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Taxpayers federation eyes N.S. after recent expense scandal

ALEX BOUTILIER
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The MLA expense scandal and the recent HST increase have a national taxpayers' advocacy group planning to open up an Atlantic bureau.

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation is only "months" away from establishing an east coast office in Halifax, according to spokesman Scott Hennig.

The policy watchdog organization is currently in the fundraising stages for the new office, which would cover all four Maritime provinces.

"We rely on the support of regular, taxpaying Canadians to step forward and put up the money to help us get started," said Hennig.

Hennig pointed to the MLA expense scandal and the recent HST increase as catalysts for the decision to move forward with the office.

"In Nova Scotia, there's been some prime examples of places where there's been waste, places where there's been a lack of accountability," he said. "We're hopeful that there's enough Atlantic Canadians who want to see a full-time, on-the-ground presence of a taxpayer watchdog."

CTF

Where in Canada can you find offices belonging to the Canadian Taxpayers Federation?

- **Profile** The Canadian Taxpayers Federation, first established in Alberta, currently has a federal office in Ottawa, as well as regional offices in Vancouver, Edmonton, Regina, Winnipeg and Toronto. CTF spokesman Scott Hennig said the organization believes Halifax may have the "critical mass" necessary to open up an office.

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"The big difference with us having an office (in Halifax) will be the fact that we'll be able to do things proactively ... before budgets are released, rather than after."
- Scott Hennig, CTF



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