

From: Yves Bourque [REDACTED]
Sent: April 14, 2022 5:26 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill No. 149 – Financial Measures (2022) Act

**** 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

I am writing to express my opposition to Bill No. 149 – Financial Measures (2022) Act.

My wife and I are both originally from the Maritimes—she from HRM, I from New Brunswick—but we moved to Ontario years ago to attend University and have since remained in the province because we managed to carve out careers here.

That said, our ties to the Maritimes have remained strong. We travel to the East Coast several times a year to spend time with family and friends, and have long sought to own a seasonal home in Nova Scotia. In the Spring of 2020, we did just that: we purchased a small cottage on the Amherst Shore, in Cumberland County. We chose this area because my wife spent many childhood summers there in a family-owned cottage that is sadly no longer in the family.

Since purchasing this property, we've spent two of our own summers there. We've thus contributed to the local economy: we shop in Amherst and Pugwash, we buy homegrown produce and homemade goods, we seek out local services. We also have plans to renovate the property, which would ensure that we make even greater contributions to the local economy.

Simply put, the proposed legislation casts too wide a net, impacting individuals of wildly different circumstances, while arguably doing little to tackle the issues it purports to address. In our case, for instance, we own no other property in Canada; we are renters in Toronto, and so our cottage is our one and only property. We are not speculators, nor are we investors. Moreover, our cottage is not fully winterized. It cannot therefore be said that we've "taken" a prospective home from Nova Scotians.

Were this bill to pass, the tax burden it will impose will force us to seriously consider selling our seasonal property. Quite obviously, this is not the outcome we desire. We ask that the non-resident tax clause of Bill No. 149 be reconsidered and that Canadians who wish to spend time and money in Nova Scotia on a seasonal basis not be subjected to such arbitrary, financial penalties.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Yves Bourque, Mary Jane Noiles

Toronto, Ontario