

**An Act to Amend Chapter 114
of the Revised Statutes, 1989,
the Crown Lands Act**

Be it enacted by the Governor and Assembly as follows:

Clause 1 replaces the object and purpose Section of the *Crown Lands Act* with one that prioritizes responsible stewardship of Crown lands.

1 Section 2 of Chapter 114 of the Revised Statutes, 1989, the *Crown Lands Act*, is repealed and the following Section substituted:

2 The object and purpose of this Act is to provide for responsible stewardship of all types of Crown lands by recognizing

- (a) the Crown as the natural majority owner of land in the Province;
- (b) the Government's obligation to respect treaty and other rights of Aboriginal peoples;
- (c) that Crown lands are part of provincial, national and worldwide ecosystems and must be administered in a way to restore and maintain their ecological integrity;
- (d) the need to mitigate climate change;
- (e) that much of Crown land is forest land, for which the careful application of principles of sustainability and shared-use are fundamental values;
- (f) the importance of providing public access, use and enjoyment;
- (g) the importance of economic activity that advances and is compatible with all other objectives under this Act; and
- (h) that, in forestry practices and policy, an overall approach of ecological forestry is to have priority.

Clause 2 requires the Minister of Lands and Forestry to exercise the Minister's powers and responsibilities under the Act in a manner that furthers the object and purpose of the Act.

2 Section 5 of Chapter 114 is amended by

- (a) adding "(1)" immediately after the Section number; and
- (b) adding immediately after subsection (1) the following subsection:

(2) In exercising the Minister's powers and responsibilities pursuant to Section 4 and subsection (1), the Minister shall do so in a manner that furthers the object and purpose of this Act.
