

[REDACTED]

From: Florence Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: April 14, 2022 1:45 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Fwd: Proposed Tax Increase for Non-resident Property Owners

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

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Florence

[REDACTED]

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Begin forwarded message:

From: Florence Smith <florencesmith0508@gmail.com>
Date: April 14, 2022 at 12:37:51 PM EDT
To: premier@novascotia.ca
Cc: mla@esmithmccrossinmla.com, FinanceMinister@novascotia.ca, info@iainrankin.ca
Subject: **Proposed Tax Increase for Non-resident Property Owners**

April 14, 2022

Honorable Tim Houston
Premier of Nova Scotia
Halifax, Nova Scotia
Premier@novascotia.ca

Dear Premier Houston:

I am writing to state my objection to your proposed tax premium to non resident Nova Scotia property owners. I know that I am not alone in my objection.

I co-own a seasonal property on the north shore of Nova Scotia with my sister. While the dwelling (designed and built with local labour and materials) is less than 20 years old, the property and the old cottage that was replaced have been in my family for more than 100 years. Like my sister, I was born and educated in Nova Scotia and for many reasons, including economic, I moved to Toronto with my

husband and our two children thirty years ago. It was not an easy decision to leave my native province and family. Thus we feel very fortunate and yes, privileged to own a property in Nova Scotia where we can gather with family and be together. Like my sister, both my husband and I are seniors, retired and live on a fixed income. We are hardly property speculators.

The tax you propose is cynical, unfair and an egregious tax grab from property owners who have no power to vote you in or out. A shameful display of disrespect for democracy. What would Joseph Howe, another proud Nova Scotian think?

I was in Nova Scotia last summer during the election and watched the results come in. You were given a mandate to make things better for all Nova Scotians. Your promises showed vision and a plan, but they are costly. Please don't burden non-residents for services and supports that Nova Scotians need and deserve. Currently our property taxes are based on MVA. Our assessment is high but we are happy and proud to pay our taxes based on that privilege. And as you know, our taxes are levied assuming year-round occupancy, independent of how much time we spend there. That is reasonable and fair. But enough is enough. Exploiting and taking advantage of non resident owners is wrong.

Thank you for reading this and reconsidering your proposal. I look forward to your reply.

Florence Smith

cc Allan MacMaster, Minister of Finance
FinanceMinister@novascotia.ca

Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin, MLA
Mla@esmithmccrossinmla.com

Iain Rankin, Leader of the Opposition
Info@iainrankin.ca

Florence Smith

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