



**Finance and Treasury Board  
Office of the Minister**

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REF: PNS-29938-V8Y4V9

February 14, 2023

Lindsay (Eddie) Nickerson  
Warden  
The Municipality of Barrington

Dear Warden Nickerson:

**RE: Inflation concerns**

Thank you for your letter to Premier Houston dated May 30, 2022 regarding inflation concerns. As Minister of Finance and Treasury Board, the Premier has asked that I respond on his behalf.

Our government shares your concerns about the impact of inflation on Nova Scotians. While this challenge is not unique to our province, our government has been responding with short- and long-term solutions to help Nova Scotians make ends meet.

Some of our actions include reducing childcare fees for families, providing more money to support vulnerable people and communities, increasing the child benefit, topping up the seniors' care grant, providing more support to post-secondary students, supporting more affordable housing projects, and providing more than \$65 million in financial support after Hurricane Fiona.

Specific to the cost of home energy, while heating oil prices are determined by market factors outside our control, we have been acting to help offset these increased costs for families. Our government recently expanded the Heating Assistance Rebate Program (HARP) significantly, from \$200 to \$1,000, to help eligible Nova Scotians with their heating costs this winter. The new Home Warming Program will also support Nova Scotians with their heating costs by transitioning them away from oil heating by providing a free heat pump and other home efficiency upgrades to qualifying households. These programs complement the existing Your Energy Rebate Program and the additional programs that are administered by Efficiency Nova Scotia.

Thank you for taking the time to write to me. Unfortunately, inflation is a global issue that Nova Scotia cannot solve alone. We continue to watch the economy closely and share our concerns about inflation and the impacts of the federal carbon tax with the federal government. The province will continue to work to find solutions to our challenges, including this current period of inflation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Allan MacMaster".

Allan MacMaster  
Minister of Finance and Treasury Board

- c. Honourable Tim Houston, Premier  
Honourable John Lohr, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing