

November 24, 2008

Mayor Peter Kelly  
P. O. Box 1749  
Halifax, NS B3J 3A5



Dear Mayor Kelly:

**Re: Thank You**

I am writing to formally thank you for attending our annual Chamber/Council Luncheon on November 18th. The lunch was an excellent opportunity for our members to meet with you and Council and to partake in engaging discussion. Coming away from the luncheon, our members commented to us on how positive it was to see that Council was seriously listening to and considering, business issues.

Specifically, our members were pleased to hear that both you and the Councillors consider increasing your knowledge of HRM's financial position of prime importance. Given the state of world markets, it's reassuring to learn that Council is taking steps to become as informed as possible about the state of the city's coffers. Indeed, the November 25<sup>th</sup> report from staff on the impact of world economic conditions on the city's budget, will contribute to your pool of information. We commend both Council and staff on the timeliness of this report and for its cautious and conservative tone.

Our members were also pleased to learn that Council considers improving the commute a top priority. For business in the city, there may be no other area of municipal business that affects them more on a day to day basis. It's reassuring that Council has truly heard this message and is taking positive steps, such as the Five Year Transit Plan, to improve the situation. We look forward to the discussions concerning a possible integrated transportation authority and the city's plans to support the Atlantic Gateway.

The Chamber was relieved and excited to hear that both the City Charter and HRMbyDesign were passed at Province House this week. Both the Charter and HRMbyDesign are major milestones in our city's history. In particular, Council should be proud that Halifax now has the ability to adopt a clear vision for downtown development. We look forward to Council accepting and implementing HRMbyDesign early in 2009.

I hope that you enjoyed the Chamber/Council luncheon as much as our members did. Once again, thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to meet with us. We look forward to continued dialogue.

Sincerely,

Valerie A. Payn  
President

C. Board Members, Halifax Chamber of Commerce

