

**From:** Helen Ross <helenross@kw.com>  
**Sent:** April 14, 2022 10:03 AM  
**To:** Office of the Legislative Counsel  
**Cc:** NSAR  
**Subject:** Non resident tax

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

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Please see letter below from a client which she requested I share with you. My client sent this to premier Houston and Susan Corkum MLA.

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am a Canadian citizen who was born and raised in Germany. My German husband and I plan to retire part time in Nova Scotia (on our own, German, pension, remaining in the German health care system). So we bought a little house in Blue Rocks in summer 2019, before the prizes went up. It had been on the market for 512 days and had seen its last renovation in the Eisenhower area. It is a typical house of the region and as we were told, these sturdy and charming houses were built about 100 years ago by local fishermen and ship builders. It represents their outstanding skills and we are very proud and happy to preserve a part of their heritage.

It stands pretty much exactly for what tourism boards like to attract tourists with.

Our house is located right opposite the fish shack, that is said to be the most photographed building of the province. Still – for one and a half years no Nova Scotian wanted to invest in this house. Instead, a lot of young people seem to have turned their backs on these rural, remote areas.

We didn't want to change the character of the house and carefully restored everything. In the end we spent a quarter million dollars on this little house. More money than we had planned to spend, but money that stayed in the area. Everything was executed by local contractors and craftsmen, buying their supplies in local hardware stores. After renovations we decorated the house with art from local artists. And now we pay local people to look after our house and lawn.

Besides doing ourselves a favour, this "face-lift" also contributes to the perception of the area.

Nova Scotia and its people were love at first sight for us. Locals as well as "Come from Aways", sharing our fascination for this unique spot. We instantly felt welcome.

But not by the government obviously!?! We are aware of the problems Nova Scotia has to deal with and would be fine to be charged a slightly higher property tax than a permanent resident. But triple the amount and add a 5% deed transfer if we'd dare to sell to an our of province person? This is also a slap in the face to locals wanting to sell their homes, limiting their chances significantly.

We certainly don't want to strain your system and don't see ourselves doing that - pretty much the opposite, in fact.

So what do you want to tell us? What are your intentions for your maritime population? For the local contractors, building suppliers, craftsmen, hardware stores, carpenters, restaurants, artists.....? Given these circumstances we were forced to cancel our additional renovation project. Another 150 000 \$ that unfortunately won't be flowing into Nova Scotias economy in 2022.

Hoping your choices are well thought through-

Regards

Best regards,  
Helen

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