



Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board

Mailing address

PO Box 1692, Unit "M"
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3S3
board@novascotia.ca
<http://nsuarb.novascotia.ca>

Office

3rd Floor, 1601 Lower Water Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 3P6
1 855 442-4448 (toll-free)
902 424-4448 t
902 424-3919 f

Office of the Chair

November 22, 2022

To Board Participants and Interested Parties

Board Counsel Retirement

After more than 50 years of practice, the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board congratulates Bruce Outhouse, K.C., on his upcoming retirement and extends its deep gratitude for his invaluable and enduring service to the Board. Mr. Outhouse has been a valued and trusted advisor to the Board and his contributions have been integral to ensuring that the Board effectively fulfilled its assigned mandates.

Mr. Outhouse began his legal practice in Nova Scotia in 1971. Since that time, he has developed a well-earned reputation as a skilled litigator and a distinguished arbitrator and mediator. He is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, a Member of the National Academy of Arbitrators and a Member of the National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals. Earlier this year, Mr. Outhouse received the Canadian Energy Law Forum's Energy Bear Award, which recognizes individuals for leadership and excellence in energy regulatory law.

The Nova Scotia Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities (one of the predecessors to the Utility and Review Board) first retained Mr. Outhouse as legal counsel in 1976. At that time, the Government of Nova Scotia decided to subject the Nova Scotia Power Corporation (then a Crown corporation) to regulation under the *Public Utilities Act*. Mr. Outhouse was Board Counsel for that first Nova Scotia Power Corporation rate hearing.

Since that time, Mr. Outhouse has counselled the Board through many major hearings and various noteworthy events, including:

- the establishment of the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board as the successor to the Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities, the Expropriation Compensation Board, the Nova Scotia Municipal Board and the Nova Scotia Tax Review Board in 1992;
- the transfer of the Nova Scotia Power Corporation's assets to a new private company, Nova Scotia Power Incorporated, in 1992;
- the establishment of the Halifax Regional Water Commission upon amalgamation of the Halifax Regional Municipality in 1996 and the eventual transfer of responsibility for regulated wastewater and stormwater service to Halifax Water in 2007;

- the development of a framework for natural gas distribution in 1997 and the eventual approval of a natural gas utility in Nova Scotia;
- the Antigonish amalgamation application in 2004;
- the development of a framework for a wholesale electricity market in 2004;
- the development of a framework for renewable electricity generation standards and community feed-in tariffs in 2004;
- the establishment of a regulatory framework to implement Nova Scotia Power's fuel adjustment mechanism and audit process in 2009;
- the development of a regulatory regime for the Maritime Link in 2012 and the first application to the Utility and Review Board for this project in 2013;
- an increasing focus on energy efficiency and conservation, leading to the establishment of the Efficiency Nova Scotia Corporation in 2009 and the Efficiency Nova Scotia franchise in 2014;
- the development of a framework for a renewable electricity retail market in 2013;
- the adoption of affiliate codes of conduct for Nova Scotia Power and other utilities; and
- the transition of Nova Scotia's electricity sector from primarily fossil fuel-based generation to one having significant renewable resources with an eye on the production of 80% of electricity from renewables and the phase-out of coal-fired electricity generation by 2030.

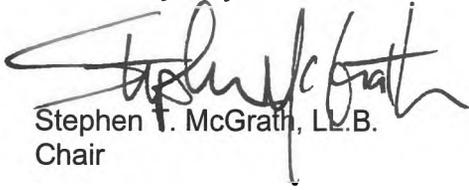
The Board counsel role is a singularly important one. In addition to providing the Board with legal and strategic advice, Mr. Outhouse appeared on behalf of the Board in legal proceedings before the courts. In Board hearings, Mr. Outhouse worked independently of Board Members to ensure they had complete evidentiary records for their decisions. Over the years, Mr. Outhouse worked closely with staff on applications to highlight issues requiring further exploration or information. Through his presentation of independent expert witnesses and his skillful questioning of applicant and intervenor witnesses, Mr. Outhouse made sure the Board had the best information possible, and the public interest was clear.

As Board counsel, Mr. Outhouse ensured that Board hearings ran as smoothly as possible. By engaging with other counsel and parties, he was able to iron out procedural or similar concerns using his skills as a mediator to achieve a consensus on many matters. Indeed, Mr. Outhouse's considerable legal insight and reputation for fairness engendered a trust and frankness amongst counsel who appear regularly before the Board, enabling him to manage proceedings before the Board to avoid the acrimony and unnecessary litigiousness sometimes experienced in regulatory proceedings.

Mr. Outhouse's guiding hand has played no small part in helping the Board meet the challenges that have arisen for nearly 47 years. The Board is honoured to have had such a wise and trusted counsel who enjoys the respect of all parties in Board proceedings. Until a permanent replacement for Mr. Outhouse can be appointed, others will be retained to serve on a matter-by-matter basis.

Bruce, everyone at the Board thanks you for the many years you have benefitted us with your excellent service. We wish you the absolute best upon your retirement.

Yours very truly,



Stephen T. McGrath, LL.B.
Chair