



Gearing Up For A Busy Fall

Its been a few months since my last e-mail newsletter. You'll notice the format has been updated so it should display better in the most common e-mail programs. You will find the list of upcoming events at the end of this issue. Please send me any events you'd like included.

At the same time, my website has been updated with a new format. I encourage you to check it out and let me know what other improvements or additions would be useful to you.

The most significant change is the addition of a regular blog which you can read more about below.

The summer has been a busy one. I was appointed the Deputy House Leader for the Liberal Caucus and as part of my critic duties I attended meetings across the province from Yarmouth, to North Sydney, to Amherst.

People are frustrated by the current government and, listening to your feedback, I and the other members of the Liberal Caucus will be bringing your ideas to the floor of the legislature this fall.

October 2010



Andrew with Order of Canada recipient Mel Boutilier at a celebration in Mel's honour.



New Blog For The Fall

During the spring session of the legislature I wrote an almost daily blog of what was going on in the House of Assembly. Following that session many of you encouraged me to begin a regular blog throughout the year. As a result I have launched a new blog which I will contribute to periodically. You can read it on my website at www.blog.andrewyounger.ca or can sign up there to receive posts automatically by e-mail.

[Read More](#)

Being Hurt By Increased Taxes & No Strategy For Competitiveness



On July 1, 2010 the NDP government raised the HST to 15% from the previous 13% making it the highest harmonized tax, and the second highest total sales tax, in all of Canada. Dartmouth East is home to many small businesses and anecdotally I'd been hearing about the negative impact of this increase all summer. Recently Statistics Canada released data showing that in July (immediately following the tax hike), Nova Scotia had the largest drop in retail sales in all of Canada—a 5.3% drop.

In Amherst where people expected the NDP to help solve the price differential between New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, they instead saw government make it worse by raising sales taxes.

Federally, the Conservative government is planning to raise payroll deductions on January 1st which will increase the amount you contribute for things like EI premiums. As the cost of goods increases due to all manner of reasons, people are rapidly finding their spending power is decreasing.

The Liberal Caucus advocates for an overall review of taxation and fees in Nova Scotia. Dealing with taxes and fees individually is a recipe for economic disaster, and we're seeing that already as Nova Scotia rapidly becomes less competitive.

Utility & Review Board Hearings On Gas Distribution & Power Rates

In the next few weeks I will be participating in two Utility & Review Board Hearings on your behalf as an official intervener.

The first, which occurs on October 5th, will review whether Heritage Gas has been adequately offering service to residential customers in terms of its license agreement. I've heard from many of you with concerns that availability of gas has not been as promised. I have already submitted preliminary questions as part of the review process and will be questioning Heritage Gas executives at the public hearing.

A second public hearing will begin a few weeks later and concerns a request by Nova Scotia Power to raise power rates as a result of what is called a Fuel Adjustment mechanism. Nova Scotia Power proposes significant increases in rates to cover losses in previous years as well as projections of higher costs in the future. These costs are on top of the new Demand Side Management fee which the NDP added to power bills earlier this year.

Rest assured I take your concerns over poor service and increasing rates seriously and am a participant in these hearings to ensure you receive the answers you deserve. The Liberal Caucus cares about energy and electricity issues and is the only caucus with official intervener status in these two hearings.

Community Development Fund Accepting Applications

The Dartmouth Community Health Board's "Community Development Fund" exists to support non-profit groups with projects and resources that strengthen the community.

The board is currently calling for applications for activities which address a specific health issue, support community partnerships, and share knowledge with the community.

The next deadline for funding applications is October 29, 2010.

For more information please visit their website at <http://www.cdha.nshealth.ca/communityHealth/Dartmouth>

Other similar funds include the Nova Scotia Health Promotion "Wellness Fund", Active Halifax, and the Nova Scotia Gaming Foundation.



Community Development Fund



Nova Scotia Power Committee Seeks Volunteers From Woodlawn Area

Nova Scotia Power is forming a Public Advisory Committee to look at options to increase electrical supply to the East Dartmouth, Cole Harbour, and Eastern Passage areas. Nova Scotia Power indicates the current electrical system is at capacity and new infrastructure will be required to meet growing electrical needs.

The committee is expected to begin meeting in October. To find out more, or to apply to be on the committee, please visit the Nova Scotia Power website:

<http://www.nspower.ca/harboureast>

Upcoming Events & Meetings In The Community

Dartmouth Kinsmen Community Pancake Breakfast (Charity Fundraiser)

East Dartmouth Community Centre
4th Sunday of each month—9:30am until 1:00pm
\$6 adults & \$4 children

260th Anniversary Celebration of the Historic Farmer's Market

Halifax Brewery Market
Saturday, October 2nd — Celebration at 10am

Public Meeting On Review Of Heritage Property Act

Holiday Inn Harbourview, Alderney & Sullivan Ballrooms
Monday, October 4th — 7:00pm to 10:00pm

Nocturne: Art at Night 2010

Throughout Downtown Halifax
Saturday October 16th — 6:00pm to Midnight

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Questions or comments? E-mail us at info@andrewyounger.ca or call 902.406.4420

