

Asked by:

Member for Frame Lake

February 7, 2023

Public Access to Forestry Decisions and Decision-Making

My questions are for the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. The Department conducted a five-week public engagement on a new *Forest Act* that concluded on December 28, 2022. No report on that work has been released to date. The summary of policy intentions document made no mention of a public registry or what information would be made publicly available. To better understand what information is currently public and the number of authorizations and decisions made under existing legislation, please provide the following:

1. The number of instances where decisions and authorizations have been made under the *Forest Management Act* for each of the last five years related to:
 - a) s. 2 appointments of a Forest Management Supervisor;
 - b) s. 4 appointments of Forest Management Officers;
 - c) s. 8 transfer of forests to Canada;
 - d) s. 9 forest management agreements;
 - e) s. 10 permits and licences issued;
 - f) s. 19 suspension of a permit or licence;
 - g) s. 21 written reasons for the suspension of a permit or licence;
 - h) s. 22 notices of appeal;
 - i) s. 28 Ministerial decisions on appeals; and
 - j) s. 30 enforcement orders.

2. The number of instances where decisions and authorizations have been made under the *Forest Protection Act* for each of the last five years related to:
 - a) s. 16 appointments of a Forest Supervisor;
 - b) s. 17 appointments of Forest Officers;
 - c) s. 19 directions, demands and notices issued by the Forest Supervisor; and
 - d) s. 21 permits issued.

3. For each of the items listed in 1 and 2, please indicate whether these documents are publicly available without resort to the *Access to Information and Protection and Privacy Act* and where the public can access them.

4. An explanation of how the Department intends to implement the provisions of the Open Government Policy (approved by the Executive Council January 8, 2018) as part of the new *Forest Act*, especially regarding open-by-design information and decision-making, increased transparency, and public participation in decision-making.