

The object of this Bill is to amend certain environment protection legislation as follows:

(a) to provide for the appointment of a Chairperson of the Environment Protection Authority (***the EPA***) who will have the function of managing and controlling the affairs of the EPA,

(b) to reconstitute the Board of the EPA,

(c) to require that when a pollution incident occurs that causes or threatens material harm to the environment, an expanded list of government authorities must be notified and to require that they must be notified immediately, rather than as soon as practicable, as currently required,

(d) to provide that the information required to be notified is the information known when the immediate notice is given and that, if further information later becomes known, it must also be immediately notified,

(e) to double the maximum penalty for the offence of failing to immediately give notice of pollution incidents to \$2,000,000 (for corporations) and \$500,000 (for individuals),

(f) to impose a duty on all holders of environment protection licences, and on certain other persons, to prepare and implement pollution incident response management plans,

(g) to add to the circumstances in which a mandatory environmental audit may be required,

(h) to require public access to be given to certain monitoring data required to be recorded by the holders of environment protection licences,

(i) to require further details to be recorded in the public register kept by regulatory authorities.