

**From:** S McKim [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** March 14, 2025 4:27 PM  
**To:** Office of the Legislative Counsel  
**Subject:** Submission on Bill 1 for Public Bills Committee

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Dear Members of the Public Bills Committee,

With the bills being put forth, I fear the Nova Scotia Government is moving down a very dangerous path to autocracy.

I urge you to withdraw Bill 1 and engage in meaningful consultation with Nova Scotians and the Mi'kmaq before tabling or passing any major pieces of legislation, including Bills 1, 6, 12, and 24.

Limiting Freedom of Information requests, legislating the ability to fire non-unionized civil servants without cause, interfering with the independence and impartiality of the Auditor General's Office, repealing fixed election dates, and replacing Communications Nova Scotia with communications under partisan control were never mentioned during the election campaign and do not have public support.

This is not what Nova Scotians want and not what we expect. We deserve better.

It's your responsibility to represent our interests and concerns. And while we appreciate the government removing the clauses pertaining to the Auditor General's Office, major concerns remain, and must be addressed.

A healthy democracy requires the media to be able to do their jobs effectively, keep Nova Scotians informed, and help hold governments accountable. I strenuously object to any clauses that would unfairly limit transparency of the provincial government, including clauses 16-21 (pertaining to the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act), clauses 29-34 (pertaining to the Municipal Government Act), clause 34 (Privacy Review Officer Act), and clause 67 (Effect of Certain Amendments).

In 2019, Tim Houston said:

"Any time a government tries to hide information and avoid scrutiny, the taxpayers need to be suspicious [...] secretive government is incompatible with good government."

On that point, we agree, or at least, we did. If this government has nothing to hide, then it should be easy for members to represent your constituents and stand up for democracy by voting against Bill 1.

Sincerely,

