



Mitton cherche à se faire réélire dans la circonscription de Memramcook Tantrammar après deux années en tant que députée.

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**August 21, 2020**

### **Mitton to Higgs: Don't Sell the Memramcook Institute!**

SACKVILLE - The government is, once again, planning to sell the Memramcook Institute. This culturally important landmark, which was formerly called Collège Saint-Joseph and was the first francophone university in the east of Canada, has stood in central Memramcook since 1864, over 150 years. The first ever National Acadian Convention was held here in 1881.

“The provincial government, once again trying to sell a central cornerstone of Acadian culture and history, is the same as if the mayor of Paris would be selling off the Eiffel Tower!” says Megan Mitton, Green Party candidate for the riding of Memramcook-Tantrammar, where the Institute is located.

“Going right back to McKenna with his approach to selling our provincial assets, it doesn't matter what colour government is, neither of them seem to care about any of our really important assets. From a Liberal government under Graham trying to sell NB Power in 2009, to the Conservative government under Alward trying to sell our province to shale gas exploration companies in 2014, and Conservative governments trying to sell the Memramcook Institute in 2014 and now in 2020, these assets seem to be disposable to Liberals and Conservatives! Well, they are not!”

Mitton is especially concerned with the lack of consultation. Not even the Memramcook Village Council had been informed that a sale was on the table. “We see this again and again, whether it's our rural hospitals threatened with closures this spring, provincial parks, or highly important cultural and historical symbols...simply put, enough is enough! I can promise you one thing: I will fight this!”

Mitton led the protests over the closing of the emergency room at the Sackville Memorial Hospital in the spring and has been an outspoken advocate for our rural communities. “The Institute is worth fighting for. It's been here for centuries, and the local community has been actively engaged in developing ideas

and plans around the use of the building. This pulls the rug right out from under them. Why can neither Liberal nor Conservative governments ever listen to the voices from rural communities?”.

Mitton is seeking re-election in the riding of Memramcook Tantramar after two years as the riding's MLA.