

Press Release- For Immediate Release

Farms and Forests NB support Bill 45 – The Local Governance Commission Act

May 25, 2023

The New Brunswick Farms and Forest Coalition represents over 30,000, mostly rural New Brunswickers involved in the agriculture and forest industries. Due to the new municipal boundaries, these people are now included within these municipal limits. The health of our farms and forests, our families, employees, communities, and consumers are of the highest concern to us. We are deeply committed to sustainable and science-based management of these resources. The right to practice and earn income from our lands is a core value for our members.

We have reviewed the Bill-45 and appreciate the inclusion of a process that allows private landowners to appeal by-laws implemented by a local government authority that may impact reasonable use of their property. Bill-45 does not infringe on democracy, in fact it provides a democratic and fair process for private landowners who may be disproportionately impacted by municipal entities passing by-laws.

There have been recent instances where a municipality inadvertently proposed by-laws, developed without consultation, that would cause significant restriction and/or prevention of private landowners' ability to derive a living. Bill-45 provides some ability for these private landowners to be protected from inadvertent, or even intentional, restrictions on the use of their lands for normal agricultural or woodlot operations.

We would hope that municipalities and local government entities would be practicing good governance by engaging all parties when considering by-laws that will impact landowners. Bill-45 will ensure there is an appropriate process to protect private landowner rights when that doesn't happen.

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