



Premier of Nova Scotia  
One Government Place  
1713 Barrington Street  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 1X5

April 29, 2026

Dear Premier Houston,

Nova Scotians have been clear that a primary concern for most families is affordability. Power rates remain a primary driver of household expenses, and Nova Scotians expected action on this when you became the Minister of Energy. But after 6 months in the role, people across this province are continuing to see their power bills go up. Soon, with Nova Scotia Power's approved 7% rate increase, Nova Scotians will be paying \$570 more per year than they were in 2021.

The problem of rising power bills is solvable. The Energy Poverty Task Force delivered a [report](#) to your government nearly two years ago with a made-in-Nova-Scotia solution to keep power bills affordable. Yet at a recent all-party committee meeting, your Department of Energy said a decision still has not been made on whether to put this plan into action to help Nova Scotians.

Yesterday, we heard from Brian Gifford, who chairs the Affordable Energy Coalition and led the Task Force, at the Natural Resources and Economic Development Committee. He shared a clear but concerning timeline of how your government has handled this report. When the report was given to your government in May 2024, Mr. Gifford believed you would take the recommended solution seriously and act on it. He stayed hopeful after the November 2024 election, especially when the Minister of Energy at the time met with him and showed interest in the report's recommendation. But since you became Minister of Energy, he has not heard anything and is now questioning if your government is still committed to lowering power bills for Nova Scotians.

The people of this province deserve a Minister of Energy who makes affordability their top priority. We urge you to review the report and to meet with Brian Gifford and the other Task Force members as soon as possible to start the work of putting their solution into action.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Claudia Chender'.

Claudia Chender  
Leader, Nova Scotia New Democrats  
MLA, Dartmouth South

## NOVA SCOTIA NDP CAUCUS

5151 George Street Suite 1401 | Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 1M5

**P**: (902) 424 4134 | 1 888 247 0448. | **E**: [ndpcaucus@novascotia.ca](mailto:ndpcaucus@novascotia.ca)