

March 13, 2015

Halifax Regional Council

City Hall

1841 Argyle Street, Main Floor

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Good Afternoon Mayor Savage and Councillors,

There is no doubt that this winter has been a particularly difficult one for our city. Given the number of public complaints about the quality of snow clearing efforts in Halifax this year it only makes sense that councilors are beginning to publically question the city's budgeting practices in this matter. A recent Chronicle Herald report that showed that the city has significantly exceeded its snow clearing budget over the past five years and appears poised to do so again, only makes the case for more realistic budgets more convincing.

We must reiterate our position however, that our members are not in a position to absorb an increase in their tax bills. Our members have also seen their snow removal costs rise this winter and increasing prices to deal with it is not a luxury all businesses have. We urge you to look at reducing spending in other areas of the budget and not increasing taxes. Reducing the tax burden is one of the two main priorities of the chamber this year and we will continue to pay close attention to tax issues.

Sincerely,



Valerie A. Payn
President and CEO