

ENVIRONMENT - BEDFORD WATERFRONT: INFILLING – PERMITS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 2012

[MS. KELLY REGAN](#) <> : Mr. Speaker, a number of people in Bedford-Birch Cove are concerned about the infilling project of the Bedford Waterfront. The infilling was approved several decades ago and most of the lands in the area are owned by the Waterfront Development Corporation, a provincial Crown Corporation. My question is to the Minister of Environment. Could the minister please indicate whether all provincial permits were properly obtained for this project at the time and would those same standards apply if the project were going for approval today?

[HON. STERLING BELLIVEAU](#) > : Mr. Speaker, to the member opposite, I really appreciate the question concerning the Bedford Waterfront Development project. I can assure you that the applications - you're asking kind of a general question but I can tell you that the jurisdictions that are involved, they're starting the process that is being followed, and we also know that the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture is involved in this and also the Halifax Port Authority, and there is an application process through Nova Scotia Environment.

My understanding is this process has been followed to a T and I can reflect on some other accomplishments that we have done in a short period of 36 months. I can assure the member opposite this project will be the same. Thank you very much for the question.

[MS. REGAN](#) <> : Mr. Speaker, the Waterfront Development Corporation conducted extensive consultations as the plans were drawn up for that waterfront development in Bedford. In fact, the second round of those took place the day after this government was elected, but by the time the final design was presented to the public, considerable negative comments ensued about the lack of green space, proposed heights and the plan to infill an area with a natural reef.

Mr. Speaker, would the minister indicate, is there any requirement for the Waterfront Development Corporation to act on the comments of residents, or can they continue with the development, despite a lack of consensus on this plan?

[MR. BELLIVEAU](#) <> : Mr. Speaker, I want to assure the member opposite there is a process in place, that there has to be an annual reporting to the Minister of Environment. Again, I want to point out that the infilling has only used proper material, which is clean, environmentally-friendly. This project, like I said, I can relate to a number of environment projects and we have a great track record of protecting the environment in Nova Scotia. This project is one of those that under our guidance is going to do the proper thing, protect the environment. Thank you for the question.

[MS. REGAN](#) <> : Mr. Speaker, the Waterfront Development Corporation has indicated that if they stopped the project, it would be left as a moonscape on the waterfront. The

community of Bedford has accepted tons and tons of pyritic slate from building sites across HRM. Clearly the community has done HRM and Nova Scotia a service and yet we are told that we have to accept a development plan that many don't approve of.

Mr. Speaker, could the Minister of Environment please explain how taking a substance that the rest of the province is trying to get rid of has left my community with an ugly moonscape on the waterfront, development plans that cannot be sustained by the infrastructure in the area and the possible destruction of several natural habitats?

[MR. BELLIVEAU](#) « »: Again to the member opposite, Mr. Speaker, I want to assure that only approved fill, clean fill, will be used for this project and the jurisdictions are the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Halifax Port Authority. There is some guidance there to make sure that this is done in the appropriate manner.

Again I want to emphasize that we're there to protect the environment and to make sure this project is done in the best interests of all Nova Scotians and I thank you again for the questions.

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS: BEDFORD WATERFRONT – PETROGLYPHS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 2012

[MS. KELLY REGAN](#) « »: Madam Speaker, the infilling project at the Bedford waterfront has caused some concerns among local residents. There has been a discovery of possible petroglyphs at the waterfront. My question to the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs is, can the minister please update this House on whether any investigation has been completed into possible petroglyphs in part of the Bedford waterfront?

[THE PREMIER](#) « »: I would advise the member for Bedford-Birch Cove that there is an analysis process that takes place and that the department looks at all the sites that are brought to their attention. Whether or not this particular one has been brought to their attention I can't say, but I'd be happy to find out and provide her with the information.

[MS. REGAN](#) « »: In fact, it has been brought to their attention. I will table two letters that were cc'd to me when this first came to light.

Madam Speaker, a year and half ago the coordinator for Special Places from the former Department of Tourism, Culture and Heritage wrote to the Waterfront Development Corporation strongly recommending an archaeological impact assessment be conducted, as the Premier can now see from that correspondence. The Waterfront Development Corporation responded, asking what the location, nature, and value of the possible petroglyphs were.

Can the Minister of Communities, Culture and Heritage please indicate what actions the department has taken since that time?

HON. DAVID WILSON « »: Thank you to the member across the way for that important question. No question, the goal and the mandate of the department is to ensure that any heritage or any significant areas in the province are protected, and we're more than willing to ensure that we do that. We've done it on several occasions in the last number of months. As the Premier said, we will make sure that the member opposite has all the information that we have in the department or in the Department of Aboriginal Affairs to ensure that we protect any significant areas within our province.

MS. REGAN « »: This isn't the only issue of concern on the Bedford waterfront. At the final community consultation, residents outlined a number of concerns with the proposed plan. Now when I raised these issues with Waterfront Development, they said they didn't have any more money to redraw the plans. So my question is, can the Minister responsible for the Waterfront Development Corporation please indicate whether community consultations will be taken into consideration in the final plans for the Bedford Waterfront?

HON. PERCY PARIS « »: Madam Speaker, I thank the member opposite for the question. Trust me, I know that I will be having consultation with the Waterfront Development Corporation about this very issue, and I will report back to you in an appropriate period of time.