

Hon.
Kelly Regan

MLA, Bedford



FEBRUARY 2015 UPDATE

Dear Constituents –

In 2013, we committed to balancing Nova Scotia's budget before the next election (expected in 2017).

This will not be an easy task.

Our budget for this past year included a deficit of nearly \$300 million. Every year, our province has been adding to the debt our children and grandchildren will have to pay. Simply put, the situation is untenable. We wouldn't run our homes like this; we cannot run our government like this.

To return us to a balanced budget over the next three years, every minister is tasked with scrutinizing her/his department to ensure programs are meeting the needs of Nova Scotians within our fiscal framework.

And where those programs are not doing what we need them to do, we must have the courage to change them.

We need to reform our finances to we can make strategic, targeted investments - investments that will help us to capitalize on the economic opportunities coming our way. That way, we can grow the economy, create more jobs, and foster greater prosperity for all.

I want to thank you for reading this newsletter, for thinking about our province's future, and for sharing your thoughts with me. Even on the tough days, when we have to make difficult decisions, I am grateful for this opportunity to serve our community.

Sincerely,

Kelly Regan, MLA
Bedford



“As we explored the current economic and population trends we became more and more alarmed. The evidence is convincing that Nova Scotia hovers now on the brink of an extended period of decline. Two interdependent factors – an aging and shrinking population and very low rates of economic growth—mean that our economy today is barely able to support our current standards of living and public services, and will be much less so going forward unless we can reverse current trends.”

[Now or Never: An Urgent Call to Action for Nova Scotians](#) (The Report of the Nova Scotia Commission on Building our New Economy)



“Nova Scotians can get to work building a sustainable economic future, make government work better, and putting our collective financial house in order now, or... For our children, and the future of this province, there can be no “or”. It must be now.”

[Charting a Path for Growth: Nova Scotia Tax and Regulatory Review](#)

Safety Signs

Thanks go out to Councillor Tim Outhit (who partnered on the cost) and the many residents who ordered our “Please Slow Down” lawn signs. The idea came from a campaign in the Ridgevale Subdivision that ran about a decade ago, when Kelly and Tim were on the neighbourhood association. The original order of 100 signs has been distributed, but the constituency office is taking orders for the spring.

If you'd like a free lawn sign, just email office@kellyregan.ca to request.

Just a reminder – the municipality wants us to keep them on private property.

And thanks for slowing down!



DID YOU KNOW?

Halifax-Fairview MLA Patricia Arab (right) is a former Legislative Page.

Page Program

Are you a university student or recent graduate with an interest in the legislative system and the democratic process?

If so, you might want to consider applying to be a page at the Nova Scotia Legislature.

For more information on this paid part-time position, check out: <http://bit.ly/nspageprogram>

The deadline for applications is the last Friday in February.

Heating Assistance Rebate Program

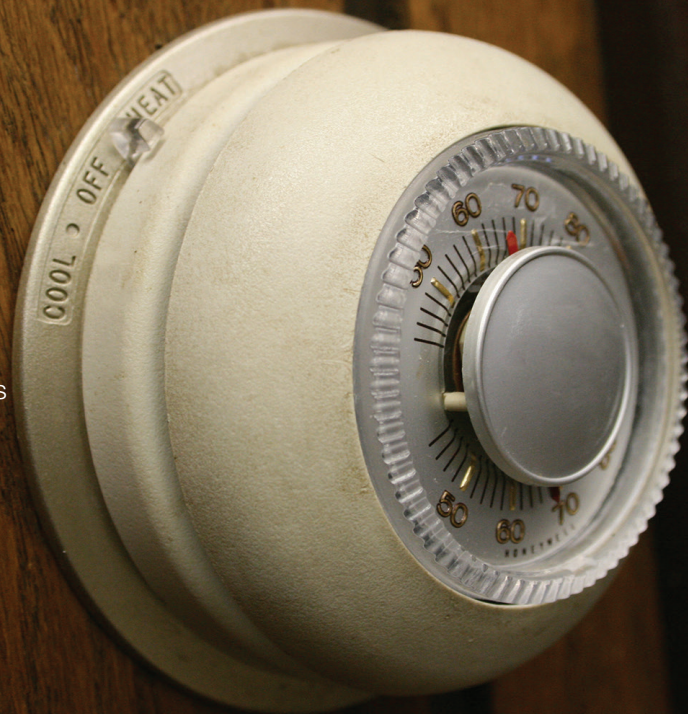
The Heating Assistance Rebate Program (HARP) provides help to lower-income Nova Scotians with the cost of home heating.

You qualify for this program if you pay a heating bill at your current address and meet ONE of the following criteria:

- live alone with an income of \$27,000 or less
- live with others and have a combined income of \$42,000 or less
- receive Income Assistance from the Department of Community Services
- receive the Guaranteed Income Supplement from Service Canada

Your application must be mailed by March 31, 2015.

Need more information? You can find it online at <http://bit.ly/heatingassistance> or by calling Kelly's office at 902-407-3777.



Graduate to Opportunity

Graduate to Opportunity provides an incentive to employers to hire new graduates on a full-time basis. Employers can receive 25% of salary costs back in the first year, and 12.5% in the second year

This new incentive is available to businesses with fewer than 100 employees, startup companies, social enterprises, not-for-profits and registered charities.

For more info, visit www.novascotia.ca/econ/gto



Kelly launched the "Winning Bigger Deals" program in December at the NSCC Leeds Street Campus.

Winning Bigger Deals

Nova Scotian businesses now have access to training to take advantage of major projects.

Staff from businesses can take a customized workplace education program where they will build skills and knowledge needed to land contracts in major projects, including shipbuilding, the Maritime Link and offshore oil exploration.

Topics include pricing for profit, budgeting and financial management, as well as sales and negotiation training.

For more info, please call Workplace Education Initiatives at 1-866-562-0100.

Commuter Rail Open House



Sunnyside Mall (near Shopper's Drug Mart)
Thursday, February 26
5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

If you're interested in seeing commuter rail in our community, please come out to hear more about Halifax's Commuter Rail technical study now under way.



Ivany Place Programs

Ivany Place offers support for people with dementia and their families. The Dementia Day Program gives caregivers a day of respite, while participants enjoy safe and supportive programming. A full day costs \$26.00, which includes a snack and lunch (there are half-day programs as well).

For more info, call 902-454-9706.



Lions of the Sea

Kelly and Halifax West MP Geoff Regan, here with Saroj Sharma and Om Sharma, visited the Sikh Heritage Museum's exhibition "Lions of the Sea" in September. The exhibit tells the story of Canada's refusal to accept the 376 Sikh passengers of the Komagata Maru after it docked in 1914 in Vancouver.

Community Honours

Each session in the Legislature, MLAs recognize significant events and achievements in the lives of their constituents. In September, Kelly presented over 40 residents with the resolutions honouring them. Below are a few of your amazing neighbours:



Bedford Lions Club has taken on major projects in our community, including the Lions Pool and playground, the Bedford Leisure Club, and the Bedford Lawn Bowling Club. The Lions have made major donations to the Bedford Lions Sandy Lake Park, the Cobequid Community Health Centre, the Bedford Youth Centre, the Diabetes Foundation, and CPA High School scholarships, and they sponsor the local Air Cadets as well. Kelly is shown here with Bedford Lions President Gordon MacMillan.



Kelly recognized Angela Scott for her dedication to our community – she's been volunteering for many years with the Girl Guides as a Pathfinder Guider, an FLL Lego Robotics Coach, and as editor of Coastlines, the Nova Scotia Council Newsletter.



Adam Lancia was honoured for his accomplishments as a wheelchair basketball athlete - he's won world championship and Paralympic medals. Adam also has been selected as part of the RBC Olympians Program for 2013-2015 as an ambassador who will bring the Olympic messages of excellence, teamwork, leadership and commitment to our community.



REDspace has completed exceptional work in the emerging field of interactive digital-media technology. The company (which bills itself as "pioneers of digital awesomeness") created an interactive website about the International Space Station, which offered young viewers a front-row seat beside Commander Chris Hadfield. REDspace also created an Emmy award-winning app, and is nominated for a Canadian Cinema and Television award. Kelly's pictured here with President Michael Johnston.

Hon.
Kelly Regan

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