

If there was any doubt that “Come from Aways’ are not welcome in Nova Scotia ---this doubt is gone.

I was born, raised and attended university in Nova Scotia. Like many others left to pursue my career as there was nothing available in NS. My dream was always to return home and 20 years ago my husband and I purchased a home in rural NS.

We purchased a property which had been on the market for over a year, never lived in and really was a fishing shack. Apparently, no other Nova Scotian was interested in putting the time, money and effort into turning it into a home. We spent well over \$300,000 to make this our home. Our plan for this spring was to add another \$150,000 in renovations, this we have stopped. Over the years local retailers, particularly building supply outlets have thanked us personally for contributing to the local economy. The “housing stock” that Finance Minister Allan MacMaster refers to was indeed created by non-residents, building new homes from scratch or renovating derelict properties.

I can't cut my connection to Ontario as I am still running a company based in Toronto. We are Canadian, and although we pay provincial taxes in Ontario, our federal tax contributions are indirectly helping Nova Scotia through transfer payments.

My husband and I have volunteered for many local service organizations and continue to help vulnerable people in rural Nova Scotia, donating between \$20,000-\$30,000 annually to help rural Nova Scotians. These include vulnerable families, musicians, local artists, single parents, youth, etc. If/when we leave because of this unfair tax, is the government prepared to fill this gap. Non-residents contribute immensely to local communities.

This proposed legislation targets homes that are largely located in rural areas, not in urban areas where job opportunities might be available. It will not help improve housing shortage in any way. We feel strongly that this proposal will have a major negative impact on the Nova Scotia economy. This includes local restaurants, retail shops, contractors, tourism, hospitality and the list goes on.

This proposal will KILL RURAL NOVA SCOTIA. This is a Success tax. Why is it ok for wealthy Nova Scotians to purchase multiple properties and have no tax consequences? Will these secondary homes become Airbnb's' and how will a small community benefit? This is Discrimination. To a Nova Scotian this is a slap in my face and you have put a wedge in my heart.

Yes, there is a housing problem in Nova Scotia like the rest of Canada and the world, but your proposal to turn away those that have contributed so much for so many years to NS is a not a solution.

We can no longer be true ambassadors for NS, this is sad.

In closing this ill-advised, discriminatory proposal is already having adverse effects. A very sad time for Nova Scotia and Nova Scotians. Let's stop this before any more damage is done.

Regards,

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