

May 08<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Chamber Supports Amendments to City Charter

Re: Law Amendments Committee- Bill No. 83 *Halifax Regional Municipality Charter*

The Halifax Chamber of Commerce supports Bill No. 83 *Halifax Regional Municipality Charter*. For over a decade, the Halifax Chamber has advocated for transparent and timely approval processes to grow our City. This will benefit our business community and our community as a whole. Site Plan Approval and Density Bonusing, as proposed in Bill 83 will provide clear, consistent policies for development. Such policies have proven to encourage development and economic activity, as seen in the downtown core, and are useful tools that our City can utilize to promote good design and faster development approval timelines.

The Halifax Chamber is also pleased to see our province further developing a cooperative relationship with our City. The Chamber has advocated for a constructive and collegial relationship for some time and it is refreshing to see cooperation amongst our municipal and provincial leaders.

Also, this legislation will implement strategies that will encourage and give our youth and young families the opportunity to live in our Regional Centre at an affordable price. This in turn, will not only make our City more vibrant and revitalized, but will boost our regional economy.

In all, the Chamber commends Bill No. 83 *Halifax Regional Municipality Charter* on three points: reduced regulations and incentives for development, increased collaboration between our municipal and provincial leaders, and creating a Regional Centre that attracts and retains youth; the key drivers to our future economy.

Sincerely,

Nancy Conrad  
Senior Vice President, Policy  
Halifax Chamber of Commerce