

From: Hebb, Gordon
Sent: April 14, 2022 2:26 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: FW: Non resident Tax



Gordon D. Hebb QC
Chief Legislative Counsel
House of Assembly
Halifax, Nova Scotia

(902) 424-8941

From: Noreen [REDACTED]
Sent: April 14, 2022 12:59 PM
To: Hebb, Gordon <Gordon.Hebb@novascotia.ca>
Subject: Non resident Tax

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

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I wish to forward a copy of the letter we sent earlier this week to various levels of the NS Government. I was born and raised in Nova Scotia, both my husband and I attended Dalhousie and I have spent a part of every summer of my life in NS with the exception of the Covid summer of 2020. My children consider NS to be their happy place.

I feel like I have been betrayed and no one values our contribution to seasonal tourism which the province loves to promote.

Noreen & Yvon Lavallée

Premier, Minister of Finance and Cumberland MNA,

I have reviewed the new proposed 2% non-residential property - wealth tax and find it insulting and unfair for those of us Canadians that reside temporarily in Nova Scotia during the Summer months.

I do not believe this tax will help Nova Scotia achieve higher revenues in the medium and long term. People like me that have spend 3 to 4 months in Nova Scotia every year since 1987 and who invest greatly in the local economy while trying to be good citizens may have to consider alternatives.

I have owned a property in Cumberland County (my wife's place of birth) for 35 years and already pay disproportionately high property taxes compared to my Nova Scotia neighbours. I have never used

the Nova Scotia Healthcare or Education systems and rarely go to Halifax where the major discrepancies and wealth gap exist in Nova Scotia.

There are hundreds of non-residents like me that help the local economy survive either through buying all our daily needs locally, eating out in the local restaurants, hiring local professionals and trades people whenever improvements on our property are needed, shopping at the local stores and fairs, joining municipal sport facilities thereby helping them to pay their overhead and staff, and on and on. Do you see the pattern of "LOCAL".

If the idea is to free up properties, I do not see how forcing me to sell would help anyone. Our cottage is not winterized and useless for permanent housing. Already our region is not in high demand for family living due to the lack of local schools and services. As seasonal residents we already miss out on several services such as bulk garbage pickup which is conveniently scheduled before the arrival of most cottage owners.

I am also thinking of the local entrepreneurs that will suffer greatly from the trickledown effect of this tax. There seems to be an impression that people from outside NS have money to spare. The truth is that most of us make major sacrifices throughout the year to allow us to return to our beloved Nova Scotia each summer. We did not choose to leave NS years ago, the job market forced us to move elsewhere. We are now retired and living on a fixed income. We pass on travel throughout the year knowing we will be back in NS. We do our bit to promote tourism to NS with our constant praise of the province and a steady stream of company. This unfair tax has tainted our opinion.

Your proposed non-residential property- wealth tax does not appear to offer any new services to the county or the non-residents like me. It will only take money that would usually be invested in the local economy and transfer it to the Nova Scotia government, leaving the regional counties poorer and regional trades people having to look for other work to support their families. It seems that only Halifax will benefit from this short-sited proposal.

Sincerely,

Yvon A. Lavallée & Noreen MacIntyre