

Back on Dec 9, 2015 the following letter was written and sent by myself to the Minister of Natural Resources.

After reading this email below, I have posted the official government response.

Judge for yourself.....

From: Moncton Fish & Game Assoc [<mailto:monctonfishgame@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, December 09, 2015 4:58 PM
To: Landry, Denis Hon. (DHR/MRH - DNR/MRN)
Subject: Letter to the Minister

**Hon. Denis Landry
Minister of Natural Resources**

As a resident of the Province of New Brunswick, I am deeply concerned that the spraying of our forests is a very dangerous practice that is irresponsible, reckless and potentially affecting the health of its residents.

As the President of the Moncton Fish & Game Association, I am also concerned that spraying is also killing our wildlife. Animals in the forest and fish in our waterways are allegedly suffering the negative effects of the spraying of our woodlands. We know that the practice is legal and permissible in our province however we need to ask ourselves should it continue? Should companies be allowed to spray to prevent hardwood growth? Should they be allowed to spray to prevent the spread of berries and other nutrients that wildlife eat?

As a province that relies very heavily on its natural resources, (which by the way include generations of hunters and fishermen all of which bring in tens of millions to our NB economy), we all should be deeply concerned. There is a fine line that we have to respect when dealing with Mother Nature. She is not very forgiving at times and it may take many many years to correct the wrongs of previous generations. While current forestry practices permit vast clear cuts and the related spraying of these chemicals, all of these activities must be analysed.

Potentially, a moratorium on spraying could be put into place until more scientific information is available. We know that this government is not opposed to moratoriums as is evident by the current one on fracking. Rather than point fingers at companies which will garner the whole cause no credibility at all, we as residents and people who enjoy the outdoors, people concerned for our own health and the health of our children, we all need to band together and question the government in a relentless, credible yet organized public campaign to end this practice once and for all.

Forestry activities will continue and as a manageable resource they rightfully should continue; however, neighbouring Provinces of Nova Scotia and Quebec are doing very well with their forestry practices, both enjoying great revenues which belong to the taxpayers and they are NOT spraying. If they can do it then why are we not able to continue forestry operations without spraying and potentially harming people, wildlife and fish?

The Moncton Fish & Game Association has taken an official stance that we do not support the spraying of our woodlands.

Thank you and I look forward to a response.

Robert Snider,
President
Moncton Fish & Game Association

January 25, 2016

Mr Robert Snider
President, Moncton Fish & Game Association
monctonfishgame@gmail.com

Dear Mr. Snider:

Thank you for your letter regarding forestry practices in New Brunswick and for the interest you have shown in the management of our Crown forests. I can understand by the tone of your letter that you care deeply about the health of our forests and wildlife. Let me try and address some of the concerns that you raised in your correspondence.

Harvesting of wood products on Crown lands, including the use of clear-cutting is carefully regulated by the foresters at the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and is governed by sustainable forest management plans. These plans designate approximately 25% of the public forest as protected natural areas, deer wintering areas, watercourse buffer zones, inoperable areas, and other habitat types where clear-cutting is not permitted. On the remaining forest, the industry harvests in a way that ensures the trees will quickly regenerate, using techniques and equipment that are both efficient and safe for the operators. Clear-cutting is not the only technique used on Crown lands; every year management plans lead to treating thousands of hectares with selective partial cutting methods.

Vegetation management programs are an essential piece of caring for the future crop of valuable trees planted each year on a small fraction of our Crown forest. Without the use of herbicides (including glyphosate), there would be no cost effective way for us to prevent these trees from becoming overgrown with unwanted brush and lower quality species. Just as a gardener must tend to their vegetables, our growing forests need care. The products we apply are carefully regulated by Health Canada and the NB's Department of Environment & Local Government. The chemical products used in these operations break down very quickly in the environment. Aside from controlling unwanted vegetation, multiple studies have shown there to be no lasting environmental impacts associated with this type of treatment.



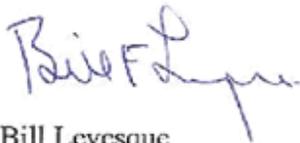
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With regards to the impacts of herbicide treatments on wildlife, it should be noted that on average only 75% of plantations get treated on Crown land. That equates to only 0.5% of total Crown land being sprayed on a yearly basis. After more than 30 years of registered use in forest vegetation management, there has never been a scientifically documented case of direct mortality of moose, deer or other animals attributed to glyphosate-based herbicide exposure. Glyphosate has shown no direct or toxic effects to deer and moose populations living in treated areas. For more information on vegetation management programs, please take the time to visit www.forestinfo.ca.

With regards to the Nova Scotia and Quebec forest sectors, Quebec has seen major reductions in the allowable cut on Crown lands. Nova Scotia has increased the area of protected forest and also reduced allowable cuts. Both of these provinces have seen major reduction in sawmill and pulpmill capacity over the same time period that New Brunswick has seen investment and expansion in both those sectors.

Thank you for your concern about our forests and wildlife. It is important that Government hears from New Brunswickers such as yourself who have a connection to our Crown lands.

Sincerely,



Bill Levesque
Deputy Minister

c.c.: Honourable Denis Landry, Minister of Natural Resources