

The Law Amendments Committee

Nova Scotia Legislature

Halifax, Nova Scotia

April 18, 2022

Dear Committee Members,

Growing up in Nova Scotia in the 50's and 60's I experienced a relatively strong Nova Scotia. New industries were growing, downtowns were vibrant and healthy. Eventually the economic tides turned, and apart from the offshore oil bubble and the fishery, our rural economy and population growth were stagnant.

The past few years have seen change. People from across Canada are discovering Nova Scotia and becoming permanent or non permanent residents. Both are contributing significantly, not only economically, but often socially/culturally to the large and small communities in which they live. Case in point: Guysborough has been rejuvenated by a non resident's vision and commitment to that unique, scenic and interesting community.

Years ago, Richard Florida (renown American urban studies theorist/ University of Toronto professor) spoke to a Halifax business group encouraging Nova Scotia to attract the "creative classes" to the province. I suggest that a good portion of newcomers to Nova Scotia, be they permanent or seasonal, fall in the creative class. Such people may not bring mega industry, but they do bring ideas and entrepreneurship, yielding new jobs and reopening downtown storefronts. In recent times we're seeing that. There's a buzz out there that finally, after a long pause, Nova Scotia is building a stronger economy, province wide.

Nova Scotia has always welcomed visitors. And we've delighted in welcoming home Nova Scotian "ex-pats", who, due to our previous lagging economy were forced to move away for gainful employment. Some of the fortunate ones eventually acquired seasonal residences. They, despite their long absence from this province, still, understandably so, consider themselves Nova Scotian.

Canada is a federation of ten provinces and three territories. All residents of Canada should be able to relocate anywhere in Canada, seasonally or permanently, without penalty.

These new taxes are punitive, and to many seasonal residents, life altering. I urge the members of the Committee and in turn, the provincial Cabinet, to reconsider and withdraw these new taxes.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brien E. Fraser', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Brien E. Fraser