

# Biodiversity Act – Bill 4 (Bill No. 116)

Cumberland Forestry Advisory Committee prepared and posted the following information in a Fact sheet about Bill 4, which was previously introduced into the Legislature in 2019, and was then referred to as Bill 116 – Biodiversity Act as follows:

Since the spring of 2019, we in the forestry sector of Nova Scotia have been watching closely the activities of the Biodiversity Act as presented in the House of Assembly and we feel landowners, farmers, forest professionals, and individuals will be negatively affected by this Act as it is currently written.

### Scope of the Act:

The Act covers all types of land Crown or Private land, Forest land, Agriculture land, Christmas Tree Lots, etc...

The government may declare any land to be a “biodiversity management zone”; Once the land is declared a “biodiversity management zone” regulations can be placed on the land to restrict or prohibit activities for an undetermined amount of time.

“No person affected by this Act or the regulations is entitled to compensation for any restriction...”

### Concerns with Enforcement of the Act:

First offence fines for individuals convicted under section 37(1)(a) of this Act are up to \$500,000 or imprisonment, or both.

First offence fines for companies convicted under section 37(1)(b) of this Act are up to \$1,000,000 or imprisonment, or both.

The government may partner with “any person” to investigate and enforce the Act.

### Lack of Openness in the Process:

Government hosted information sessions in the summer of 2019 where many asked questions that are still not answered as promised. When follow up meetings were scheduled, they were on an invitation only basis and a confidentiality agreement had to be signed to attend so new information on the Act could not be shared.

Bill No. 116 “Biodiversity Act” contains a robust listing of “Ministerial Powers and Duties”, “Enforcement” and “Offences and Penalties” to those who are in contravention of Bill 116, however, no regulatory framework has been seen to substantiate the Act.

### Government Action Required:

Re-engage the public and affected stakeholders in open and transparent consultation.

Release draft regulations for public feedback.

Make the Act (and Regulations) applicable to Crown Lands only.

The Cumberland Forestry Advisory Committee can be reached at E-mail: [cfac2021@gmail.com](mailto:cfac2021@gmail.com) or on Facebook

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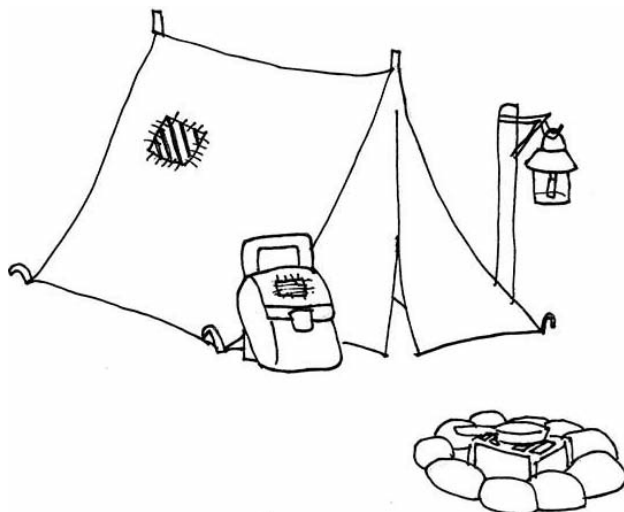
# Campsite Bookings Begin in April

Nova Scotia's provincial parks 2021 camping season open April 6, 7 and 8. A schedule of which campgrounds open their reservations and at what time is posted on the Nova Scotia Provincial Parks website.

“Each year, more than a million visitors enjoy activities like swimming, camping, pad-

dling, nature exploration and hiking at Nova Scotia's provincial parks and beaches,” said Lands and Forestry Minister Chuck Porter.

Most camping and day-use parks are scheduled to open Victoria Day weekend starting May 21, with others opening in June. All public health guidelines will be followed. Due to



the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, public health restrictions may change the start time of reservations, park openings and services offered. For up-to-date information, go to <https://parks.novascotia.ca/>. All campers will have to re-

serve their campsites in advance; only registered campers can enter provincial campgrounds and there are 20 camping parks and more than 130 day-use and beach parks in Nova Scotia



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*As we approach April 18 and 19, our thoughts go out to all families, friends and communities impacted by the tragic events of those days.*

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**Nova Scotia Remembers Memorial Race**

We encourage our families, neighbours and friends to walk or run in the Memorial Race in memory of the tragic events of April 18 and 19, 2020. Proceeds support NS Remembers Legacy Society's Memorial Building Fund.