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From: Bill Digdon

Sent: April 19, 2022 9:53 AM

To: Hebb, Gordon <Gordon.Hebb@novascotia.ca>

Cc: Elizabeth Smith (mla@esmithmccrossinmla.com) <mla@esmithmccrossinmla.com>

Subject: Proposed Property Tax

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Dera Mr. Hebb

I am sending this email in the hopes that someone will read it and get back to me with some clear explanation as to what is happening here.

I am reminded of the Dexter government destroying the developing movie industry in this province and the livelihoods of many people here who depended on that industry. The MacNeil government shutting down Scott Paper and the livelihoods of thousands of direct and indirect jobs to say nothing of the destroyed tax base. Now we have this government hanging up a sign on Nova Scotia basically telling anyone from outside the province unless you live here you will be penalized for owning property in Nova Scotia. My family goes back many generations in Nova Scotia and Atlantic Canadians have always been viewed as friendly and open to people and I for one resent the negative attitude that this bill would have on our province. Why are our elected officials so intent on destroying our future income and tax bases?

To bring this home more closely to my own concerns I was in the process of planning the construction of a cottage in Nova Scotia. As I am what you would be referred to as a Senior Citizen, I had planned to sell this property in a few years likely to a "Non-Resident". That being someone who does not necessarily live in Nova Scotia. With a buyers' market limited mainly to only people who live in the province, I would be very limited with the ability to spreading a wider net for possible buyers outside this province and thus would put a damper on anyone's plans for such an investment.

Also, as I am a landowner with a fair amount of land to develop and would most certainly spread my net outside Nova Scotia for investment this restrictive bill would hamper investment from outside the province thus severely limiting or eliminating any possibility of future developments and further tax bases for the province, (short term thinking). My concern is why does the present Conservative government continue to follow the draconian policies of the former governments without realizing the pitfalls of making our province unfriendly to non-residents. Do those nonresidents not pay taxes currently? Do they not spend dollars and property investments withing Nova Scotia when they are here?

It was hard to watch the MacNeil government destroy industry, doing so much damage to the provincial economy and placing the taxpayers on the hook for a 450-million-dollar lawsuit, one which Scott Paper is rightfully pursuing. As a reward for all the poor decisions he made and the tax dollars that are lost we the taxpayers of Nova Scotia are forced to reward him with what I heard to be a \$120,000 per year pension, (most likely indexed) which the very taxpayers he has wronged are stuck with paying him. Why then is this government continuing the legacy of negative attitudes to outside people and investment that were practiced by the Dexter and MacNeil governments?

This attitude reminds me of the story I heard when I was a child called "The Goose that laid the Golden Egg". The goose owner (Conservative Government in this case) who owned the goose (Province of Nova Scotia) which laid the golden eggs (outside taxpayers within the province) on a regular basis decided that if he killed the Golden Goose (the outside taxpayer) he would get all the gold immediately. This is flawed thinking at best and reckless short-term decision making at worst, no more goose, no more golden egg.

Someone in the Conservative government should take a lesson from that child's story and stop killing a tax revenue which will go on and likely increase for years in favor of a shot term windfall which will eventually go away. The province of Nova Scotia is the biggest business in the province, and you would be hard pressed to have a businessperson make such a short-term decision as that. Should we as Nova Scotian taxpayers not be entitled to better longer term decision planning rather the short-term planning that seems to be the flavor of the day?

Now as I have likely succeeded in alienating all three political parties at once here, you can see that I am not making patrician political statements. What I am attempting to do is to speak up for that section of our society who pay the bills in this Province and thus keep the wheels turning in Nova Scotia and who deserve much better decision making from the CEO's of this province of Nova Scotia.

Respectfully,

William A. Digdon

Amherst N.S.