

Resolution 19A

REQUEST TO ESTABLISH FOREST LAND GRANT (PASSED)

⇒ County of Annapolis

WHEREAS in 1978 the Government of Nova Scotia set the forest property tax rate of 40 cents per acre for commercial forest property and 25 cents per acre for forest resource property and has not increased this rate in the past 33 years; and

WHEREAS the Province pays municipalities a Farm Land Grant where farm property is exempt from taxation; and

WHEREAS the Farm Land Grant was set at \$1.00 per acre in 1978 and has increased to \$2.75 per acre in 2012; and

WHEREAS this grant is annually indexed by the Consumer Price Index for Canada; and

WHEREAS the reduced tax rate for forest property shifts the property tax burden to residential and commercial property owners and represents an undue tax burden in municipalities with a significant amount of forest land;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities request that the Province of Nova Scotia establish a Forest Land Grant similar to the Farm Land Grant to assist those municipalities with significant forest property.

Forwarded to:

Minister of the Department of Natural Resources

RESPONSE:

I will forward Resolution 19A to my colleague, Honourable John MacDonell, Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations (SNSMR), to respond directly to you. Municipal grants in lieu of taxes for resource property is a matter that should be addressed by SNSMR.

*The Honourable Charlie Parker
Minister
January 10, 2012*