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Stephen Maher's 18 August Letter, "New start in Defence just what Mackay needs." He is reminded that he can deliver much more to Nova Scotia than federal dollars. He can ensure fair treatment from Ottawa on important issues such as Nova Scotia coastline security.

For example, in 1964 the Defence Minister unwisely removed from the province its army reconnaissance capability contrary to advice from the General Officer Commanding Eastern Command, the Lieutenant-Governor, and the Senior Militia Officer whom he personally appointed to represent Atlantic Canada's Militia Units.

Defence Minister MacKay is aware the Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia advised his predecessor that its Security Affairs Committee concluded there is a need for this capability to enhance army support for RCMP vital security operations on the coastline and continental perimeter. He knows that PEI and all other mainland provinces have this capability.

At last, our Minister in Ottawa has the authority to restore this capability. Among his options is a popular one for the province, reactivate the Halifax Rifles as a Reconnaissance Regiment. This precisely is what it would be today had it not been deactivated in 1964. Significantly, this option embodies both fairness and improved security..

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