

From: Blair Ferguson Rober Lopes [REDACTED]
Sent: February 27, 2025 1:00 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 1 and Bill 6

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I am grateful that the PC government of NS has lifted the pressure off of the Auditor General position and will let it do the job properly. Thousands of citizens are angry and speaking up. It is nice to know that the Premier is listening to the people of Nova Scotia in this instance

However, I am still concerned with Bill 1 and if passed it would still grant the government the power to dismiss non-unionized civil servants without cause, reject freedom of information requests on poorly defined and subjective grounds, restrict citizens from influencing bills through Law Amendments Committee, dismantle Communications NS, over-ride municipal powers; and repeal the fixed election date legislation, etc. The amendments in Bill 1 would make it harder and slower for the public or the press to access information, among other things.

The FOIPOP Commissioner, the Communications NS staff, the NS Ombudsman and other arms-length bodies which scrutinize the NS government have been hired by the public to report to us on what our government is up to and to keep an eye on this. Please withdraw any legislation limiting their ability to do their jobs, as that is not the ways of a democratic and responsible government.

I also ask that the government rethink it's resource extraction projects. We all want the same things: a clean and safe place to live, accessible schools and healthcare, clean air to breathe and water to drink, a sense of place, and the ability to become ourselves; to self actualize and participate in a democratic society as a citizen. There are very few people, that when pressed, would want anything other. However, Premier Houston has dismissed anyone with environmental concerns. He has tried to bully and take people who care for Nova Scotia out of the discussion. He has tried to divide. This again is a dangerous precedent. How can we have industry without input from environmental experts and communities? How can we have democracy when key voices are silenced?

The Conservative party ran on a platform of healthcare, food security, housing and transportation. They do not have a mandate from the electorate to roll back environmental protection and erode democracy. A democratic government is accountable to the public.

I ask that the government rescind Bill 1 and Bill 6. I hope that we can count on them to do the right thing.

Sincerely, Blair Lopes