

Bill 127 : Sept 29, 2025

Good Day-Bonjour

My name is Diane Doucet-Kenny. Thank you for allowing me to speak regarding Bill 127 - Protecting Nova Scotians Act.

I spent 25 years as a public servant specializing in communications, policy and planning and I have never witnessed the extent of government overreach and the undermining of democratic rights as I am seeing with this current government.

Frankly, I find the title of Bill 127 insulting to the intelligence of Nova Scotians. We have been witnessing wide-spread public opposition to the government's assault on the environment and attempts to scale up industrialization of Nova Scotia's forests, including old growth forests. It is clear, to me, that Bill 127 is aimed at blocking Nova Scotians' democratic right to peaceful and legal protest. What equally galls me is the heavy-handedness of the government in threatening citizens with arrest and criminal charges, huge fines and even imprisonment, for trying to protect the last vestiges of ecologically significant forests.

Nova Scotians see through the thin disguise of a title and polished speaking points and ads. I remind the Premier and his Ministers that this government's majority represents only 27% of the electorate. Truth be told, your policies and actions do not reflect the majority of voting citizens. Attempts to muzzle citizens and impede their rights to voice their opposition goes against fundamental democratic principles. Nova Scotians won't stand for it and they are becoming increasingly dissatisfied with this government's disregard for the environment, government transparency and democratic rights.

I have never been so concerned for the well-being of our province and its citizens, nor have I ever been so involved in political opposition. I am engaged for the sake of Nova Scotian families and children. My children, your children. I fear the risks to their health and well-being. Mining (uranium, gold, lithium), fracking, industrialized forestry with spraying of a known neurotoxin, hydrogen production that comes at significant costs, including massive fresh water requirements, and other issues. We are bearing the results of former industries (mining; pulp and paper) that have left town, abandoning their contaminated mess for Nova Scotians to clean up.

This government talks of safe-guards, but experts, including the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment, highlight significant environmental and public health risks. Who is willing to expose their families to such risks? Nova Scotia measures slightly more than 55,000 square kilometers. Think about it...NS is small, very small. No intrusive mining or industrial-scale operations can occur without being in someone's backyard. Who will have to bear the brunt of this intrusion? Rural communities? Farmers? Fishers? Halifax is less than 100 km away from agricultural lands.

I am not against economic development. On the contrary. We need to grow our economy and create good, lasting jobs for Nova Scotians. But we need development scaled and suited to our

geological make-up and resources. We need to ensure that investments are made for sustainable returns. We need to recognize coastal and environmental protection, notably vital eco-systems such as old growth forests and wetlands.

Visionary ideas are the currency of the future but one size does not fit all. Frankly, I am not seeing a Made in NS Vision that suits or benefits Nova Scotia and Nova Scotians. What I'm seeing are hyper scaled projects that bring in foreign investment and primarily benefit industrialists; this along with wide-spread citizen opposition. Instead of addressing the elephant in the room, the Houston government is bent on ignoring its citizens and strong-arming its way forward with projects devoid of public consultation and support. I can tell you that this Nova Scotian will not be muzzled nor bullied. I am confident that many other Nova Scotians stand with me. Thank you, merci