

April 16th, 2019

While the Halifax Chamber of Commerce was supportive of representation for Acadian and African Nova Scotians, we believed it would have been in the best interest to do so within the current number of MLA's and were surprised by the commission's report. Additional MLA's mean additional costs. The final report does not mention how much each new MLA would cost, nor how the province would pay for these positions. We recommend this information be made public before the recommendation comes before the legislature this fall.

We tested the question of what the electoral boundary commission should recommend for seats in the legislature at our luncheon for the Premier. Of 399 respondents, 35% felt the seats should remain the same and 48% believed there should be less MLA's.

We are also concerned that even with the additional representation of Preston and Bedford for HRM, Halifax is still left underrepresented and will be even more so when the commission meets again in ten years.

We still believe the suggestion provided by the Commission is not forward-looking, but rather looking to the past for today's answers. In an increasingly urban world, Nova Scotia is increasing rural seats at what cost?

Sincerely,

Patrick Sullivan

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Sullivan', written in a cursive style.

President & CEO, Halifax Chamber of Commerce