

From: maureen oconnell [REDACTED]
Sent: March 14, 2025 1:32 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Comments on Bill No1 to the Public Bills Committee

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Dear Members of the Public Bills Committee,

Like many Nova Scotians I am very disappointed by recent actions of the present government that will serve to dismantle necessary and hard fought democratic safeguards that have been in place for many years. Even though the Conservative Party has a super majority of the seats the government remains ours, not theirs. In fact the increase in the majority makes it ever so important that it exercises power with responsibility not the carte Blanche way demonstrated by Bill No 1.

The present government enacted legislation for a fixed date election and then revoked this promise by telling Nova Scotians it needed a mandate to deal with Prime Minister Trudeau. Now it has repealed that legislation and the omnibus bill has little in it concerning issues with Ottawa.

Nova Scotian was a bastion of democracy in Canada but this Bill acts as cannon fodder to dismantle it. This legislation diminishes or extinguishes existing powers or rights to municipalities, universities, aboriginal peoples, landowners and civil servants. It touches on many sectors and the lives of many Nova Scotians.

Issues regarding Freedom of Information, the Auditor General, mining rights, the ability to fire civil servants without cause, power to override development and transportation decisions at the municipal level, degree granting ability at NSCC and the right to prescribe what can be taught at certain universities. All without notice. None of this was done with consultation especially with the Mi'qmaq Nation. And none of these issues were on the Conservative Party election platform so your mandate to act on this Bill is ethically questionable.

You now are using Trump instead of Trudeau to distract Nova Scotians from these outrageous power grabs. You are asking Nova Scotians to take "no" out of Nova Scotia. I'm hoping others like myself will say "no" to this Bill. Like many others I foresee the "oust" in hOUSTon.

Sincerely,

Maureen O'Connell



Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 26, 2025, at 5:02 PM, MLA Brendan Maguire <Brendan@brendanmaguire.ca> wrote:



Happy New Year!

I hope you had a wonderful start to 2025. It is an honour to continue serving as your MLA for Halifax Atlantic, and I am grateful for the trust you have placed in me.

Reflecting on 2024, our community faced challenges but also celebrated many successes. Through it all, Halifax Atlantic remains one of the best places to live and raise a family.

As we step into 2025, I look forward to the opportunities ahead and all that we can accomplish together. Wishing you a year filled with hope, success, and new possibilities!

Brendan Maguire
MLA for Halifax Atlantic



I would like to take a moment to recognize the loss of a pillar of our Spryfield community. Khurshid Khan, the owner of Khan's Takeout and Catering in Spryfield, passed away suddenly on January 1, 2025.

Mr. Khan was a man of integrity, honesty, and kindness. He loved his community and the people who visited his store. Since arriving in Halifax in 1984, he was passionate about ensuring that halal food was accessible to all Muslims in Nova Scotia. He often went above and beyond to ensure that everyone could access the products they needed.

Please join me in extending our heartfelt condolences to Mr. Khan's family, friends, and the wider community as they grieve this immense loss. When we lose individuals who bring such joy and light to our community, it is truly a loss for all of Spryfield.



Home Heating Help

As we move through the winter months, I want to share an important resource for those in need of heating assistance. The Salvation Army HEAT Fund is accepting applications for the 2025 season.

As of January 15th, eligible families could apply for up to \$400 in support, depending on their needs. This program provides vital assistance to households struggling with heating costs during the colder months.

[Apply online](#)

Mental Health Services

Nova Scotians with mood and anxiety disorders will have more access to mental healthcare at no cost in the coming months.

The government is building the province's first publicly funded insured services program for mental health and addictions. The first phase will boost access to non-urgent mental healthcare by publicly funding private-sector professionals.

[Learn more](#)



Chess Club

A new Chess Club is starting at Captain William Spry Library on Wednesdays from 6-8 p.m. Everyone is welcome to join, play, and have fun!

[Learn more](#)



Shrove Tuesday

Join the Sambro Area Community Association for their Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on March 4th at St James United Church.

[Learn more](#)



Festival of Colours

I am happy to be a supporter for the next Festival of Colours event being hosted by the Spryfield Area Multicultural Society happening in May.

[Learn more](#)



I would like to welcome Melissa Gidman to my office. Melissa officially took on the position of Constituency Assistant at the first of this year. I am pleased that she has agreed to fill this position.

Melissa will be stepping into the shoes of my previous CA in a full-time capacity. With her previous experience, compassion and empathy she will be a great fit in my office. She is always willing to listen and to find solutions to the issues my constituents are facing.

I am excited to have Melissa work with us in Halifax Atlantic and I know that she will be a huge asset to my office and to the community. Welcome aboard Melissa!



Happy New Year!



Thanks to the folks at St. James in Sambro for the sandwichwes and treats.

We had a great time at the 51st annual Spryfield Santa Claus Parade.



Shortly after the election, I sat down with Mayor Fillmore to talk about issues that we face locally and HRM wide: housing, traffic, homelessness, cost of living, parks and playgrounds.

Everything from A to Z. We have work to do and I am up for the challenge. Lets GO!



- Community Pharmacy Primary Care Clinics
- VirtualCareNS
- Need a Family Practice Registry
- Captain William Spry Community Centre
- Captain William Spry Public Library



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