

September 13, 2011

To: Clerk of the Board  
NSUARB  
Box 1692, Unit M  
Halifax, NS B3J 3S3

Re: Nova Scotia Power Rate Increase

The Halifax Chamber of Commerce would like to take this opportunity to address Nova Scotia Power's General Rate Application (which requests a revenue increase of 7.3%, averaged across all customer classes), effective January 1<sup>st</sup> 2012. Similar increases would take effect in 2013 and 2014.

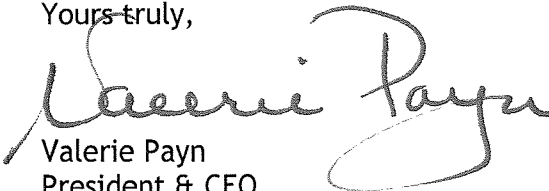
The Chamber fully supports the province's environmental targets which restrict the amount of mercury in our fuel, as well as Nova Scotia Power's willingness to cooperate and work towards these goals. These are important steps, and now more than ever a more sustainable economy is key to achieving economic success.

However, we feel compelled to highlight the potentially significant and negative impact of this rate increase on the small business sector in Halifax and in Nova Scotia. Economic recovery in our province remains relatively sluggish, the increase in bridge tolls has been implemented, the price of gas continues to be a concern, and the Halifax Water Commission rates have been increased.

The Chamber once again respectfully requests your consideration of the full impact these collective rate hikes could have on our small business sector. Already their burden is a difficult one to manage and we must ensure we do everything we can to mitigate the repercussions for vulnerable small businesses.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you'd wish to further discuss this matter.

Yours truly,



Valerie Payn  
President & CEO