

From: Laura MacKenzie [REDACTED]
Sent: February 22, 2025 5:19 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Law Amendments Committee re: Bill 1

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To the committee,

I am writing to oppose clauses 1, 4, 6, and 7 of Bill 1, all of which would serve to strip the auditor general of their independence, and thereby, of their ability to perform their role for the people of Nova Scotia.

If these clauses are made law, the government will get to review every AG report before it can be published, and then decide which reports should only ever be discussed behind closed doors. The AG would no longer provide independent opinions on the government's revenue estimates in the budget, and if they ever incur the displeasure of the government, they could be fired without cause. Under these circumstances, the auditor general could not effectively hold the government to account on its stewardship of public funds. This would be an unacceptable disservice to the people of this province.

The premier has stated that these changes are meant to bring Nova Scotia in line with the way things are done in other provinces. In fact, only Manitoba and Alberta have similar provisions for firing the auditor general without cause.

Both Michael Pickup, the auditor general from 2014-2020, and Kim Adair, the current auditor general, have said these amendments would erode the independence of the office.

I urge you to reject these amendments to the law, and protect the role of the auditor general, allowing their office to continue to provide transparency and accountability to the people of this province.

Sincerely,

Laura MacKenzie
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]