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Sent: March 16, 2025 8:18 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Public Bills Committee Monday March 17

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Hello,

I'd like to submit my concerns regarding the Omnibus bill the Conservatives are attempting to introduce, which seems to only be aimed at passing legislation without consulting with the public, controlling the access to information we have as a population and removing any bipartisan barriers to their power.

Tim Houston proposed the ability to fire the Auditor General 'for reasons other than cause' and has removed the bipartisan Communications Nova Scotia department, limiting the information available to the people of Nova Scotia. The Auditor General's position is bipartisan one and very important to fair governance and as such should never be subjected to the types of constraints Houston's government is trying to implement.

Diminishing Nova Scotians' rights under the Freedom of Privacy and Information Act by giving the province the power to restrict applicants 'from requesting records without sufficient particulars' and to 'disregard frivolous or vexatious requests for access to records' - without qualifying what is considered frivolous or vexatious (nice word by the way - I find a government taking their majority mandate as a chance to consolidate power quite vexatious to me personally and our democracy but I digress...)

Interfering with the boards of universities and forcing new regulations without consulting the Council of Nova Scotia University Presidents is another overstep of power - while there are certainly measures that should be in place to ensure universities are meeting student needs, etc. the government should not be inserting themselves into the governance or the withholding of funds if universities don't comply as the government wishes. Particularly without any consultation. See a theme developing here?

And then the mother of all non-consultations - removing the bans on uranium mining and fracking. Somehow this government seems to think the only way to fight Trump's tariffs is to act exactly like him and reverse all environmental policies aimed at protecting the population. A fracking moratorium exists because of over a decade of public input from local communities, environmental experts and indigenous groups. The lifted bans would increase the environmental risks to the communities who will be disproportionately impacted by the dangers of fracking. The toxic fluids used in fracking can remain trapped underground, with a high chance of contaminating groundwater supplies with carcinogens, radioactive materials and heavy metals. Nearly half of Nova Scotians (over 440,000 people) rely on wells for their drinking water, increasing their risk of fracking-induced health risks, such as burns, rashes, cancer and congenital defects. **The science on this isn't new - it needs to be respected.** Economists

don't even agree on the fracking industry being a stable or profitable one, so if it doesn't make environmental or economic sense - why is it being forced on Nova Scotians? The government's willingness to promote Nova Scotia and our booming tourism industry as a beautiful, wild, environmental destination while simultaneously removing the very protections that provide us that beautiful environment is ironic, sadly (and not as good as the song).

I didn't vote for this government, but I do expect them to live up to their campaign promises - I don't see anything in these bills that actually helps Nova Scotians and a lot that helps the current government.

It doesn't matter if you cover your policies in a Canadian Flag, in the name of standing up to tariffs - we can see where the ideas for these types of governmental overreach come from. Timmy Trump isn't a good look for Nova Scotia and it's getting tired already.

Laura