



Environment  
Office of the Minister

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Ms. Valerie Payn  
President & CEO  
Halifax Chamber of Commerce  
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REC'D - HALIFAX

09-03-2009

CHAMBER OF COMM.

Dear Ms. Payn: *Valerie*

Thank you for your January 22, 2009, correspondence and the attached Halifax Chamber of Commerce 2009-2010 Pre-Budget Submission report. As Minister of Environment, I am encouraged to see that a number of the recommendations in the report support the many environmental initiatives underway within the provincial government.

I was especially pleased to note that the Chamber of Commerce recommends that the Province invest strategically in new growth industries that will have lasting effects not only on the economy, but on the environment as well. This recommendation is consistent with the vision of the *Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act*, which states that by 2020, Nova Scotia will be a place where environmental sustainability and economic prosperity are fully integrated.

I was also interested to note your support for utility infrastructure development (including connection to Lower Churchill Falls) and in renewable power generation. As you may know, on January 16, 2009, the Province released its Climate Change Action Plan and its 2009 Energy Strategy under the umbrella banner "Toward a Greener Future". The Climate Change Action Plan identifies specific actions that the Province will take with respect to renewable energy. The 2009 Energy Strategy, under its Green Grid initiative, states that the Province will assess opportunities to strengthen grid connections with our neighbours (to enable the import and export of clean energy). The Lower Churchill Falls would be one potential source of imported clean energy.

In closing, I want to thank you again for your submission and express my hopes that we can work together in the future on these and other important issues that will result in Nova Scotia's sustainable prosperity.

Sincerely,

*David Morse*

David Morse  
Minister