

[REDACTED]

From: Ian [REDACTED]
Sent: April 13, 2022 4:12 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: FW: re:"Non-resident" property tax levy

**** 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 submit my letter below to the Law Amendments committee for their review in advance of, or during committee sitting.

Sincerely

Ian Lightstone

[REDACTED]
Blue Rocks, Nova Scotia

From: Ian [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, April 3, 2022 1:28 PM
To: 'premier@novascotia.ca'; 'Financeminister@novascotia.ca'; 'susancorkumgreekmla@gmail.com'
Subject: re:"Non-resident" property tax levy

The Honourable Tim Houston, Premier of Nova Scotia
The Honourable Allan MacMaster, Minister of Finance and Treasury Board
The Honourable Susan Corkum-Greek, Minister of Economic Development, MLA for Lunenburg

Dear Sirs, Madame

I am writing to urge you to reconsider your government's short sighted, poorly thought out plan to levy a property tax surcharge on 'non-resident' homeowners.

This small, inconsequential tax levy may resonate well with voters, but in the end, it will alienate a small, but significant group who have invested dollars and volunteer time in our respective Nova Scotia communities. My wife and I bought a property (a 1790's Cape house) in Blue Rocks, NS some twenty one years ago. Since then we have restored the house, added several out buildings, an up to date septic system (in place of the original straight pipe) and have planted gardens and nearly a hundred trees on what was previously scrub brush. We reside in our Blue Rocks home approximately seven months of the year. The remainder in Toronto and Sanibel Florida.

In 2021, we took out Nova Scotia Health cards, and my wife has a Nova Scotia driver's license. Our income is still derived from Ontario sources so we continue to file Ontario/Canada personal income tax returns, which unfortunately in the eyes of your government will classify us as 'non-residents'!

Needless to say we enjoy our life in Nova Scotia and proudly describe ourselves as Nova Scotia residents to our many Ontario and US friends. As residents we participate fully in the NS economy; we regularly shop at Francis Independent Grocers, Fresh Cuts, Adam & Knickle, Lunenburg Hardware, Castle Building Supplies, Dory Mates, Laughing Whale, La Vendienne bakery, Stan's Dad and Lad, Kinley Drug, Alliance Dental, Mermaid Vision, the weekly farmers market, NSLC, Esso and Irving gasoline (15.40 cents per litre provincial excise tax...fourth highest in Canada), Eastlink, West Nova home heating, Nova Scotia Power, and at a number of excellent restaurants in Lunenburg, Mahone Bay and Halifax.....which on most of the purchases we pay 15% HST (the highest rate in Canada). Additionally as a result of us being NS residents,

this past year our daughter-in-law and grandchildren bought a home and became residents of Nova Scotia. So much for attracting young, future Nova Scotians!

Not only do we participate in the economy of Nova Scotia, we volunteer our time to several local not for profit organizations such as the Lunenburg Documentary Festival, Lunenburg Waterfront Association, Lunenburg Folk Art Festival, the Health Services Foundation of the South Shore, Develop NS Zwicker Building BDO. Indeed, I was recently asked to join the Pacesetter Committee of the South Shore Hospital capital campaign with the task of reaching out to fellow 'CBC' (come by choice) Canadian and American residents in Lunenburg County....sadly now with your government's discriminatory tax levy I am not expecting a positive response!

As well, we financially support several NS based organizations and charities including the Lunenburg Documentary Festival, QEII Health Sciences Foundation, South Shore Hospital Foundation, Lunenburg Academy of Music Performance, Rotary Club of Lunenburg, Lunenburg Waterfront Association, etc.

As indicated, we participate fully in the Nova Scotia infrastructure.....and are proud and thankful to be able to do so. We are not looking for a government 'thank you'but at the same time we do not believe it warrants us being treated like speculators and unoccupied rental income property investors. Interestingly your government did not apply the same tax levy to Haligonians who own seasonal residences in Chester, Mahone Bay, Lunenburg, Kingsburg and other areas. Surely your false premise of seasonal residents driving up housing prices would apply to them as well! Or, is this just a case of convenient discrimination.

I'm confident that your Finance Ministry recognizes that this small inconsequential tax will not put an end to the global phenomena of rapidly rising cost of housing, land, and natural resources and its impact on all Nova Scotians and Canadians. It is a result of limited supply, and migration to welcoming, safe jurisdictions. Rather than its intended outcome, your government's tax levy will alienate a small, but significant group who have invested dollars and volunteer time in our respective Nova Scotia communities.

As an aside, I first arrived in Nova Scotia in May of 1946, at Pier 21, as a war baby with my mother, a British war bride, married to my father a Canadian serviceman at the time . Needless to say we were welcomed at Pier 21.....sadly your government has decided to not continue the honourable mandate of Pier 21 of welcoming all immigrants to Nova Scotia!

I should mentioned that I have 'Bcc'ed this email to a number of likeminded Canadian and US Nova Scotia seasonal residents who are disappointed with your government's punitive and discriminatory tax levy, and to several NS influencers.

I urge you to reconsider this ill-advised, poorly thought out tax levy proposal.

Sincerely

Ian Lightstone

Blue Rocks Nova Scotia
Toronto ON and Sanibel Fl.



Virus-free. www.avg.com