

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: March 16, 2025 6:01 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Cc: Claudia Chender; 'Danielle Barkhouse'
Subject: submission by Lisa Wolfe to the Public Bills Committee
Attachments: Submission to the Public Bills Committee March 17 2025 by Lisa Wolfe.docx

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Submission to the **Public Bills Committee** March 17, 2025

By Lisa Wolfe, [REDACTED]

Citizen of a Democratic Society living in the Province of Nova Scotia, Country of CANADA

*Cc: Nova Scotia NDP Leader Claudia Chender, Leader of the Official Opposition; Danielle Barkhouse, MLA
Chester St. Margarets*

On Monday, March 17, 2025 your Committee is tasked with hearing from the citizens of Nova Scotia regarding Bills 1, 6, 11, 12, 21, 36 and 68. You were once the "Law Amendments Committee". Now, as the "Public Bills Committee" you no longer have the ability to propose amendments to these Bills based on the feedback and suggestions presented to you (Resolution 5). The Public can state their opinions, but you have no power to act. This is not democracy.

All of the above Bills are being introduced without meaningful public consultation which is the basis for our democracy. Each Bill covers a range of amendments that reduce transparency, dissolve government departments, repeal and revoke moratoriums, bans and Acts, and grant unprecedented autocratic powers to our government.

This is government overreach at its worst. This government is tabling a barrage of Bills in which it hides substantial authoritarian power grabs amidst supposedly legitimate policy changes. We need a transparent government that does not try and blindside its constituency by burying its real agenda in bureaucratic government-speak.

I am ashamed of our Provincial Government and especially our Premier for even attempting to propose these Bills in such an undemocratic way. In no way were these sweeping changes a part of the Conservative Government's election platform. This is not the Premier's mandate. This is a particularly despicable move on the part of the government, given the power grab south of our border. It is taking advantage of the distractions and uncertainty of our future as Nova Scotians and Canadians to push through these Bills into Law. We, as Nova Scotians, should not have to enter into a fight against an authoritarian government in our home Province. Canada is a democracy. Nova Scotia is part of Canada. What is happening here is undemocratic and does a disservice to us, your constituents.

I ask that you make recommendation to our Government to take these Bills off the table and re-submit them to the citizens of Nova Scotia in a democratic manner.

These are the changes being proposed without meaningful public consultation which will grant overreaching powers to the government and reduce transparency and accountability (Bills 21 and 68 are particularly overwhelming and totally lacking in transparency):

Bill 1:

- Grants authority to fire non-unionized civil servants without cause
- Will reduce transparency by enabling the government to reject freedom of information requests deemed “frivolous or vexatious”
- Will dissolve Communications Nova Scotia
- Will repeal fixed election dates
- **Important to note that this Bill also would have given the government the authority to fire the Auditor General without cause and keep the Auditor General’s reports secret (The Premier promised to change this, but it is not as yet out of the Bill)**

Bill 6:

- Will revoke the moratorium on fracking
- Will revoke the ban on uranium exploration

Bill 11:

- Amends the Health Services and Insurance Act
- Amends the Human Organ and Tissue Donation Act
- Repeals the Emergency Department Accountability Act

Bill 12:

- Gives the Provincial government more control over universities, colleges and research

Bill 21:

- Abolishes the Family Court Act
- Amends Oil and Gas Operations Act
- Amends Adult Capacity and Decision Making Act
- Amends Powers of Attorney Act
- Amends Provincial Court Act

Bill 36:

- Makes amendments to remove interprovincial trade barriers

Bill 68:

- Introduces Entertainment and Classification Act
- Makes changes to:
 - Beneficiaries Designation
 - Income Tax Act
 - Halifax-Dartmouth Bridge Commission
 - Halifax Municipality Charter
 - Financial Act
 - International Recovery of Child Support and Family Maintenance
 - Non-residence Deed Transfer Tax Act
 - Public Service Superannuation Act
 - Provides for the exclusion of Temporary Wage Subsidy retroactive to March 25, 2020

It is a disgrace for the citizens of Nova Scotia to be given this agenda at any time but especially in the current atmosphere of global instability. Do your jobs as representatives of Nova Scotians and conduct yourselves in a

manner conducive to a democratic government. Reprimand our government and make sure these Bills go out to meaningful public consultation before they are passed into Law. To do anything less is unconscionable.

Submitted by
Lisa Wolfe

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