
From: Margaret herdman <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2015 7:38 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Heritage Property Act Amendments

Hon. Diana C Whalen,
Chair,
Law Amendments Committee

Dear Ms Whalen:

It is with regret that I have read about the new Bill 118 amendments to the Heritage Property Act. Changes have been made that will seriously weaken the protection of heritage buildings in the province of Nova Scotia. Why would registration or deregistration be based on the financial situation of the owners rather than on the historic and architectural merits of the property? These changes are contained in clauses 1, 3 and 8.

Another concern that I have is how the conservation districts are being handled. Rules are being replaced by non-specific regulations. Since these regulations can be changed with no public notice and no public input, protection for these properties would no longer be permanent. Why is it necessary to relax these rules?

Why is it acceptable, when seeking approval for alterations of provincial heritage properties, to move from Council approval to minister approval? It would seem that there will be much less openness and a lower priority, less transparency.

"A house comes with responsibilities, and a historic house comes with more responsibilities. We are only the caretakers of these houses, which were here before we owned them and which will be here after we are gone. They contain the wood from the old-growth forests, they are monuments to the skill of those who labored to build them, they represent our cultural heritage."

— Jane Powell

I thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Margaret Herdman