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**From:** Jane Nicholson <jane@mrsnicholson.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 18, 2015 5:36 PM  
**To:** Office of the Legislative Counsel  
**Subject:** NICHOLSON re concerns with Bill 118 - Amendments to the Heritage Property Act.

Dear Ms. Whalen:

As a two-time Nova Scotia Heritage Trust award winner for my heritage restoration work in Annapolis Royal, I am deeply concerned with Bill 118 – Amendments to the Heritage Property Act.

I live in the town that is the birthplace of European settlement in North America. Champlain sailed into the Annapolis River Basin in 1604. Annapolis Royal has survived for 410 years, and in the last 40 years, its economic development has largely relied on tourism....and those tourists have been drawn largely by our heritage.

Annapolis Royal is home to two National Historic sites and a National Historic District. It has the highest concentration of heritage buildings per capita in Canada. Its buildings need protection, because its buildings are the basis of its economy.

I believe that several of the amendments proposed in Bill 118 will be detrimental to Annapolis Royal. Clauses 1, 3 and 8 will make it much easier to delete a building from the list of protected historic properties in Nova Scotia on the basis of “undue hardship”. Under Bill 118, who will determine “undue hardship” and how? What is “undue hardship” for a poor congregation which cannot save its church is one thing...but what is “undue hardship” for the guy who wants to sell his house to the business next door so the owner can have a bigger parking lot? The idea just doesn’t scale.

I understand the Government also wishes to delete Section 19B(b) which currently gives permanent protection to municipally-registered heritage buildings in conservation districts. You could wipe out the whole main street of Annapolis Royal with this amendment.

The One Nova Scotia Report talks about how Nova Scotians can “step up” to enhance our province’s economy. Those of us who own, or work to protect, heritage buildings have been “stepping up” for years. I believe heritage plays a critical role in the modern Nova Scotia economy. It’s good business in a world that craves charm and character, so why undermine it with these amendments?

I urge you to put heritage first for the good of our province and re-consider Clauses 1, 2, 3 and 7, 8 and 9 in Bill 118, amendments to the Heritage Property Act.

Sincerely,

Jane Nicholson  
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