

Resolution 1A

BILL 53 – FUR INDUSTRY ACT (PASSED)

⇒ District of Yarmouth

WHEREAS on May 6, 2010, the Province passed Bill 53, the *Fur Industry Act*, which gives the Province the authority to establish and administer policies, programs and guidelines respecting the development of the fur industry throughout Nova Scotia; and

WHEREAS the fur farming industry and subsequently Bill 53 may have a significant impact on residents living in fur farming communities; and

WHEREAS the quick passage of Bill 53 may not allow sufficient input from members of the public, in particular affected communities; and

WHEREAS increasingly Nova Scotian watersheds are being negatively affected by cyanobacteria, the cause of which is presently unknown; and

WHEREAS a March 2009 Nova Scotia Environment study of nine lakes in a watershed negatively affected by cyanobacteria included the recommendation that large suspect contributors of nutrients of the lakes should be further investigated;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the UNSM petition the Provincial Government to ensure more thorough consultation during the next stage of development of Bill 53, to ensure adequate opportunity to achieve high environmental standards and more public input.

Forwarded to:
Minister of the Department of Agriculture

RESPONSE:

Thank you for your letter dated November 16, 2010, enclosing a resolution with respect to development of regulations under the Fur Industry Act.

The regulatory development process is underway, initially with the participation of technical experts from across government. The participation of technical experts in the initial phase of regulatory development is required because the regulations must include technical standards. These particular regulations require considerable research of engineering and scientific information and advice from a variety of technical experts.

It is intended that the next phase of regulatory development will include individuals representing interested community stakeholders and the industry to develop draft regulations. Once draft regulations are available, we will be contacting selected stakeholders to provide feedback on the technical and effective aspects. Consultations tend to be more useful and timely to stakeholders when parties have specific content to focus and comment upon.

We believe this approach will ensure that the interests of all stakeholders will be fairly represented and all stakeholders will have an opportunity to participate in the process. If you have further questions about the new Act or regulations you may contact Bonnie Rankin, Acting Manager Legislative and Policy Services, at 424-4560.

*The Honourable John MacDonell
Minister
November 30, 2010*