

[David Patriquin](#)

May 20, 2014 at 6:27 AM

To
Churchill, Hon. Zach
Correspondenceprem
Minister, ENV

Dear Minister Churchill,

Thank you for your letter of Feb. 26, 2014 (below) responding to comments I submitted in a letter of Feb 12, 2014. I appreciate that you have likely received a lot of mail concerning expanded commitments to Northern Pulp.

While raised in the context of the Northern Pulp issue, my comments concerned the definition of clearcutting introduced by the previous government, and issues of soil fertility decline which relate to forestry more broadly in Nova Scotia. Respectfully, these issues were not addressed in your response.

Soil fertility issues are particularly concerning as they are not widely appreciated, but are very real because of the inherently low fertility of much of the Nova Scotian landscape, acid rain, and intensive harvesting.

As I noted in my letter, "...nutrient depletion issues should come into decision-making processes around forestry whether on public or private lands, but there is very little description or discussion of such issues in literature from or on the website of the Dept of Natural Resources. Certainly the department has the expertise and tools to address this issue and has invested in it – why then are we not seeing it highlighted in the public domain? Can we assume that DNR personnel are discussing these issues with Northern Pulp? "

I would be very grateful if you could ask for some response to my Feb, 12th letter (attached) from Deputy Minister Duff Montgomerie. I hope he would also pass it on to soil and ecosystem research personnel within the Department of Natural Resources for comment.

I look forward to being better informed.

Sincerely,

David G. Patriquin

From: Churchill, Hon. Zach <MINDNR@gov.ns.ca>

Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2014 10:28 AM

To: David Patriquin

Cc: Correspondenceprem; Minister, ENV; Peterson-Rafuse, Denise; Kousoulis, Hon. Labi; Stroink, Joachim Z; Rankin, Iain T

Subject: Premier's correspondence#021214005 - Patriquin (DNR Log # 2014-91)

Mr. David G. Patriquin, Member of the Board
Woodens River Watershed Environmental Organization
3650 Hammonds Plains Road, Unit 14, Suite 300
Upper Tantallon, NS B3Z 4R3
patriqui@dal.ca

Dear Mr. Patriquin:

As Minister of Natural Resources, the Premier has asked that I respond to your email of February 11, 2014 regarding your concerns about the commitment to supply Northern Pulp NS Ltd. with 125,000 green metric tonnes (GMT) of wood fiber from Crown lands in western Nova Scotia.

Government indicated publicly this promise was made to Northern Pulp by the previous government while they were in talks with the company. This fiber would come from Crown lands in the western part of our province, but no specific area was ever designated for company harvesting rights at that time. We will honour this commitment made by the NPD, but the area from which Northern Pulp will harvest this fiber is still in question pending the release of the Western Crown Lands Planning Report and summary of extensive consultations held in western Nova Scotia last year. Any long term allocation in western Nova Scotia will be in accordance with the outcomes of this report.

The Premier has also recently indicated Northern Pulp will not be given their full ask of 500,000 GMT of wood fiber in western Nova Scotia. The company will be required to share the resource in your area and will not have complete harvesting rights of Crown fiber in western Nova Scotia

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Zach Churchill
Minister of Natural Resources

c Honourable Stephen McNeil, Premier

Honourable Randy Delorey, Minister of Environment
Honourable Labi Kousoulis, MLA, Halifax Citadel-Sable Island
Denise Peterson-Rafuse, MLA, Chester-St. Margarets
Iain Rankin, MLA, Timberlea-Prospect
Joachim Stroink, MLA, Halifax Chebucto

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