

From: Margaret Kauffmann
Sent: April 12, 2022 9:26 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: New Non-Resident Property Tax

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

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Dear Sir and Madame,

I believe the newly proposed Nova Scotian non-resident property tax proposal is shortsighted and will be damaging to the province.

I believe it will decimate the Nova Scotian tourist industry. Non-resident property owners are the real tourist base of Nova Scotia. We are the ones who come back, year after year.

My husband's family is from New Glasgow. When we first visited from our home in Boston, we fell in love with the province and bought property on Cape Breton Island. With the help of our wonderful Nova Scotian neighbors, we carved out a dirt road, built a small cabin, and created paths along the shore.

We have been coming to Cape Breton in the summers for 31 years, and now that we are retired, we come in the fall. We have befriended members of the small community of Port Hood. We spend money at the grocery store, go to restaurants, buy paint and lumber, nails, screws and furniture at the hardware store. We have paid local contractors to help us maintain our cabin, fix our dirt road, put in new windows, mow our field. We spent \$30,000 to put in electricity poles which have helped our local neighbors sell their adjacent parcels of land. Our friends and family often come from the US to visit and stay at local hotels. What Canadian services do we use? Not the healthcare system. Not the educational system. All the money we spend comes from the US. It is a plus for the local economy.

This tax could cost us up to \$50,000 a year. We are retired school teachers!! We could never afford such an increase. If all the non-residents are forced to sell their properties, who will buy them? Not non-residents. Why would they? The money the government expects to make off of this increase in taxes will dry up very quickly. Have you considered that? And what if properties go unsold? Will you have abandoned and neglected properties scarring the landscape?

The government's goal with this new tax is to address the housing crunch in Nova Scotia. Will it? And if so, at what cost?

My husband and I have worked on our Cape Breton property for over three decades, hoping to pass it on to our children and our children's children. That has been our dream. We never thought Nova Scotians would dash our dreams so utterly and completely.

Please, remember your wonderful welcoming saying, "Céad Míle Fáilte." It means "*One Hundred Thousand Welcomes.*"

*Marky Kauffmann and Gordon Chase,
Shirley, Massachusetts and Port Hood, Nova scotia*

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