

November 19th, 2010

On Friday, November 19th, the following letter was sent from Valerie Payn on behalf of the Halifax Chamber of Commerce to the following individuals: Premier Darrell Dexter, Premier Danny Williams, Minister of Energy Bill Estabrooks, Deputy Minister of Energy Murray Coolican, Rob Bennet, President and CEO, NSPI, and Chris Huskilson, CEO, Emera.

The Halifax Chamber of Commerce would like to take this opportunity to sincerely congratulate the Provinces of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador, as well as Nova Scotia Power and Emera Inc., on the significant Lower Churchill Hydro project that was agreed upon and announced today.

The sustainability of our energy sector is currently one of the Chamber's key strategic priorities, and we see this recent announcement as a vital step towards the kind of progressive and proactive decisions that will be necessary if we are to grow our green energy sector both for the present and for future generations. It is also a strong and promising forward stride towards our government's objective of achieving 25% renewable energy by 2015 and 40% by 2020, and highlights the true desire of all parties involved in this agreement to focus on cleaner, and ultimately more affordable, electricity.

It is also important to note the cooperation and collaboration between Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland and Labrador that was required in order to make this deal a reality. We see this collaborative approach to Atlantic-region projects and initiatives to be a very positive thing for all parties involved and firmly believe that this continued cooperation will be paramount in moving forward and tackling bigger and better future projects.

The Chamber supports decision-making like this that considers long-term repercussions and reinforces the competitiveness of our province. This is exactly the kind of leadership we have been seeking.