

REV. D. H. GASS  
MINISTER

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THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

P. O. BOX 510

Stellarton, N. S.

The Honorable G.I. Smith,  
Premier,  
The Province of Nova Scotia,  
HALIFAX, N.S.



Honorable Sir:

It is not my custom to write letters of protest to representatives of government, but as a citizen and a supporter of the Conservative Party through the years, I feel obliged to express to you my deep concern over the attitude of representatives of your government toward citizens who have expressed concern publicly over the pollution at Boat Harbour.

While I am deeply concerned over the Boat Harbour pollution which I know well from first hand observation, I am even more appaled and disturbed by the attitude of representatives of your government to this pollution, and the belittling attitude they have shown to those who have expressed conscientious concern. Some of the disparaging descriptions given to these citizens by a minister of your cabinet at a meeting in River John last December were "Complainers", "Calamity Howlers" and the "politically biased ones". To speak of the concerns of citizens as being "emotional nonsense" is not conducive to people expressing opinions on public matters, which I feel is essential to good government.

Both Mr. D.R. MacLeod and Mr. E.L.L. Rowe have been reported in the press to have made statements which are not only ridiculous but are not true to fact. I am enclosing a clipping from the New Glasgow Evening News of a report of statements made by Mr. Rowe to the Truro Rotary Club. Some of these statements appear to make very light of the condition at Boat Harbour, to belittle the concern of those who express public concern, and certainly indicate a contradiction to the findings of the Rusk Report.

In the interests of Democratic Government I trust that representatives of your government will indicate more concern for public expression of opinion, and that they will be a bit more responsible in their statements.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "D.H. Gass".