



OFFICE OF THE PREMIER

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To whom it may concern:

Two days ago I laid out the case why it is important that the province focus on the things that are within its control in terms of growing our economy. When I released my memo, I knew special interest groups would mobilize and try to stop our efforts.

That's why I called out special interests explicitly. They are used to having control and do not want to lose control. But we cannot allow that to happen.

Things that are within our control include interprovincial trade barriers and some responsible and sustainable resource development.

Many in the media will echo the false statements made by special interest groups because it makes for stories that generate clicks and capture attention. We cannot let these false narratives take hold and we owe it to each other to have serious conversations about important issues.

I met with fisheries representatives yesterday and the minister will have more meetings in the very near future. My message to you is: please don't let these groups stoke fear and promote false narratives.

I said that the focus would be on things in our control. The George's Bank moratorium is a joint federal and provincial file that is not completely within our control.

Plus, I said we cannot be content to simply ban development. In George's Bank, economic activity is allowed. It sustains many fisheries operations and creates many jobs for Nova Scotians. George's Bank is already being utilized for our important fishery sector. That is its best use.

George's Bank best serves our fisheries sector and, despite what the special interests say, I have no interest in changing that. I have zero interest in putting our fisheries sector and the livelihoods of those who depend on it at risk.

You can rest easy. This is not about Georges Bank. This narrative grew because special interests aligned to promote falsehoods. We will respect the moratorium because we want to protect our traditional industries while growing new ones.

Fishing, farming, and forestry are the sectors that built our province. We want these traditional industries to keep growing and our goal is to protect them.

My call to action is about the many new-to-Nova Scotia industries like hydrogen, wind and critical minerals that can be done safely. And will have a massively positive- impact on our Province.

That's where the discussion lies.

The potential to grow our resource economy and create a more sustainable Nova Scotia is real but will require a new mindset. We must take the “no” out of Nova Scotia. Special interests have captured too many parts of our economy and have had an out-sized voice in policy creation. They aren’t happy this is about to end.

They will try to frighten Nova Scotians to achieve their goals.

If you ever want to know what I am thinking, just ask. You will get a more accurate answer than you will ever read in the media.

Right now, we must pull together so we can create countless opportunities for our fellow Nova Scotians.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tim Houston". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Honourable Tim Houston
Premier of Nova Scotia