

## MOTION

No. 113

### Creating a special committee on land to investigate large land holdings and the effectiveness of the *Lands Protection Act*

Matthew MacFarlane gives notice that he will move, seconded by Peter Bevan-Baker, the following motion:

**WHEREAS** the Prince Edward Island *Lands Protection Act* (LPA) provides for the protection and regulation of property rights within Prince Edward Island, and asserts that Prince Edward Island faces singular challenges with regard to property rights as a result of several circumstances, including non-resident ownership of land;

**AND WHEREAS** Islanders are increasingly concerned by the acquisition of large parcels of land by a small number of organizations and groups across the province, which many fear may contravene the spirit, if not the letter, of the LPA;

**AND WHEREAS** concerns have been raised in communities across PEI regarding the effectiveness of the LPA in its current form in preventing the acquisition of large land holdings especially through means of beneficial ownership;

**AND WHEREAS** to determine if the LPA is continuing to meet the needs of the Province, it is incumbent that legislators are afforded the opportunity to hold an open and transparent debate about the land acquisitions and holdings of residents and entities who purport to be residents and entities of Prince Edward Island;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that a Special Committee of the Legislative Assembly on Land be created: with a six person membership, consisting of two members from government, two members from the Official Opposition and two members from the Third Party;

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the committee be tasked with investigating large land holdings in the province and with examining whether the PEI *Lands Protection Act* remains effective and equitable in its current form, and whether further amendments or enforcement measures are required to better align the Act with its original purpose;

**AND THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this committee engage with community stakeholders, legal experts, and landowners to ensure a comprehensive review of land holdings and the application of the LPA across the province;

**AND THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this committee report back to the Legislative Assembly with recommendations within twelve months.

Signed: Matthew MacFarlane

Signed: Peter Bevan-Baker

Date: November 4, 2024