

# Bill Estabrooks Appointed NDP Justice Critic



Timberlea-Prospect MLA Bill Estabrooks has been appointed the NDP Justice Critic by Darrell Dexter, the Leader of the Official Opposition in Nova Scotia.

Since being elected in 1998, Mr. Estabrooks has served as the NDP Transportation, Environment, Labour and Education critic.

“Bill is a natural fit as our justice critic,” says Mr. Dexter. “He has a reputation as a MLA for confronting issues head on. He is connected with his community and as a school teacher and

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principal, Bill knows youth justice personally.”

Says Mr. Estabrooks, “I look forward to this challenge. As the son of a Dorchester Penitentiary guard and as the MLA for a constituency that has had to deal with the unsolved murder of Paula Gallant, a teacher at Beechville-Timberlea-Lakeside Elementary, I am concerned with crime in my community and communities across Nova Scotia.”

He says this is no time to play the political blame game.

“We have to work with the federal government and local police to ensure that our seniors feel safe in their homes and that our schools are safe each day for our children to attend.”

Mr. Estabrooks wants to hear from people about their views on the justice system and suggestions on how to improve it.

Contact him at 876-2472.  
[billestabrooks@navnet.net](mailto:billestabrooks@navnet.net) or at [REDACTED]

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## Community Council Approves Re-zoning Despite Impending Court Case

*By Keith Ayling*

Western Region Community Council approved the re-zoning of 1268 St. Margarets Bay Road in Beechville in spite of reservations from District 22 Councilor Reg Rankin and an impending court case set for November 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The property at that site currently has a home and two storage buildings that are being used as offices and storage, which are not authorized within the current R-1 residential zone.

The applicant, Fred Pope, on behalf of F & C Family Trust, requested that the re-zoning be changed from R-1 to the Light Industrial classification in an effort to legalize his business use.

Councilor Rankin said the process

followed by Mr. Pope and HRM staff “undermines the credibility of this Council.”

He said, “When you apply for a building permit, you must also apply for a development permit, which must state what the business is.”

Councilor Rankin pointed out that the applicant applied for a variance to the permit, leading to the property not being used in compliance with the zoning.

The councilor wanted his comments put on the Council record so they might be heard when the matter goes to court to determine whether or not it was legal to operate a commercial business on residential zoned property.