Roger Babin , Public for the Protection of NB Forests