

## Submission to Public Bills Committee on Nova Scotia Bill 127 – Section II

I am writing with respect to Section 2 of Bill 127, which was introduced to “protect Nova Scotians.” The question I am left with after reading the proposed amendments this section of Bill 127 makes to the Crown Lands act (1989) is protect Nova Scotians from what, or from whom?

This section of the Bill speaks of removing structures without any notice, and to charge anyone erecting structures that obstruct access to crown lands with a massively increased fine of 50,000. It eliminates notices being given, and puts all the power in the hands of the Minister to make unilateral, sweeping decisions about these structures, with no reference to Crown lands being an important site of Treaty relations with Mi’kmaq, nor any real definition of these said structures, meaning this sweeping power could be used against anyone – including those exercising Treaty rights in the use of unceded Mi’kmaq land.

I find the vagueness of this section of the Bill deeply disturbing, and the way it gives sweeping powers to the Minister, with no oversight, or safeguards mentioned in the amendments to ensure Aboriginal title and Treaty rights are respected in its implementation. This concern is echoed by the Assembly of Mi’kmaq Nova Scotia Chiefs in their press statements, and as reported by CTV on Friday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

This section of Bill 127 feels like it is specifically targeting the current protests on Hunter’s Mountain in defense of Moose habitat, and in the face of deforestation happening at an alarming rate on the mountain. It also feels targeted at efforts by citizen scientists who have undertaken work to contest the spraying of a known carcinogen (glyphosate) on forested land. Instead of using dialogue to get to the source of these concerns, and work with those who raise them to look for better practices in the forestry sector, this Bill would allow such efforts to be immediately removed and the protesters charged – criminalizing them for going to the source of the problem and raising their concerns there.

Furthermore, I want to raise my deep concerns with the undemocratic process surrounding this omnibus bill, which lumps many disparate issues together and has been pushed through with no respect for allowing Nova Scotians the time to have our voices or concerns heard and addressed. A government which respects the will of their constituents would not push through legislation of this import without adequate time for consultation and input. I urge the Bills Committee to ensure that there is respect for the democratic process which includes separating out the many issues contained within this proposed legislation and allowing adequate time to hear from Mi’kmaq rights holders, experts, and the public.

I am deeply concerned and opposed to the erosion of democratic processes demonstrated by this way in which this Bill was introduced, and the way it will not allow proper consultation on Treaty implications of the changes it proposes. This coming on the eve of Treaty Day is particularly upsetting. **I urge the Committee to remove and reject Section II of Bill 127 and demonstrate your commitment to truly protecting our communities by using dialogue and not unilateral processes, and to reconciliation with the Mi’kmaq, as opposed to disregarding their constitutionally protected rights.**

Sincerely,

Jonathan Langdon