

Starritt, Ginelle

From: Globe, Maureen D
Sent: Thursday, May 09, 2013 2:05 PM
To: Starritt, Ginelle
Subject: FW: Bill 83: an act to amend the Halifax Regional Council Charter

Importance: High

-----Original Message-----

From: Stella Lord [<mailto:lords@eastlink.ca>]
Sent: May-09-13 2:01 PM

Subject: Bill 83: an act to amend the Halifax Regional Council Charter
Importance: High

To the Legislative Standing Committee:

As a representative of the Community Coalition to End Poverty - Nova Scotia, I am writing to you with two concerns in Bill 83 : An Act to Amend the Halifax Regional Council Charter:

- 1) the lack of a definition of "affordable housing" and "low and moderate income" in clause 1 a) a) and
- 2) the lack of prior information about the development of this Bill, and of prior consultation on the Bill with those involved in the affordable housing/homelessness/low income advocacy community in HRM, in particular on clause a) (a) .

I have communicated with at least 8 organizations who could provide some input into this Bill and into this particular clause and yesterday was the first we/they heard about it.

Given the busy schedules of people involved in the low income/homelessness/affordable housing sector, it is hardly surprising that you may not have heard from them. I urge you to delay passage of this Bill until you have consulted with advocates and others most closely affected.

The definition of "affordable housing" is usually 30% of net income spent on housing, but such a definition would not include people on low income unless that is also defined according to the LICO or MBM measures of poverty. Without including such a definition, given market rents in Halifax, "affordable housing" will likely only be available to those on moderate incomes. The definition should also include supported, subsidized and public housing.

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