

October 11, 2011

Premier Darrell Dexter
Office of the Premier
PO Box 726
7th Floor, One Government Place
1700 Granville Street
Halifax, NS B3J 2T3

Dear Premier Dexter:

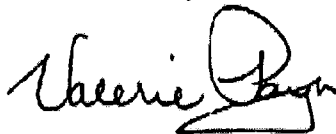
The provincial government released *jobsHere - the plan to grow our economy* in November 2010. At that time, the Chamber wrote to offer our support. We saw considerable promise in a focused growth strategy designed to build on our existing provincial strengths and assets and leverage the opportunities that are currently available to us. At that time, we also stressed the need for measurement of the outcomes outlined in the Strategy.

Now almost one year later, we ask you provide an update on those measurements and a status report on the actions included in the Strategy such as those listed on page 31 of *jobsHere*. As accountability and transparency are values that you have espoused as a government, an independent assessment would be preferred.

It is our sense progress has been made in many areas such as the Productivity Investment Program and with the Workplace Innovation and Productivity Skills Incentive. As well, a new Immigration Strategy was released and a 5-year highway improvement plan is underway. However, that being said, measures to track our success will still be critical to the success of this Strategy.

As well, in our earlier correspondence, we strongly encouraged you to act as the champion for the change articulated in the Strategy and we continue to encourage you to do so. We understand that the benefits of any strategy will take time. With this government's mandate past its mid point, we urge you not to step back - strong leadership is needed for our province to succeed.

Yours sincerely,



Valerie A. Payn
President and CEO

cc - Percy Paris, Minister of Economic & Rural Development and Tourism
cc - Sandra MacKenzie - Acting Deputy Minister of Economic & Rural Development & Tourism