



SUBMISSION TO THE  
**PEI LAND MATTERS  
COMMITTEE**

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2 February 2021



**IS THERE  
POLITICAL COURAGE?**



# PURPOSE

**1.1 The purpose of this Act is to provide for the regulation of property rights in Prince Edward Island, especially the amount of land that may be held by a person or corporation. This Act has been enacted in the recognition that Prince Edward Island faces singular challenges with regard to property rights as a result of several circumstances, including**

(a) historical difficulties with absentee land owners, and the consequent problems faced by the inhabitants of Prince Edward Island in governing their own affairs, both public and private;

(b) the province's small land area and comparatively high population density, unique among the provinces of Canada; and

(c) the fragile nature of the province's ecology, environment, and lands and the resultant need for the exercise of prudent, balanced, and steadfast stewardship to ensure the protection of the province's ecology, environment, and lands. 1998,c.79,s.20.

# Has anything changed in 200 years?

- The struggles of the 1800's
- Land Protection Act of 1982
- Land use committees



# Social License

- Trust is high for farmers but not some farming practices
- Have loopholes changed islanders outlook?
- Is the playing field level?
- Is there a difference between corporate farming/family farms and large farms/small farms? Two separate issues?



# Three Main Areas of Concern

- Land ownership and control
- Stewardship
- Land use planning



# Land Ownership and Control

- Persons (as defined in law) should not control more land than is permitted by regulations through any form of proxy or relationship.
- The spirit of the Lands Protection Act must be respected
- Non-resident ownership of agricultural land must be controlled/severely limited



# Land Ownership and Control

- Corporate ownership disclosure
- Concentration of ownership





# Land Ownership and Control

Dairy Farmers of PEI  
does not support consideration  
for revising land limits  
until the act is applied effectively.



# Stewardship

- Dairy is a Good News Story in Stewardship
- Soil health is a critical consideration
- Production growth may be achieved through better land management rather than growth in area



# Stewardship

- Continual improvement
- Rewarding continued best management practices
- Taking Sensitive Land out of Production



# Stewardship

Dairy Farmers of PEI  
supports incentives  
tied to soil health and  
water retention capabilities



# Land Use Planning

- Residential and commercial expansion
- Municipalities
- Unincorporated Communities



# Summary

- DFPEI does not support consideration for revising land limits until the act is applied effectively.
- DFPEI Supports Incentives Tied to Soil Health and Water Retention Capabilities
- DFPEI Supports Island Owned and Operated Farms that are Sustainable, Environmentally, Socially and Economically





Questions