

June 22, 2009

Honourable Maureen MacDonald
Minister of Health
Minister of Health Promotion and Protection, and Gaelic Affairs
New Democratic Party Caucus Office
Centennial Building, Suite 1001
1660 Hollis St., PO Box 1617
Halifax, NS B3J 2Y3

Dear Minister MacDonald:

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 state of the Province's health care system has been a focus of the annual pre-budget submission to the province for some time; this year was no exception. Specifically, we asked that the Province:

- Accelerate all 103 recommendations contained in the Corpus Sanchez Report.
- Act on emerging opportunities with new policy and strategic focus. For example, utilize web based booking systems, electronic records and related technology to gain efficiencies.
- Use best practices and aim for continuous process improvement.
- Reward decisions for smart investment decisions.
- Modernize job descriptions and possibly reassign talent to match new realities.
- Invest in preventative health care.
- Realize economic opportunities related to health care.

The Chamber strongly supports an accelerated implementation of all 103 recommendations contained within the Corpus Sanchez Report. We concur with the Report's conclusion that radical and systemic

change is required, in order to control escalating health care costs and create a sustainable health care system for the people of our province.

I would like to meet at your earliest convenience to discuss the status of Corpus Sanchez and your plans for the province's health care system. Please contact my office by phoning Dianna at 481-1235 to arrange a meeting date and time that works best for you.

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

Regards,

Valerie Payn
President & CEO
Halifax Chamber of Commerce