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Government to Improve Forest Practices

Changes to forest practices will increase ecological protection and biodiversity, and lead the province to a more sustainable forestry sector. The changes follow recommendations by University of King's College president Bill Lahey in a review of forest practices was submitted to government in August. Government's response to the report was released today, December 3. The department will move forward with the following priority actions: protect and enhance ecosystems and biodiversity as the department's overarching forest policy priority; implement what is known as the triad model of ecological forestry, which includes conservation areas, high-production forest areas and a combination when conservation and forestry objectives are blended; make revisions to the Forest Management Guide to place more emphasis on ecological values in the decision-making process; begin a peer review of the department's approach to natural disturbance regimes to ensure alignment with ecological forestry; increase the focus on wildlife and species at risk with a focus on health and recovery plans; improve openness, transparency and accountability of the department's decisions and explore opportunities for small-scale wood energy projects to allow low-quality wood to be used in heating public buildings, such as hospitals, schools, and government offices. Government's response to the report and the interim retention guidelines are available at https://novascotia.ca/natr/forestry/Forest_Review/

Support for Mi'kmaw and African Survivors

Government will work with Mi'kmaw and African Nova Scotian organizations to develop new supports for survivors of gender-based violence and their families. The federal and provincial governments are each committing up to \$1 million over four years. Women and their families from these communities who are participating in Halifax's new Domestic Violence Court Program will have access and may be referred to the supports and services, as part of their court plans. Those involved in Domestic Violence Court Program will also contribute their expertise as part of the project's development. Information on Standing Together is available at www.novascotia.ca/standingtogether

News from our Federal Capital

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country. As pieces now need to be replaced, materials are ordered from their original sources as much as possible. So now each time I go into the building I know that I am going up steps on stone from Cumberland Colchester. Not every MP can say that.

The work required to the building is significant because the building is settling and moving. All over the building are little numbered stickers. Surveyors and engineers are watching these stickers to know exactly how much the building is shifting.

Also, much of the plumbing and heating now isn't working as intended, and of course there are new requirements for internet and telephone access as well as air conditioning which were not included in the original design.

The Chamber is now brightly lighted and has cameras and

sound microphones at each desk in order to broadcast the events happening in the House. This takes an enormous amount of wiring, lighting and technology. These were not part of the original design but now will be blended in with the major renovations.

I trust all of these things can be upgraded but I do hope that nothing is done to change the character of this wonderful building. Although I will never serve again in Center Block, I do hope that I get chance to revisit it when the renovations are done. I hope that you do too.

In the meantime, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a great holiday.

Bill Casey is MP for Cumberland-Colchester.

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heart.

Kudos to their teachers who had helped them learn of the tragic events in Halifax on December 6, 1917. My message to them, to the 30,000 at the Tree Lighting, and to you as readers... we have a responsibility to continue to educate our own kids and to make

sure that piece of history is never forgotten. The Christmas tree is but a symbol of friendship and gratitude.

Please have a very Merry Christmas with family and friends.
Karen Casey, MLA, Colchester North is also Deputy Premier and President of the Treasury Board

Barriers to Interprovincial Trade Removed

By Maurice Rees

Nova Scotia is making it easier to do business, reach new markets and increase consumer choice as a result of significant measures announced by Premier Stephen McNeil. Nova Scotia is taking concrete steps to eliminate barriers to interprovincial trade in five areas, including alcohol, business registration, occupational health and safety, transportation and technical safety.

Alcoholic beverages: Effective immediately, Nova Scotia will remove personal exemp-

tion limits for alcohol being transported into the province for personal consumption.

Business registration: In 2019, Nova Scotia will waive extra-provincial business registration and renewal fees for businesses formed in another province or territory. By doing so, the province will become

the only jurisdiction to join Ontario in ending the practice of charging businesses extra to operate outside their home province.

Occupational health and safety: Next year, Nova Scotia will also finalize work to recognize common standards in specific areas of occupational

health and safety, including first aid kit contents, eye, face, foot and hearing protection and personal floatation devices. This will also make it easier for businesses and workers to use such safety items in other provinces or territories.

Transportation: In 2019, Nova Scotia will align allowable weights between dual tires and wide-base tires to make it more practical for companies to use wide-base tires. These tires help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions due to improved fuel economy.

Technical safety: Nova Scotia will mutually recognize the Canadian Registration Number for pressure equipment design to do its part in ending multiple reviews across the country, also effective next year.



The Shoreline Tid-Bits

Shoreline Journal Tidbits

Seniors' Action Plan Released

The provincial government released an 18-month progress report on SHIFT: Nova Scotia's Action Plan for an Aging Population today on December 14. "The plan addresses the demographic shift in Nova Scotia. Over a quarter of the population will be over the age of 65 by 2030. The report details progress on more than 50 actions in the plan. Some of the projects are: New Opportunities for Work, a program by the Centre of Employment Innovation to advance research on older workers in Nova Scotia; Redefining Retirement, a program created by Acadia Entrepreneurship Centre for Business and Third Sector Enhancement to help participants find purpose, passion and opportunity as an older adult; Let's Get Moving, an action plan developed by government and partners to increase and improve physical activity, with a focus on opportunities; VolunteerNS.ca a free service offered to all non-profit organizations to link volunteers and organizations and Age Friendly Communities Grant program to provide funding for projects that lead to more age-friendly and inclusive communities. The progress report can be found at www.novascotia.ca/shift

More Police Officers Being Trained

A partnership between the federal and provincial governments, and police agencies, will see more front-line police officers trained to detect impaired driving and keep roads safe. Nova Scotia has developed a plan that will deliver Standard Field Sobriety Test and Drug Recognition Expert training to more officers across the province. The training plan and the four-officer team that will deliver it, is being supported through \$4.5 million over five years from the federal government. The team includes one officer from the Bridgewater Police Service, Cape Breton Regional Police Service, Halifax Regional Police and Royal Canadian Mounted Police. This team will deliver training to all police agencies. A Standard Field Sobriety Test involves a series of co-ordination tests, typically administered roadside. Nova Scotia now has 342 officers trained to give the test. Through this program, all front-line officers in Nova Scotia will be trained or recertified.

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Thursdays we are open until 7pm for our late night.
Saturday 8am – 1pm. Sunday closed.

