

October 28th, 2008

Dear Members of the Nova Scotia Legislature:

Re: HRM's Charter

My purpose in writing is to express the Halifax Chamber of Commerce's support for the purpose of HRM Charter or Bill 179. As I have stated in previous correspondence, the Charter will allow for improved administration of city affairs on a number of levels, will clarify the powers of HRM and eliminate the need to seek provincial authority for administrative amendments.

It is difficult to disagree with the purpose of Bill 179. Section 2 of the proposed Bill indicates its purpose which is to:

(a) give broad authority to the Council, including broad authority to pass by-laws, and respect its right to govern the Municipality in whatever ways the Council considers appropriate within the jurisdiction given to it;

(b) enhance the ability of the Council to respond to present and future issues in the Municipality; and

(c) recognize that the functions of the Municipality are to

(i) provide good government,

(ii) provide services, facilities and other things that, in the opinion of the Council, are necessary or desirable for all or part of the Municipality, and

(iii) develop and maintain safe and viable communities.

Although the Chamber supports what the Charter can do for the city in terms of simplifying administration, the Chamber does not support the proposed district council clause. The intent of a city charter is to provide the public with better, more efficient government – not more.

If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact me at anytime.

Sincerely,



