



**NOVEMBER 4, 2010**

**LETTER TO MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
RE: CONVENTION CENTRE PROPOSAL**

At this coming Tuesday's Council meeting, you will have -- before you -- likely one of the most important decisions that will face you in your service as Councillor and builder of our community.

City staff, at your request, will have prepared a detailed presentation, complete with their recommendations on this much publicized public investment.

We are at a point in time to look at an investment in the future that requires your leadership, your best judgment, and your vision for our city. An investment that, in order to be successful, requires the much desired "alignment". Alignment of municipal-provincial-federal support that will allow us to maximize the financial advantages. Alignment that, quite frankly, we have not always been able to capitalize upon as a city.

As you may already know, the Halifax Chamber of Commerce is, and continues to be, a supporter of a proposed new convention centre. In our view, this project offers a significant economic opportunity for our city, our province, and the region.

Like you, I have been closely following the discussions around this proposed investment in our collective future -- both in my role as Chamber President and as a resident and taxpayer. You have a tough job before you; you are the one ultimately accountable for how our tax dollars are spent. I understand this. I also understand that you take your job as Councillor very seriously, and will do your very best to set us up for success. For today and tomorrow.

I would ask you to consider what this investment opportunity presents for our city and, equally importantly, what it would mean if we do not proceed.

The Halifax Chamber of Commerce is prepared to stand with you, as you step forward to accept this challenge and this opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Valerie Payn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "V" and "P".

Valerie A. Payn  
President and CEO  
Halifax Chamber of Commerce  
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*As the voice of business in Halifax, the Chamber advocates on behalf of almost 1700 members and the 90,000 men and women they employ. As part of this role, the Chamber continuously strives to build and strengthen our local business culture through a variety of different mechanisms and resources. One particular mechanism is to firmly support and stand behind the initiatives, projects, and policies that reflect the Chamber's strategic priorities of economic growth, competitive positioning, people, health care, and sustainability.*