

October 14, 2009

To all Halifax area Members of Parliament:

**Re: Canadian Sustainable Energy Strategy**

Canada is blessed with abundant reserves of energy, including hydroelectricity, fossil fuels and the potential for alternative and renewable energy in a multitude of forms. We have the capacity to be an energy powerhouse, but we can only get there if we move from our current ad hoc approach to one that brings the multitude of opportunities and challenges together in a manner that supports both a vibrant and strong energy sector and all Canadians.

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce has been working for the past year to bring together businesses from all sides of the energy issue – energy producers, energy users and companies in related sectors (such as suppliers and value-added manufacturing) – to examine what is needed to ensure that Canada continues to have a vibrant energy sector that will provide a stable, secure and flexible supply of affordable energy, in a sustainable manner, now and in the future.

Provincially, the Halifax Chamber envisions energy and in particular energy security, as a major pillar of sustainable prosperity for Nova Scotia. So much so, that we have our own Energy Advisory Group. The group is made up of leaders in the industry and chaired by Dr. Alex Pavolvski of Green Power Labs Inc. Recently, the group completed a review the Province's Renewed Energy Strategy. The document is available at:

[http://www.halifaxchamber.com/images/policy/Energy\\_strategy\\_review\\_exec\\_summary\\_june\\_2009\\_final.pdf](http://www.halifaxchamber.com/images/policy/Energy_strategy_review_exec_summary_june_2009_final.pdf)

In Canada, we have all the elements necessary to achieve this. The Canadian Chamber has released a paper (available here: [http://www.chamber.ca/images/uploads/Reports/Energy\\_Paper-low.pdf](http://www.chamber.ca/images/uploads/Reports/Energy_Paper-low.pdf)) which details why we need all stakeholders (including governments, businesses and community groups) to come together to develop a Canadian Sustainable Energy Strategy.

As a member of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, our chamber supports this initiative and the recommendations included in the report.

I urge you to take this message to your colleagues in Ottawa and encourage them to begin work on the development of a Canadian Sustainable Energy Strategy. We, along with our colleagues from chambers across the country, stand ready to help with this process moving forward.

Yours sincerely,

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

Valerie Payn  
President & CEO  
Halifax Chamber of Commerce

Note: An executive summary of the Canadian Chamber's report is available at:

<http://www.chamber.ca/images/uploads/Reports/Executive-summary.pdf>