

June 22, 2009

Honourable Bill Estabrooks  
Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure Renewal, Energy,  
the Atlantic Gateway initiative and Sydney Tar Ponds Agency  
New Democratic Party Caucus Office  
Centennial Building, Suite 1001  
1660 Hollis St. PO Box 1617  
Halifax, NS B3J 2Y3

Dear Minister Estabrooks:

Re: Meeting with Halifax Chamber of Commerce

As you know, the Halifax Chamber of Commerce is a best-practice business advocacy organization representing the interests of 1,700 members and over 90,000 employees across Halifax. The Chamber advocates for provincial policies that will make Halifax a better place to live, work and play. With respect to provincial issues, the Chamber seeks to encourage the development, implementation and review of provincial policies that are important to Chamber members.

To this end, the Chamber submits an annual pre-budget submission to the province (in January of each year) and a mid-year update (in August of each year). These documents can be obtained from our Policy Library by selecting "Provincial Affairs". <http://www.halifaxchamber.com/default.asp?mn=1.9.163&f=docs>

The areas included under your portfolio – transportation, infrastructure, energy and the Atlantic Gateway, are of great interest to the Chamber. In this year's pre-budget submission, we touched on all of these areas. Specifically, we asked that the Province consider:

- Investing strategically in new growth industries, which will have lasting effects not only on the economy, but on the environment as well.
- Investing in municipal transportation, utility infrastructure (including connection to Lower Churchill Falls) and in renewable power generation.
- Ensuring that the federal government is a full partner in the Atlantic Gateway.
- Evaluating private public partnerships or strategic investment partnerships via cost-benefit analysis for all infrastructure projects.

In addition, the Chamber's board has just approved new priorities, which will guide our policy work over the next few years. I would like to meet at your earliest convenience to discuss transportation, infrastructure and energy, in addition to our new priorities and your plans for the province's future. Please contact my office by phoning Dianna at 481-1235 to arrange a meeting date and time that works best for you.

Congratulations Minister Estabrooks. I look forward to working with you and our new government in the coming years.

Sincerely,

Valerie Payn  
President & CEO  
Halifax Chamber of Commerce