Houston’s January Surprise

Our newly elected Premier recently sent a letter to his caucus outlining an agenda that has taken many by surprise. Instead of sending his ministers individual mandate letters; he gave a mandate to his whole caucus.

“To navigate the choppy waters” created by Trump tariff threats, Houston wants Nova Scotia to pin its health and prosperity on expedited resource extraction. He wants to abolish the long standing and hard-won bans on fracking and uranium mining and to end the moratorium on drilling in the critical fishing grounds in Georges Bank. He calls these bans “lazy public policy” although some were created by previous PC governments and until a few days ago supported by his government.

The recent election which led to the PC majority focused on housing, affordability, health care and even traffic. Expedited resource extraction was not an issue. Nova Scotians DID NOT GIVE the PC’s a mandate for expedited resource extraction. Houston does NOT HAVE A MANDATE to roll back environmental protections~~.~~

The mandate letter is divisive. Houston states: ” We must take the “no” out of Nova Scotia. Special interest groups have captured too many parts of our economy and have had an outsized voice in policy creation. This will end.”

Houston is dividing Nova Scotians into special interest groups and those with bread and butter concerns. Special interest groups seem to be citizens concerned about climate change, biodiversity and protection of our coasts and forests. Yet, polling systematically shows that the majority of Nova Scotians recognize the threat of climate change and are concerned about coastal and environmental protection.

Premier Houston, if expediting resource extraction and fighting special interest groups was your agenda why didn’t you present it during the recent election campaign? You should use your majority to do what you promised: providing good health care and affordable housing.