

Hon. Jill Balser
Office of the Minister for Service Nova Scotia
1505 Barrington Street
Maritime Centre, 7th Floor
Halifax, NS, B3J 2L7

September 10, 2025

Dear Minister Balser,

After two weeks of residents of The Scotian apartment building being left without power, and significant public outcry, your government has finally agreed to fast-track residents' complaints. Considering many of these renters have spent hundreds of dollars on top of their rent, it's frustrating to many of them that you have still not offered direct support.

We have heard from many of these tenants that they are on fixed-term leases and are afraid they will lose their homes if they speak out. This situation is unacceptable for the tenants of this building and shows how vulnerable renters are right across the province. Renters at The Scotian have gone weeks with poor communication and little support from their landlord, all while not receiving essential services despite paying their rent in full. Now residents have been told they have to move out for an extended period, escalating the disruption.

This issue is bigger than any one building; renters across Nova Scotia live with the constant stress that they could be in the same situation. Your government's failure to protect renters has created an environment where tenants are forced to pay sky-high rent with little recourse against abuses.

Your government must ensure that no other tenants find themselves in this situation, paying full rent and being denied essential services for weeks, again. You can start by closing the fixed-term lease loophole, so that renters aren't afraid to speak out when landlords fail them. There must be better enforcement of the Residential Tenancies Act so that corporate landlords act quickly to resolve issues and look out for their tenants. These changes are possible today and would make a major difference to all renters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads "Lachance".

Lisa Lachance,
MLA, Halifax Citadel-Sable Island