

Minister asked to enforce small producer priority

By DERWIN GOWAN
Managing Editor

New Brunswick natural resources minister Roland Boudreau told the UNB faculty of forestry that the province is finally adopting a forestry policy which will protect the public interest last Tuesday.

However, all persons present were not agreed.

Skip Hambling, staff member of the Plain Dealer and a former organizer for the Charlotte County Wood Producers Association, claimed governments have been promising these types of policies for almost 200 years, and seriously wondered whether or not the minister's words were "another hollow promise."

The policy statement in question concerned the supply of wood fibre for wood using industries.

Boudreau claimed government policy is now to make private woodlands the main supply of

he claimed that companies refuse in many cases, to sit down and bargain with the wood producers associations.

By buying crown wood at reduced prices, the companies are able to keep the price paid to small producers low, he said. In fact, the price is usually dictated by the companies with no input from the producers, Hambling said.

"I realize, the small woodlot owners are having their problems this year," answered Boudreau, but he said their position was gradually getting better. More and more companies are starting to negotiate with wood producers associations, he said. He claimed large amounts of spruce budworm infested wood had to be cut on both private and crown lands, thus creating a temporary surplus.

Further, he said the policy statement was more than a "hollow promise." "I am confident that on the long term basis that

publicly owned wood was used. Tree harvesting on crown lands would be directly controlled by the Department of Natural Resources, who would ensure that each tree cut was fully utilized. "The maximum net value should be extracted from every tree," the minister said.

This would mean that a company involved in plywood manufacture, for example, might have to cut a lot of wood it could not use. The answer to this problem, Boudreau said, is to integrate wood-using industries so that one uses the residue from another.

The minister said that this would mean that "each part of each tree" would be put where the most value will come from. This policy will also mean making more use of species now in little demand.

Small, well managed wood using industries which are economically viable will be allowed to use crown wood," said the minister, especially if it is the major employer in a community.

Boudreau said they will not be forced out of business, although they will be encouraged to make efficient use of wood resources.

Boudreau said the department hopes to increase the annual allowable cut from New Brunswick forests by ending past abuses combined with improved silvicultural and better cutting methods. "I think that, eventually, industry will be asked to pay for the program," he said, as they will be the major beneficiaries of the program.

Some questioned how the companies would be brought to this view, since they would no longer have equity in crown lands.

Boudreau admitted the reluctance of some companies to go along with the new program, but he said, "Anything new, people tend to resist." He said that this was partly due to a lack of information. However, he said most companies are being won to the government's view.

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Spraying to continue

New Brunswick natural resources minister Roland Boudreau said spraying of spruce budworm infested forests will continue until an alternative is found, although he expects a solution to the problem in the near future.

"Well, it's a very hard question," he said.

"As of now, we have seen no alternative," he said, addressing the UNB forestry faculty.

In 1975, the minister said 1,000,000 acres had at least half of the trees dead.

"We were faced with a major disaster we just couldn't cope with," he said, necessitating spraying to "keep the industry open for the time being."

Boudreau said the province has been looking for alternative solutions to the problem for a number of years, but until recently, there were no definite results.

As soon as an alternative is available, "Certainly we'll change our minds," he said.

wood for industry, while crown lands would act merely as a residual supply to make up the difference. This would guarantee a market for the "small, private wood producers," and make more crown land available for other uses, the minister said.

This is what Hambling claimed the government has been urged to do since the 1790's, with little result.

Hambling claimed the small primary producers now have a surplus of wood which none of the large companies will buy. Further,

that policy should be and must be implemented."

Explaining government policy further, Boudreau said timber licenses, which allow large forest industries control over large areas of crown land, would be phased out. In return for this, the companies would be guaranteed a supply of wood. However, before crown wood would be sold to the company, they would have to practice forestry methods at least at the level practiced on crown lands, thus guaranteeing full use of private forest properties before

Public officials concerned about fire dangers

By DUC DOHERTY

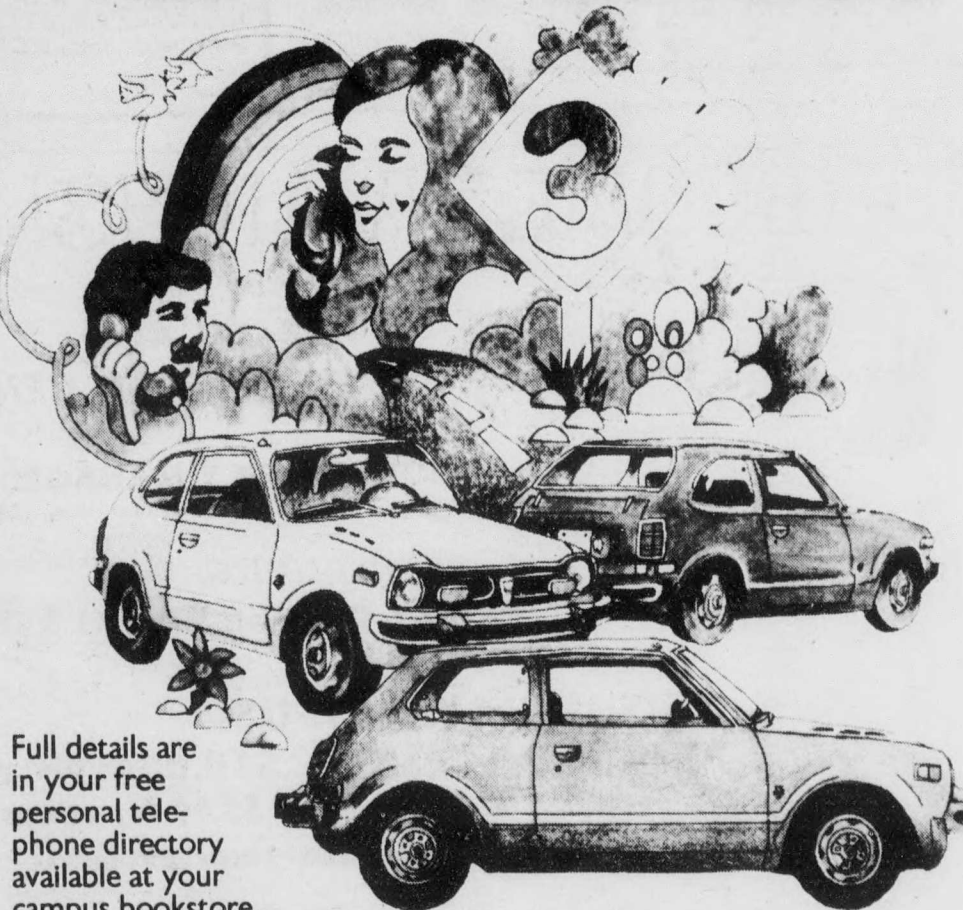
Concern has been shown recently by public officials and university administration with regards to possible safety hazards in student accommodations both on and off the campus.

Harold F. Doherty, Fire Chief of the greater Fredericton area discussed the issue with Dean of Students Barry Thompson earlier this week. Together they voice a concern for protection of the lives of students attending UNB that may be placed in jeopardy due to fire hazards in generally unsafe accommodations. This includes rooms, basement apartments, apartment complexes, houses and any other housing facilities offered to students in this area.

In urging The Brunswickan to publicize their concern, Chief Doherty and Mr. Thompson hope that each student will critically and responsibly inspect their present accommodations for fire and safety hazards, for their own protection.

Upon discovering a situation that is deemed hazardous, it is hoped that through notifying and discussing the problem with the landlord or persons responsible, it can be rectified. If after this notification, no action is taken to remove the hazard, the students are urged to contact Barry Thompson, the accommodations office, or Captain A.R. Maston, in charge of Fire Prevention, Fredericton Fire Department.

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