

[REDACTED]

From: Christina Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: April 13, 2022 1:26 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Cc: Brian Smith
Subject: Proposed Tax
Attachments: Nova Scotia Tax.docx

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

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

To whom it may concern,

Please see attached the letter that we sent to Premier Houston and others in the provincial cabinet. We look forward to a response.

Thank you,
Christina

Christina Smith (she/her) | Chief Executive Officer

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] | [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

April 8, 2022

The Honourable Tim Houston
MLA Pictou East
Premier of Nova Scotia

Dear Premier Houston:

As property owners in your home riding of Pictou East, we are writing to express our alarm regarding the proposed property tax and land-transfer tax on non-residents contained in the recent provincial budget.

I and my husband, Brian Smith, who is a native Nova Scotian raised in Pictou County, own a home in Lismore, where we have been spending a good portion of the year since 2013. We might already have made the property our full-time residence if we were able to acquire high-speed internet service, which, despite all effort, we still lack.

Nevertheless, we continue to spend significant stretches of time in our beloved community on the Northumberland Shore.

As part-time residents, we feel we make a significant contribution to the economy and welfare of the community. We generously support local businesses, utilize local services, participate in community events and contribute in as many ways as we can to the energy and spirit of our rural neighbourhood.

We accept the current tax we pay as a fair and just return for the privilege of living on our land, even though, as part-time residents, we don't draw on significant government services such as education and health care to the extent that full-time residents are likely to do.

However, the proposed radical increase in property tax on non-residents strikes us as unjust and short-sighted. My husband is a retired professor of drama and experienced theatre artist/educator, and I am CEO of a national charity with years of experience in fundraising, leadership and community engagement. We feel that we have enduring value to add to the culture and livelihood of rural Pictou County, and are dismayed that the unfair proposed tax might discourage us from continuing to consider rural Nova Scotia our home.

We respectfully request that as Pictou East MLA and Premier of Nova Scotia you consider our voice as you and your government weigh the implications and consequences of the proposed tax burden on non-residents.

Yours sincerely
Christina Smith