

Dear Premier McNeil.

WE ARE VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ABUSE.

We are the people who were molested and degraded and exposed to traumatic experiences from which we can never fully recover. We are the people who had to stand by silently as the wheels of justice ground slowly, fitfully onward and eventually crushed not the perpetrator of these actions, but the very victims who looked to the court system to provide justice.

The prosecution of our abuser was so botched that he was allowed to walk free. This province's own report to the Attorney General of Nova Scotia confirmed this.

Going forward, your government ought to be commended for finally amending the Limitations to Actions such that there is no time limit on when victims of sexual abuse can sue their perpetrators.

However, the amendment is terribly flawed in that it only applies to victims of sexual abuse if the abuse occurred **after** the date the act becomes law.

THIS IS TERRIBLY WRONG.

Your Justice Minister, Lena Metlege Diab, in an attempt to explain why she would not amend the law to apply to all victims of sexual abuse stated:

"To retroactively change the balance of different people's rights, this is not something that's been done in Canada. We have to ensure that not only does (legislation) balance the different rights of different individuals in the province, but that it's also one that will likely withstand charter challenge."

Her statement is blatantly false and she knows it. **Newfoundland and Labrador, Saskatchewan, British Columbia and Ontario have all amended their laws so that there are no time limits.**

The Supreme Court of Canada has already definitively ruled limitation periods can be changed retroactively. In fact the Supreme Court of Canada specifically stated that: "Retroactive statutes are in fact common."

Does it make any sense to you, Mr. Premier, that if we were abused in Newfoundland and Labrador or Saskatchewan or British Columbia or Ontario, we could sue our abuser, but as we were abused in Nova Scotia, we cannot?

Your failure to properly amend this Act only serves to protect historical sexual predators.

Please amend this Act like the other provinces listed above so that all victims of sexual abuse can sue their perpetrators at any time - past, present or future.

And if you refuse to do so, please tell us, and countless other victims of past sexual abuse, why this government seems intent to protect sexual predators?

**Bob Martin, Dale Sutherland, Alvin MacInnis,
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