Administration/CAO
Administration Building
46 Municipal Drive, Pictou
Phone: (902) 485-4311
Fax: (902) 485-6475

Building Inspection: (902) 485-4588
By-Law Enforcement: (902) 485-8640
Fire Inspection: (902) 485-8350
GIS/Civic Addressing: (902) 485-1201
Public Works: (902) 485-4085
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Municipality of Pictou County

March 17, 2021

Honourable Chuck Porter
Minister of Lands and Forestry
PO Box 698
Halifax, NS
B3J 2T9

Dear Minister Porter:

The Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou is expressing concern regarding the speed with which Bill No. 4, the "Biodiversity Act" is moving through the Legislature to become law. We understand that 1st and 2nd readings have already occurred and that the Bill has been referred to the Law Amendments Committee. At this rate there will be little opportunity for stakeholders to adequately prepare to present to Law Amendments or brief their MLAs on issues of concern.

The Biodiversity Act gives Government broad and unprecedented authority over private lands with aggressive fines as part of the enforcement act. Agriculture, forest management, livestock, Christmas tree, housing, road construction and many other developments could be widely impacted. Greater education and consultation at the grass roots level should take place before this act comes into effect. Consequently, the Municipality respectfully asks that the approval process for this bill be prolonged to allow time for stakeholders to complete a review of the documents and its potential impacts and properly address their concerns to Government.

I look forward to hearing from on this matter so that I may share your comments with Council.

Yours truly,

Brian Cullen
Chief Administrative Officer

/cm
p.c.   Hon. Iain Rankin, Premier
        Randy Delorey, Chair, Law Amendments Committee
        Tim Houston, MLA, Pictou East
        Karla MacFarlane, MLA, Pictou West
        Pat Dunn, MLA, Pictou Centre
        NSAMA CAO Listserv