



June 22, 2010

Premier Darrell Dexter  
Province of Nova Scotia  
PO Box 726  
7<sup>th</sup> Floor, One Government Place  
1700 Granville Street  
Halifax, NS B3J 2T3

Dear Premier Dexter:

The Halifax Chamber of Commerce, as part of its role as a business advocacy organization, 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 we feel reflect the Chamber's strategic priorities of economic growth, competitive positioning, people, health care, and sustainability. On occasion, the Chamber will enthusiastically endorse a project that aligns with at least one of our strategic priorities – but at times a truly unique project comes along that represents practically all of our priority areas as well as the promise of growth, vibrancy, and an overall enhanced quality of life for the residents of our municipality. The Chamber would submit that the proposed development of a new World Trade and Convention Centre (WTCC) is one such project.

Presently, our existing convention centre is only capable of hosting one major event at a time. As a result, Nova Scotia and the Halifax region are missing out on the significant economic benefits that could have otherwise been realized if our convention centre possessed a greater capacity. It has become evident that convention centers across Canada are undergoing significant renovations and expansions. It is time for Halifax to do the same in order to ensure that our competitive position in this area is not further compromised.

The benefits of this new convention centre will be threefold – job creation for our people, growth for our economy, and tax revenues for our provincial government. But economic benefits aside, these meetings, conventions, concerts, and other community functions that could be held at this new space are important contributing factors to our community's prosperity and pleasure.

The Chamber would urge the provincial government to consider this development as a progressive step towards enhancing our ability to compete with other cities for these important events, growing our economy, securing sustainable jobs and our competitive position as the Atlantic hub city, and welcoming the world.

I look forward to further discussing this matter with you upon your request, and helping out in any way possible.

Sincerely,

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

Valerie Payn  
President & CEO

Copy to:       Minister Bill Estabrook  
                  Minister Percy Paris  
                  Minister Graham Steele  
                  Leonard Preyra, MLA Halifax-Citadel  
                  Mayor Peter Kelly  
                  Councillor Dawn Sloane