

August 12, 2010

Honourable Darrell Dexter  
Premier  
Province of Nova Scotia  
PO Box 726  
Halifax, NS B3J 2T3

Dear Premier Dexter:

RE: "THE WAY AHEAD FOR NOVA SCOTIA"

I am writing regarding the report "The Way Ahead for Nova Scotia" by Donald Savoie released July 2010.

First, I would like to commend you for seeking such a thorough external review of our provincial approach to economic development and growth. It certainly puts it all out on the table for us, and allows all of us, as Nova Scotians, to make thoughtful and informed decisions about our future.

Clearly with our fiscal challenges, we will need to do more with each tax dollar and the recommendations to clarify roles and streamline our provincial economic development initiatives is an excellent beginning point and deserve very serious discussion.

The Chamber saw considerable alignment with its priorities and focus areas, among them:

- People -- skills, training and literacy;
- Setting a goal to be the most business friendly province, and
- Fast tracking work on the Integrated Service Delivery program.

As you know, the Chamber has been a long time advocate of a more competitive tax regime and the recommendations in the Savoie report address this as well.

To conclude, and without seeming to be self serving, it is refreshing to have put in the open the important economic role that Halifax plays for our province and region. Too often in the past, this fact has been down played, so not to create any dissension between the urban and rural areas. This should be over and done with. We must build on our strengths, and strongly resist setting policy that takes us from election to election.

Mr. Premier, we look forward to working with you and you can continue to count on the Chamber for support as you move forward with this discussion and the tough decisions to be made.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Valerie Payn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'V' and 'P'.

Valerie A. Payn  
President and CEO

Copy: Ian Thompson, Deputy Minister, Dept of Economic & Rural Development  
Rick Williams, Deputy Minister, Policy & Priorities, Office of the Deputy Minister