



Hon. Tim Houston
Office of the Premier
7th Floor, One Government Place
1700 Granville Street
Halifax, NS, B3J 1X5

November 24, 2025

Dear Premier Houston,

Congratulations on your decision to become the Minister of Energy. It is a crucial role responsible for ensuring the delivery of reliable, affordable and sustainable power for Nova Scotians. There are many necessary steps you can take to help people afford their bills, reform the practices of Nova Scotia Power and restore public trust in the utility. This work is crucial since Nova Scotians have to deal with Nova Scotia Power – there are no other options available to them.

Recently, Nova Scotians have seen the price of heat and power soar, their privacy and personal financial information has been irreparably compromised, and now many customers are receiving incorrect bills overcharging them by hundreds of dollars from their actual usage, some being sent to collections.

Since your government has been elected, the average Nova Scotian is paying \$400 more per year for their power bills and rates continue to increase. According to the Stats Can CPI data released just last week, electricity costs in Nova Scotia have increased by 4.2% over the past year – that's more than twice the rate of the national average.

Five years into your mandate, Nova Scotians are still waiting on action to lower bills and protect their personal information.

People are worried about their costs as winter approaches and another rate hike is on the way. Yet, during the last legislative session, you refused to put in place a 10% rebate to give everyone a break on their bill. Your government also made the unconscionable decision to kick 46,000 people off the Home Heating Rebate Program and cut hundreds of dollars from those who remained eligible. You continue to refuse to establish a fairer rate for Nova Scotians who need it. Further, it appears that the legislated provision guaranteeing an ongoing HST rebate for Nova Scotia Power customers has been repealed, leaving the future of that one cost-saving measure in jeopardy.

NOVA SCOTIA NDP

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As the Energy Minister you need to address this worsening situation with the urgency it requires. You can reverse the cuts you made to the home heating program, deliver the 10% rebate we proposed and actually reform privacy regulations so that no other Nova Scotian has sensitive information like Social Insurance Numbers stored and stolen without so much as an explanation.

In order to restore public trust and accountability, we're also calling on you to launch a full ownership and regulatory review of Nova Scotia Power. As the minister responsible and the premier, you can start this process to get answers for Nova Scotians who are spending more money on their energy costs than the average Canadian with fewer protections. This review can also inform how your government needs to regulate the utility moving forward so people can count on their information being protected and their rate coming down.

Nova Scotians need leadership on this issue. As the Minister responsible, you must do more than express disappointment in Nova Scotia Power. Your government must act to deliver lower bills, privacy protection and accountability.

Sincerely,

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

Claudia Chender
Leader of the Official Opposition
MLA, Dartmouth South