



January 12, 2009

The Honourable Judy Streach
Minister of Education
Nova Scotia Department of Education
P.O. Box 578
2021 Brunswick Street
Halifax, NS B3J 2S9

Dear Minister Streach:

First, let me congratulate you on your new appointment as Minister of Education for the Province of Nova Scotia. I know you will find your new portfolio familiar territory because you are a former teacher – but it is a challenging portfolio nevertheless.

Keeping that in mind, I wanted to let you know that our Education and Training Committee has worked hard for the last year in grappling with major educational issues. These included school board governance and creating closer connections between business and education. Concerning school board governance, we submitted an in-depth research report on school board governance to your predecessor, Minister Casey. Around the same time last year, Minister Casey also sought our views on proposed changes to school board governance legislation. After we submitted our opinion, which you will find attached, we were very gratified to note that some of our proposed changes ended up in the final legislation.

We would like to further develop our relationship with the Education Department during your tenure. With this in mind, I would be pleased to meet with you at a mutually agreeable time to discuss educational issues. If you are interested, please have your office contact me or Nancy Conrad, Senior Vice President, Policy (nancyc@halifaxchamber.com) to finalize details.

I wish you all the best in your new duties.

Yours sincerely,

Valerie Payn
President and CEO