

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** April 12, 2022 11:07 PM  
**To:** Office of the Legislative Counsel  
**Subject:** Non-Resident Property Tax

**\*\* EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE \*\***

Exercice caution when opening attachments or clicking on links / Faites preuve de prudence si vous ouvrez une pièce jointe ou cliquez sur un lien

Please see my email below.

I have also posted it on Facebook. It has generated numerous “likes” and positive comments, including from year-round NS residents and businesses.

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** April 12, 2022 5:22 PM  
**To:** pictouwestmla@bellaliant.com  
**Subject:** Non-Resident Property Tax

Honourable Karla MacFarlane  
MLA for Pictou West

While I actively follow provincial, federal and international politics, and I am a member of conservative parties, I have never before written a complaint to an elected official. I view the pending Non-Resident Property Tax as a targeted personal attack, hence this communication to you.

A bit of background is required to put the tax in context. My wife Sally and I are both from Nova Scotia. Our families have lived in Nova Scotia for 200 years. Our ancestors and living relatives (including all our siblings and many cousins) are in Halifax, Ingonish, Canso and River John. In 1989 my job with Scotiabank required that we move to Toronto and then Calgary. Every summer we returned to NS for vacation. Our two daughters graduated from Dalhousie University, and one lives in Halifax. In 2007 we purchased raw land in Marshville Pictou County, from Sally’s cousins (who live outside NS) that was part of the old farm owned by her great grandparents. We have invested substantial dollars in landscaping and building a house. Since I retired in 2016, we have started migrating back to NS with a “normal” year being in Nova Scotia May-October and in Calgary November-April.

Our investment in Nova Scotia has benefitted many local businesses, such as: the primary contractor CF Construction, Phil Murray Electrical, Scotia Plumbing & Property Maintenance, and MacIntosh Landscaping. Our living expenses support numerous local businesses. We have also been shifting our philanthropic donations towards NS health care, recreation, church and social charities.

The pending non-resident surtax tax triples our property tax. I am in favour of a progressive income tax system, and actually would not be opposed to a progressive property tax system homogenously applied. This 2% property surtax unfairly targets people who have chosen to invest and live part of the year in Nova Scotia. It is being levied after people have already injected their money – it is a form of financial expropriation seen in banana republics.

I recognize the short-term economic sugar-high of the property surtax and the political gamesmanship of taxing people who come-from-away. I question the mid/long term impact of suppressing property assessments and repelling future investors.

In the past three years the government of Nova Scotia (two ruling parties) has: (i) taken away the right to vote from seasonal property owners (we were planning to vote for you in Aug'21, but the electoral officer informed us we are not eligible), (ii) created a COVID bubble whereby we could not go to our property despite having full vaccinations and commitment to quarantine, and (iii) imposed a punitive selective property tax. I suspect the government would not be levying this tax if seasonal property owners were still franchised to vote. The government has achieved something Sally and I never thought possible – we feel unwelcome in Nova Scotia.

I realize I have little immediate recourse, other than venting in this letter. Going forward our purchases in NS will be transactional, without preference for supporting local business unless it is our best interest. We will pare down investing in our property because it will increase the municipal assessment and thereby the property tax. We will re-think our charitable donations. When we do transfer our residency to NS, we will not support the conservative party (I have never voted otherwise; but I will have to given the PC's unfair tax grab).

As you may sense, Sally and I are hurt, insulted and angry.

Mike Jackson

[REDACTED]

Marshville NS

[REDACTED]