

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REALTORS® concerned about increased fees, access to housing if privatization goes ahead

September 23, 2015 – Nova Scotia: The Nova Scotia Association of REALTORS® (NSAR) is concerned that the government's move to privatize the public land registry will result in increased fees to Nova Scotian home buyers.

"We've been monitoring this issue since it was brought to our attention earlier this year," says President, Gord Burns. "And frankly, we're concerned that privatization of a public service like the Land Registry could result in higher fees, less publically available data, and reduced access to services."

The Nova Scotia government is currently considering privatization of the province's motor vehicle, business, and land registries. Realtors in Nova Scotia are concerned, based on the experiences of privatization in the provinces of Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

"In Ontario we see that fees for the land registry have increased and access to registry services and information has decreased," says Burns.

Higher access costs could impact not just consumers but professionals in the housing industry as well. Realtors are concerned that a number of home purchase related services such as legal and surveyor fees could increase if the registry is privatized.

"If service providers need to pay increased fees to access the registry, then that will be passed on to consumers," says Burns. "Realtors in Nova Scotia believe that the possibility of home ownership is a fundamental right. Anything that would hinder people from purchasing or selling a home, such as higher fees or lack of access to public data, is something that our members are very concerned about."

Burns says the Association will continue to monitor the government review process and is happy to work with all stakeholders to ensure that any changes made are in the best interests of Nova Scotian home buyers, and the real estate industry.

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About NSAR

The Nova Scotia Association of REALTORS® represents more than 1,600 brokers, salespeople and affiliate (e.g. solicitors, appraisers, banks) members throughout the province. NSAR serves its members through a wide variety of educational programs, publications and special services. The Association, through an agreement with the Nova Scotia Real Estate Commission, provides all real estate licensing courses in the province. REALTOR® is a trademark, which identifies real estate professionals who are members of The Canadian Real Estate Association and, as such, subscribe to a high standard of professional service and a strict code of ethics.

For additional information, please contact:

Paige Hoveling
Government Relations Coordinator
Nova Scotia Association of REALTORS®
7 Scarfe Court
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia B3B 1W4
Telephone: 902-468-5764 or 1-800-344-2001
Fax: 902-468-2533 or 1-877-220-2533
E-mail: phoveling@nsar.ns.ca