



Maritime Association of  
Professional Sign Language Interpreters

P.O. Box 2625, Halifax, N.S. B3J 3P7

---

Law Amendments Committee  
Office of Legislative Counsel  
CIBC Building, Suite 802  
1809 Barrington St  
PO box 1116  
Halifax, NS, B3J 2X1

To the Committee,

The Maritime Association of Professional Sign Language Interpreters (MAPSLI) endorses the "Summary Principles to Redraft Bill 59" document published by the Bill 59 Community Alliance.

MAPSLI's objectives includes:

- Promote public awareness regarding the role of interpreters
- Foster mutually supportive interaction between interpreters and consumers, both Deaf and Hearing

As an allied organization to the Deaf community and the wider disability community as a whole, MAPSLI strongly agrees with all the suggestions as laid out by the Bill 59 Community Alliance.

The Bill 59 Community Alliance has recommended that there be an independent body for enforcement of the law and regulations, and that this body be comprised of members of the disability community. As sign language interpreters, we strongly value the knowledge and lived experience of the Deaf population. We urge the committee and advisory Board to do the same. As stated in the Community Alliance document: "Tokenism is not enough. Nothing about us without us".

MAPSLI continues to work with Deafness Advocacy Association of Nova Scotia and the Society of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Nova Scotians to offer our support and collaboration when it comes to topics around sign language interpreting in Nova Scotia. We are inspired to see so many leaders in the Deaf and disability community who are shaping this legislation into something that can be for everyone.

The passing of Bill 59, with the Amendments suggested by the Community Alliance and other disability groups, will make a huge difference in the lives of Nova Scotians with Disabilities. It will also provide sign language interpreters with regulatory support for us to do our jobs, namely, providing a service which makes a space more accessible. MAPSLI strongly agrees with the principle from the Community Alliance document that states, "fundamental human rights must not be subordinated to economic cost/benefit analysis". As interpreters, we are eager to work with the government, the advisory board, and the committees to make sure that the needs of the Deaf and disabled communities are always put first.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brenna D'Arcy', with a stylized, flowing script.

Brenna D'Arcy

*President*

Maritime Association of Professional Sign Language Interpreters

Cc:

Elliot Richman, DAANS

Frank O'Sullivan, SDHHNS

Parker Dunham, Bill 59 Community Alliance