

Fairness, Logic and Justice

In an article in the Chronicle Herald on Oct 31, 2012 Marilla Stephenson wrote about the boundary situation. In that article one thing she said was "there is no arguing that a seat should come out of the region, if the numbers are viewed fairly.

Fairness is an interesting word, fairly to whom? Fairly to the majority of urban dwellers! Was it fair for both Federal and Provincial governments over the years to come up with policies that centralized government operations to save money for the short term? We saved some money then but we also sucked all our children out of the rural areas and made us minority populations

Now you are going to take away in Shelburne County any chance of us moving ahead economically because you are throwing away any organization our County has. Our Provincial MLA, One voice working for the whole of Shelburne County speaking for us.

Our Health Board, Education Board, Shelburne County Business Development Board to just name a few will now take years to rework and reorganize.

I run a business in Shelburne County and I sell too many customers in Barrington and the surrounding area, because for generations these people have come to the Town of Shelburne and we go to Barrington. Very precious few customers come from Liverpool to shop in Shelburne or visa versa

I could go on and on about how this will damage Shelburne County but at this point I would like to look at the big picture and I would be so bold as to try to give a solution to this far encompassing proposal called the Boundary Question.

Let's examine how we got here. Three Commissions trying to do two things. Save money and one vote for one person.

The Federal Government has just made 30 plus new ridings in Canada and have spent 100's of millions of dollars for this idea of one vote for one person. So that proves you can't save money with this concept.

This idea of one vote for one person is flawed. It doesn't take in consideration minority rights. Your Committee has a chance to correct this with fairness, logic and justice

When the US was first formed the smaller states (minorities) had protection in the set-up of their government. Look what the Federal Government has done to Nova Scotia Federally. We have let the Federal Government give us the power of 6 seats, were a joke, Nova Scotia is now a very small minority in Canada with no protection as a minority and **we are now doing it to ourselves.**

Was the Expulsion of the Acadians fair? You are doing it to them again, only leaving them in their homes this time, for now. The majority taking rights and protection from the minority. This Acadian minority has come a long way in the last 30 years. They have their language and culture back. We can be proud of our majority English Society who supported these policies all these years. This is very unique that Nova Scotia protected this minority and it flourished with class and dignity. They are a huge contributor to our Society.

Another wonderful minority that these recommendations will affect are African Nova Scotian's. Over the years the Provincial Government has tried and failed miserably to help this minority. Africville, School for Colored Children, do I need to say anymore. Even with these horrible examples of racism these people have contributed to our Society in so many ways, against all odds. Now you are going to take their voice away as well and give them less representation than they have had in the past. How do you predict this is going to work out for them and for Society? There are hidden, human and social costs to all these decisions!

There are many more examples of patch work changes suggested in these different studies with perhaps horrible results, Havre Boucher, Antigonish, Richmond to name a few. These are all worthy minorities who need consistent organizations and a voice.

The NDP Government can be proud they have had people study and consult on this subject, now you will live with the decisions you are about to make.

At the end of the day the NDP Government has an opportunity to unify our Province and make bold policies promoting, protecting and investing in minority rights and protecting these rural communities.

If it requires changing a law then show leadership and change it, which is the role of government.

There are two answers

- 1- Two new seats in Halifax is the compromise the minorities should be willing to make
- 2- The status- quo for the rest of the Province giving these minority areas the voice they need and have the right too.

These minority populations are all over Nova Scotia, Shelburne, Liverpool, Pictou, , Berwick, Springhill etc., we are all minorities. These minorities supply the food, values and many other things for the cities; it is not good for society if we all live in Cities.

We pay more taxes in rural areas. As an example if we get sick we must travel perhaps two hours, gas tax, hotel and food tax etc. Minorities pay their fair share in taxes perhaps more than our fair share for the level of services we receive.

We all saw in the US election what happened when minorities get together, it is a wonderful example of fair democracy, majorities and Political Parties beware.

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