

*For immediate release*

**“C” for Provincial budget says Halifax Chamber of Commerce**

**April 29, 2008- Halifax, NS** – Members of the Halifax Chamber of Commerce’s Provincial Affairs Committee gathered today to watch, discuss and score the budget as delivered- giving the budget an overall score of C.

The Chamber gave good marks to focused spending and debt management, an area the Chamber has long been advocating for but felt the budget fell short in economic vision and tax competitiveness.

“We applaud the application of the Crown Share revenues to the debt and to the government’s continued commitment to balanced budgets,” says Gavin MacDonald, Chair of the Chamber’s Provincial Affairs Committee, “but Nova Scotia needs more tax innovation from its provincial government.”

The Halifax Chamber of Commerce is concerned that Minister Baker’s Provincial budget lacks the necessary broad-based economic initiatives to ensure growth for the future of Nova Scotia, not in five years, but in twenty years.

The Chamber’s Provincial Budget Report Card graded the budget in four areas, identified as priorities in the Chamber’s pre-budget submission. These areas are; economic vision, tax competitiveness, spending, and debt management, as well as an overall budget score.

**2008-2009 Provincial Budget Report Card**

	Grade
Tax Competitiveness	F
Economic Vision	D
Spending	B-
Debt Management	A
Overall Rating	C

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