

Tamara Lorincz  
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March 26, 2013

Hon. Darrell Dexter, Premier  
Office of the Premier  
7th Floor, One Government Place  
1700 Granville Street  
P.O. Box 726  
Halifax, NS B3J 2T3

**Re: Opposition to Nova Scotia government loan to Irving Shipyard for (War)Shipbuilding & Concerns about Provincial Lobbyist Registry and violations to Lobbyists' Registration Act**

Dear Premier Dexter,

I am writing to express my opposition to your decision to give Irving Shipyard a \$304 million loan for upgrading the shipyard to build armed combat vessels (warships). I am also concerned about the poor state of the *Nova Scotia Lobbyist Registry* and violations of the *Lobbyists' Registration Act* in relation to the (war)shipbuilding program.

First, it is unacceptable to me that one of the wealthiest private family businesses in the country is getting a multi-million dollar loan of our tax dollars while education has been cut and poverty has risen in this province. Last November, the *HungerCount 2012 Report* revealed that food bank use had dramatically increased in Nova Scotia. Little progress has been made toward poverty reduction, affordable housing, and early learning & childcare, yet you are further subsidizing Irving Shipyard after it has won a \$25 billion contract from the federal government. By contrast, Seaspan Shipyard in Vancouver did not get a loan from the Government of British Columbia to upgrade its shipyard as reported recently by journalist Paul McLeod.

Second, I am concerned that Irving Shipyard did not register as a lobbyist as required under the *Lobbyists' Registration Act* (R.S.N.S., 2001) while negotiating the loan and planning the *Ships Start Here* campaign with your government last year. A search of the registry reveals that there are no records for "Irving" and "ship". As well, the *Aerospace and Defence Industries Association of Nova Scotia* (AIDANS), which is headed by Glenn Copeland the President of Lockheed Martin, received \$88,500 for the association and \$37,500 for its Human Resources training related to the shipbuilding contract. Yet again, AIDANS and Lockheed Martin are not listed in the registry. Section 2 of the Act requires that any consultant or in-house lobbyist register for any communication in relation to "any grant, contribution or financial benefit." Failure to register and disclose communication with the government is an offence under section 18. According to the *Nova Scotia Registry of Lobbyists Fact Sheet*, the first offence fine is up to \$25,000 while subsequent fines could be up to \$100,000.

I would like to know why your government has not verified that these corporations are registering as lobbyists? Why have you allowed the registry to be so outdated and incomplete? What will you do to

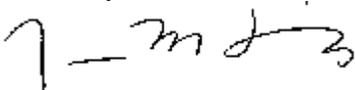
investigate these apparent violations, improve the registry, and fulfill the requirements of the Act? I believe that by not ensuring that the Lobbyists Registry is current and complete, the NDP government is breaching the Act, denying accountability to taxpayers, and preventing transparency.

The issue of lobbying in relation to the shipbuilding program is important because of the risk to Nova Scotia taxpayers. Billions of federal tax dollars and hundreds of millions of provincial tax dollars will be spent to build warships that involve companies, such as Lockheed Martin, with terrible corporate track records. Last year, the U.S. *Project On Government Oversight* found that Lockheed Martin's Littoral Combat Zone program to build warships for the American Navy was plagued by severe cost overruns, poor testing, and technical flaws. I am enclosing a copy of the book *Prophets of War: Lockheed Martin and the Making of the Military Industrial-Complex* by William Hartung that was published last year, so that you do not have any illusions about this weapons manufacturer. Moreover, taxpayers do not have any access to the financial records or annual statements for Irving Shipyard, which is a private corporation, so its lobbying activities must be registered to provide some disclosure.

Finally, I would like you to know that due to my opposition to the (war)shipbuilding contract, I have been protesting outside the Irving Shipyard at the Niobe Gate Entrance every week since December 2012. I have a web site that I am compiling information about the contract: [www.demilitarize.ca](http://www.demilitarize.ca) and I have a blog about my weekly protest "Wednesdays against Warships" <http://demilitarize.ca/wp/>. I will post your reply on my web site when I receive it. I know that the priorities of the people of Nova Scotia are health care, education and the environment – more jobs could be created in those sectors than in (war)shipbuilding. The greatest human security challenges are poverty and climate change, which are becoming worse over time. Your government should be investing in job creation that improves the well-being of Nova Scotians and helps our vulnerable province to adapt to climate change, not in job creation that builds warships and prepares for war. Consequently, I believe that the loan to Irving and the contributions to AIDANS/Lockheed Martin be cancelled and the lobbyist registry be investigated.

I look forward to your reply and answers to my questions. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,



Tamara Lorincz

Encl. Lobbyists' Registration Act  
Nova Scotia Registry of Lobbyists Fact Sheet  
Registry records for Irving  
Registry records for the term "ship"  
Registry records for the term "aerospace"  
Department of Economic and Rural Development & Tourism Supplementary Vol. 3 p. 109

cc. Hon. John MacDonell, Minister of Service Nova Scotia  
Hon. Maureen MacDonald, Minister of Finance  
Hon. Stephen McNeil, Leader of the Liberal Party of Nova Scotia  
Hon. Jamie Baillie, Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of Nova Scotia  
Jacques R. Lapointe, Auditor General Nova Scotia  
Dwight Bishop, Nova Scotia Office of the Ombudsman