

Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick
Attention: John Herron
706 Queen Street
Fredericton, N.B.
E3B 1C5

NOTE: As of February 2, 2026 Riverview and Fundy St. Martin's have NOT signed a letter of support

December 04, 2025

Minister John Herron,

We, the undersigned, represent the eight local governments of Fundy-St. Martins, Fundy Albert, Riverview, Dieppe, the Municipality of Grand Lake, Sussex, Valley Waters, Eastern Charlotte, Fundy Shores and Doaktown.

As the Minister of Natural Resources, you are very aware that forestry and the forest products industry are the single largest driver of the New Brunswick economy, generating significant provincial and municipal taxes each year. Taxes from the forest products sector make up approximately 9% of municipal tax revenues. As elected representatives from a diverse group of local governments, we believe it is essential that we continue to grow both the forest sector itself *and* the tax base that the sector provides to support our citizens.

We have met with J.D. Irving, Limited (JDI), the Licensee on Crown Licenses 6 and 7, on multiple occasions to review how economic, ecological, and social values can be balanced to further grow the already positive impact that forestry has in our communities.

From these discussions, we understand that JDI has submitted a balanced forest management plan that meets or exceeds the expectations of the Shared Landscape Initiative which delivers on your mandate to increase the area of conserved lands and waters in New Brunswick from 10% to 15% by 2027. We strongly believe that the JDI plan achieves well-balanced outcomes by:

- Counting all areas currently set aside for conservation on Crown lands,
- Adding new areas to the conservation forest that will improve connectivity, water and wetland protection, while exceeding acceptable old forest conservation targets province-wide,
- Adding *new* protection for high-impact social values like tourism potential, municipal drinking water supply, and limiting forestry activities near communities, and,
- Maintaining the economic benefits of employment and tax revenue that flow from a secure wood supply, while improving industry competitiveness by consolidating operations near forestry-dependent communities.

We strongly – but conditionally – support JDI's Shared Landscapes Initiative submission. We are encouraged by the submission's focus on addressing local stakeholder concerns and respecting the broader social and cultural value we all attach to our forests. But at the same time, we believe that this plan's focus on new conservation areas must be balanced by clear, well-defined objectives that will improve the economic outcomes of the forestry industry.

Therefore, our conditional support relies on the *return* of approximately 32,000 hectares of forest area identified by JDI, but currently designated as conservation forest, *back* to the working forest. This will enable JDI to improve the competitiveness of their operations and ensure continued employment and tax revenues that benefit the province and local governments.

We see this as a clear win-win-win for local governments, the province, and the Licensee with a net increase in conserved area of about 46, 000 hectares on Licenses 6 and 7. To make this happen, we understand that trade-offs will be required and we ask that you give equal weight to the social and economic interests of local governments when seeking to balance the interests of multiple stakeholders across New Brunswick.

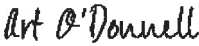
We would be pleased to meet with you at your earliest convenience to discuss what we feel are the significant benefits of this plan for our individual and collective local governments.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Art O'Donnell - mayor.artodonnell@doaktown.ca

Signature:

Signed by:

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Jim Campbell - j.campbell@fundyalbert.ca

Signature:


AA3CFABDC26142F...

Kevin Nicklin - kevin.nicklin@municipalityofgrandlake.ca

Signature:

Designated by:

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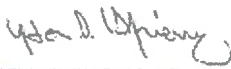
George (Denny) Cogswell – mayor@fundyshores.ca

Signature:

George D Cogswell

Yvon Lapierre – sonya.vautour@dieppe.ca

Signature:

Signé par :

Signed by: 559ECF52B8CB405...

John Craig - john.craig@easterncharlotte.ca

Signature:

Signed by: 993C0200

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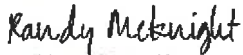
Marc Thorne – info@sussex.ca

Signature:



Randy McKnight – rmcknight@valleywaters.ca

Signature:

Signed by:

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Cc: Hon. Susan Holt, Hon. John Herron,

Guy Arseneault, LyneChantal.Boudreau, Benoit Bourque, Chuck Chiasson, Keith Chiasson, Jean-Claude.D'Amours, John Doman, Alexandre Cedric Doucet, Pat Finnigan, Robert Gauvin, John Herron, David Hickey, Claire Johnson, Sam Johnston, Aaron Kennedy, Francine Landry, Jacques Leblanc, Marco LeBlanc, Rene Legacy, Gilles LePage, Eric Mallet, Robert McKee, Cindy Miles, Luke Randall, Luc Robichaud, Tania Sodhi, Isabelle Theriault, Alyson Townsend, Natacha Vautour, Kate Wilcott,

Mayors: Randy McKnight, Marc Thorne, John Craig, Yvon Lapierre, George Cogswell, Kevin Nicklin, Jim Campbell, Art O'Donnell.