

Min_LAE@novascotia.ca

November 4, 2021

Honourable Jill Balsler
Minister of Labour, Skills and Immigration

Dear Minister Balsler:

Re: Island Employment

The decision to close Island Employment without a thorough investigation into concerns outlined by the Ombudsman's report is problematic for two reasons: first, it means that those who are truly responsible for any wrongdoing cannot be held accountable, and second, thirty workers are losing their jobs through no fault of their own. While you have said they can apply for jobs with the new service provider, these jobs do not exist at the moment. The temporary positions posted at the YMCA are lower paid, have lesser benefits, and some have new qualifications that make the current workers ineligible to apply.

Minister, these members have seen what happened first-hand. Some of them brought the concerns forward originally, and now they are being punished while the board, management and those responsible for government oversight are being let off the hook.

Something happened at Island Employment that caused the department to go well beyond the recommendations put forward by the Office of the Ombudsman. I am requesting a meeting with you and your senior staff as soon as possible to discuss the future of those working at Island Employment.

I look forward to your prompt reply.

Yours truly,



Jason MacLean
President

JML/lb

- c. Premier Tim Houston - premier@novascotia.ca
Alan MacMaster, Minister of Labour Relations - mlamacmaster@bellaliant.com
Iain Rankin, NS Liberal Leader - info@iainrankin.ca
Gary Burrill, NS NDP Leader - garyburrillmla@gmail.com
Trevor Boudreau - info@nspccaucus.ca
Brian Comer - Brian.Comer@novascotia.ca
Kendra Coombes - kendracoombesmla@gmail.com
Derek Mombourquette - info@mombourquette.ca
Fred Tilley - mla@northsidewestmount.ca
John White - info@nspccaucus.ca