

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Robert Meyer [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** April 14, 2022 9:46 AM  
**To:** Office of the Legislative Counsel; susancorkumgreekmla@gmail.com; Economic Development Minister; Finance Minister; Premier  
**Cc:** Bignell, Laura M; garyburrill@gmail.com  
**Subject:** RE: BILL 149 Financial Measures (2022) Act-Non-Resident tax  
**Attachments:** Bill 149-Personal Response.pdf

\*\* 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 consider my letter as personal input toward the evaluation of Bill149 .

Thank you

Robert

April 14, 2022

Premier Tim Houston  
[premier@novascotia.ca](mailto:premier@novascotia.ca)

The Honourable Allan MacMaster  
Minister of Finance and Treasury Board  
[FinanceMinister@novascotia.ca](mailto:FinanceMinister@novascotia.ca)

The Honourable Susan Corkum-Greek  
Minister of Economic Development and MLA for Lunenburg  
[edminister@novascotia.ca](mailto:edminister@novascotia.ca)  
[susancorkumgreekmla@gmail.com](mailto:susancorkumgreekmla@gmail.com)

Standing Committee on Law Amendments  
[Legc.office@novascotia.ca](mailto:Legc.office@novascotia.ca)

CC:  
The Honourable Iain Rankin  
Leader of the NS Liberal Party  
[laura.bignell@novascotia.ca](mailto:laura.bignell@novascotia.ca)

Mr. Gary Burril  
Leader of the NS NDP Party  
[garyburrill@gmail.com](mailto:garyburrill@gmail.com)

**RE: BILL 149 Financial Measures (2022) Act**

Dear Premier, Ministers and Standing Committee on Law Amendments,

Nova Scotia is our home.

I moved to Halifax from Manitoba as a young man in 1992 to attend TUNS, fell in love with the province, it's history, culture and people. I met my wife. Sadly, the economy was in malaise and like much of my graduating class, we had to leave to earn a living. From the time we left we sang praises of the place to friends and strangers alike. Our long time goal of returning became more real 5 years ago-on one of our frequent trips to NS, we purchased a small lot with a run down cape being advertised as a teardown. We diverted our annual vacations south and poured all of our available time and resources renovating this tired 18th century dwelling. Our efforts earned much praise in the community. We love our community and the local businesses and trades. The folks from away...Europeans, Americans, other provinces, also add an additional richness of diversity.

In our increasingly turbulent times, we saw Canada, and especially NS as a sane and safe place. More boosterism from us! We've had the pleasure of hosting many of our dearest friends and showing them the wonders of NS and it's people. Our plan to return was

developing nicely; meanwhile we also had a place to stay and help out as my wife's parents began to struggle with health issues.

We've noticed with joy the long overdue revitalization of the province, Halifax's growing mojo, a new and young energy that was lacking when we left. Our plan is to return-not to retire yet but start our own business- to contribute even more of this revitalized region. Bill 149 non-resident tax threw us for a sucker-punch. We are not speculators or landlords or removing housing stock from the real estate pool. The additional excess levies are unsustainable for us and trying to uproot 20 years of living elsewhere and moving-in SIX months-is another cruel demand. I understand there is a 80,000 person waiting list for a doctor now. How does a rash sudden move to NS help any of this? Additionally, targeting non-resident investment in the construction industry will reduce the opportunities for skilled trades (also being supporting in this Bill) and the engineering and architectural fields. This is a double blow for us as our intent was to set up our own practice.

We're struggling with what to do with this uncertainty. I've put off building a new house and may need to re-evaluate our entire plan. Everyone agrees affordable housing is an urgent matter. So is healthcare. So is the reputation of NS as a welcoming and business friendly place.

Much has been said about unintended consequences. Like the recent Finance Minister's comments-I too do not know how this will affect the big picture.

I do know these actual consequences:

1. We abandon our life long goal to moving back and sell our seasonal cottage. All that money leaves the Province AND our (increasingly) yearly spending ends.
2. We uproot and move back by October. We arrive needing to find two jobs. As our cottage is neither suitable for four season habitation and nearly 2 hours from Halifax, we seek housing in or near Halifax as this would be our best hope for finding a new job.
3. We get on the waiting list for NS health.

Consequence of Bill 149 as written: investment and spending leaves the province forever OR net housing in HRM: minus 1; unemployment in HMR: plus 2; waiting list to medical: plus 2.

The government needs to get Bill 149 right-it is currently severely flawed. A sizable portion of the non-residents you target are Nova Scotian. Many will return and with them their skills, knowledge, wealth. I expect they-and hopefully us as well- will remember how this affected us. This is personal. Nova Scotia is our home.

Respectfully,  
Robert Meyer  
Beverly, Massachusetts.