

Letter Template to Premier Tim Houston

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TO	Premier Tim Houston
EMAIL	premier@novascotia.ca
SUBJECT	Accountability and Gender-Based Violence in Nova Scotia

Dear Premier Houston,

I am writing to express my concern about the misogynistic and harmful material created and released by Energy Minister Marco MacLeod, and to ask your government to demonstrate meaningful accountability in its response.

Nova Scotia has publicly committed to preventing gender-based violence and teaching young people how to recognize and respond to the attitudes, behaviours, and social conditions that contribute to it. In 2025, the Grade 9 Healthy Living curriculum was revised to include gender-based violence prevention and bystander intervention. Students are asked to:

"Analyse the ways that societal conditions, norms, and behaviours can contribute to gender-based violence"

and

"Investigate ways to counter behaviours that contribute to gender-based violence."

The curriculum further teaches that responding involves "noticing, interpreting, taking responsibility, knowing how to act, and acting."

These are important lessons for our young people. They are also principles that should be modelled by the adults entrusted with leading our province.

I reject attempts to minimize misogynistic behaviour by pointing to Minister MacLeod's age when the material was created. Being younger does not make misogyny harmless. People can grow and change, but meaningful change requires acknowledgement, responsibility, and action.

Gender-based violence does not begin with physical violence. It exists within a broader culture of attitudes, language, narratives, and social norms that normalize misogyny and the degradation and dehumanization of women. Challenging gender-based violence means challenging the conditions that enable it, not excusing or minimizing them when doing so becomes uncomfortable.

Nova Scotia knows the consequences of gender-based violence all too well. The recommendations of the Mass Casualty Commission called upon governments, institutions, and communities to take meaningful action to prevent gender-based violence and address the conditions that allow it to persist. Our government's commitments arising from those recommendations must extend beyond curriculum documents and classrooms.

Premier Houston, I am asking you and your government to demonstrate through your actions that these commitments apply equally when accountability is required within your own leadership.

Please provide a clear public response addressing this material, what accountability will follow, and how your government's response is consistent with its commitments to gender-based violence prevention and bystander intervention.

If we expect young Nova Scotians to recognize harmful norms, take responsibility, and act, we should expect no less from the people entrusted with leading them.

I would appreciate a written response outlining what action you intend to take.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Community/Constituency, optional]

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