

June 22, 2009

Honourable Marilyn More, Minister of Education
Minister of Labour and Workforce Development
New Democratic Party Caucus Office
Centennial Building, Suite 1001
1660 Hollis Street
PO Box 1617
Halifax, NS B3J 2Y3

Dear Minister More:

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>

In this year's pre-budget submission, we expressed our views to the government regarding education and training. Specifically, we asked that the Province consider:

- Make affordable education at all levels a priority.
- Research and target educational opportunities that arise from changes in the global economy.
- Combine public-private partnerships for school infrastructure when cost effective.
- Market all of Nova Scotia's post-secondary institutions abroad.

Education has been a priority of the Chamber's for some time. Recently, many of the Chamber's recommendations regarding school board governance made their way into the changes to the Education Act. Your portfolio of education, labour and workforce development is therefore of course, of great interest to the Chamber.

In addition, the Chamber's board has just approved new priorities, which will guide our policy work over the next few years, which place our focus even more on education and training. Given the Chamber's interest in education, I would like to meet with you at your earliest convenience to discuss your plans and the Chamber's new priorities. Please contact my office by phoning Dianna at 481-1235 to arrange a meeting date and time that works best for you.

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

Sincerely,

Valerie Payn
President & CEO
Halifax Chamber of Commerce