

Dear Mr. Arsenault,

Thank you very much to you and your committee for setting up island wide meetings for islanders to voice their opinions on our island forests and how we feel they should be managed into the future. This information along with the expertise of the committee can certainly provide a great pathway forward after Fiona.

I wish to make only a few statements about forests on PEI post Fiona.

1. There is a lot of negativity around the loss of our trees and canopy cover. This is absolutely true but it's also a chance for us to get a new start on how we approach forestry. We should use this as a positive and a new path to a renew of our Acadian forest. This commission could spearhead this shift in mindset from doom and gloom to a positive path forward.
2. A public education initiative on what trees are Acadian forest species and how and where can the species come from could be put forward. Unsure if the provincial nursery has shifted its production to this or not. Private sector nurseries could also be included in this initiative.
3. Not everyone want their woodlot to be used the same. For example, some may want to grow trees for lumber harvest or some may want a walking path. The commission could find the different acceptable uses for woodlots and with the help of the private sector could manage wooded area a lot like the demonstration forests of old. For example, Island Nature trust could manage a provincial owned plot as they see fit for their operation and cycle PEI or Island Trails could manage a provincial plot as they see fit. Also, private sector could do the same. A lumber mill may decide to clear cut a section or selective harvest and replant. Then people can see how each option is preformed and make the decision based on example and not pressure from one sector or another.
4. The previous example leads to this next point. We should base our forests future on responsible practices and not pressure for a vocal minority. The commission is full of great forest minds. Force the government to use them and not cave to the forest fad of the day.
5. I'm going to only touch on Bio mass because it is in the link you set out. The private tree care sector and landscapers produce 30-40 and more tonnes a day in bio mass that goes straight to landfill. If you can find anyone who wants to talk about this with me PLEASE have them contact me.

Again, thank you for this opportunity to voice my views to you. Feel free to contact me at any time.
Kurt Laird.

Kurt Laird

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