



Naturally Yours

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2026-04-22

The Honourable Tim Houston
Premier of Nova Scotia
P.O. Box 726
Halifax, NS
B3J 2T3

Email: premier@novascotia.ca

Re: Request for Five-Year Freeze on Power Rates and Exploration of Public Ownership of Nova Scotia Power

Dear Premier Houston,

On behalf of the Municipality of the District of Shelburne, I am writing to express our concerns regarding residential power rates in Nova Scotia and their growing impact on our residents and communities.

The Municipality wishes to formally express our support for the correspondence submitted by the County of Antigonish regarding this matter. We share the concerns outlined in their letter and echo the importance of advocating on behalf of rural Nova Scotians who are increasingly burdened by rising electricity costs.

While we recognize that the Nova Scotia Energy Board has approved Nova Scotia Power's recent General Rate Application for 2026–2027, we believe it remains critically important to voice our concerns. Within the Municipality, many households—particularly seniors, fixed-income residents, and working families—are experiencing significant financial strain. The cumulative effect of rising energy costs, combined with broader affordability pressures, is becoming increasingly unsustainable.

We are particularly concerned that residential customers continue to see higher percentage increases than some other customer classes. This raises important questions about fairness and equity, as households may be bearing a disproportionate share of the operating and capital costs of Nova Scotia Power.

Additionally, events such as the recent cybersecurity incident at Nova Scotia Power and subsequent billing disruptions have further eroded public confidence. Residents in our municipality continue to express frustration—not only with costs, but with reliability, transparency, and trust in the system.

In light of these concerns, and consistent with the requests put forward by the County of Antigonish, we respectfully ask that you advocate for the following on behalf of Nova Scotians:

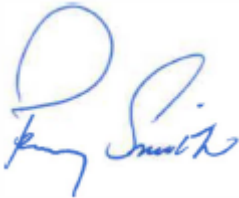
Consideration of a five-year freeze on residential power rates to help protect residents from further financial strain;

A thorough exploration of returning Nova Scotia Power to public ownership, ensuring that the interests of residents are prioritized over corporate profits.

We recognize that operating and capital costs have risen due to inflation, tariffs, and other factors. However, we strongly urge decision-makers to explore ways to more fairly distribute these costs across customer classes so that residential ratepayers are not disproportionately affected.

Our municipality, like many rural communities, relies on affordable, reliable, and equitable energy. It is essential that both government and regulatory bodies take meaningful steps to restore balance, protect residents, and rebuild public confidence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Penny Smith". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Warden Penny Smith

cc:

Nova Scotia Energy Board

Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM)

All Municipal Units in Nova Scotia

Hon. Nolan Young, MLA - Shelburne