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LIBERALS PLEDGE TO PRESERVE AND ENHANCE OUR ENVIRONMENT – AND MAINTAIN FRACKING MORATORIUM

A new Liberal government will work to preserve and enhance Nova Scotia's environment, while continuing to take steps to avoid unnecessary risks.

"In particular, we will maintain our moratorium on fracking," says Liberal Leader Stephen McNeil. "We have listened intently to Nova Scotians' views on fracking, and we continue to share their discomfort with this practice."

The Liberal government introduced a moratorium on fracking in 2014.

Rather than allow new and unpredictable risks, a Liberal government will concentrate on preserving and enhancing a sustainable environment.

Working with stakeholders and the public, specific measures will include:

- A new Coastal Protection Act – which will provide legal protection to our world-famous coasts, and help to ensure the continued prosperity of our fishery sector;
- A new Biodiversity Act will modernize our current legal framework – and improve protection for people, forests, lakes, animals and plants;
- A new Biodiversity Council will be launched – and given the responsibility to help craft new legislation and recommend new actions that promote biodiversity in Nova Scotia.

"We also recognize the need to protect our resources in a way that promotes job creation and long-term economic prosperity," McNeil said.

"To that end, we will initiate a thorough and independent review of our current forestry practices. Until that review is complete, there will be no additional long-term timber harvesting leases issued for Crown Land."

That review will begin immediately, with an independent expert beginning in the western region.

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