

# VISION ACTION BAILLIE

May 17, 2017

Patrick Sullivan  
President and CEO  
Halifax Chamber of Commerce  
Via email: [patrick@halifaxchamber.com](mailto:patrick@halifaxchamber.com)

Dear Mr. Sullivan,

Halifax Chamber of Commerce Pre-Election Submission

## 1. General

- **What is your Party's vision for Halifax for the next four years?**
- **How do you plan on turning this vision into reality?**

Jamie Baillie and the Nova Scotia PC party are presenting an optimistic, pro-growth agenda that focuses on rebuilding our province, creating jobs and getting Nova Scotians back to work. This plan of action includes the following goals:

- Create thousands of jobs by making major new investments in our infrastructure.
- Recruit more doctors and invest more in mental health care.
- Build an education system that puts kids first and supports our economic needs.
- Treat seniors with the respect they deserve.
- Make Nova Scotia greener and improve our economy at the same time.
- Stand up for Nova Scotia and get our fair share from Ottawa.
- Take steps to get the cost of living down.

## 2. Budget

- **Will your party strive for a balanced budget? If, yes, how will this be accomplished?**
- **Will your platform adjust for the chamber's requested reduction in departmental spending?**

Over the next four years, a Progressive Conservative government will invest more in critical Nova Scotia Infrastructure priorities. We'll create thousands of jobs in the process and maintain a balanced

budget. The PC jobs plan will grow the economy and create jobs by investing in roads, bridges and other public infrastructure. We will do this while anchoring the province's debt to GDP ratio at the current level.

As Premier, Jamie Baillie will personally oversee the Rebuild Nova Scotia Fund as his own Infrastructure Minister. Too often, government projects go over budget and no one is held accountable. The Bluenose rebuild is proof of that. So is the Yarmouth ferry contract that allowed our tax dollars to upgrade the ferry terminal in Portland, Maine. A Progressive Conservative government will automatically conduct an internal audit when a project goes more than 10 per cent over budget and hold those responsible accountable.

To back up what we say, a new Progressive Conservative government will put in place strong accountability measures that you can count on to get the job done. Things like:

- Fixed election dates within our first six months in office.
- A complete review and public report by the Auditor General of the province's books, six months before the election. Never again will a new government say they didn't know the state of the books.
- Independent costing of party platforms by the Auditor General.

### **3. Taxes**

- **How will you reduce corporate and personal taxes for Nova Scotians?**
- **Will you support indexing personal income tax brackets for all Nova Scotians?**

A PC government will increase the amount of money people can earn before they start paying provincial income tax. We will use a step-wise approach to link the province's basic personal income tax exemption with the federal amount.

The Progressive Conservative Party also believes job creators should be able to earn a tax break. That's why we will make real tax relief available to all businesses that create new jobs in our province. We will create an Earned Tax Relief program that will provide an incentive for successful companies to invest more and create jobs in Nova Scotia. By creating new jobs, Nova Scotia businesses can earn their way to a lower corporate tax rate. This lower rate would make Nova Scotia the most competitive place in Canada to create jobs.

### **4. Business**

- **What will your party do to reduce red tape for businesses in Halifax?**
- **Do you have any ideas how to ensure an open for business climate in Halifax?**

A Jamie Baillie government will reduce the paperwork burden on small and medium-sized businesses to make it easier for business owners to hire workers. We will set clear targets for red tape reduction with the goal of cutting two existing regulations for every new one introduced.

We have an optimistic, pro-growth agenda. Our platform supports many sectors where Halifax can have a competitive advantage, including the film industry, craft breweries, tourism, and post-secondary education. We want to work together with stakeholders like the Halifax Chamber of Commerce to demonstrate that the provincial government can be a fair and open partner with the business community.

## 5. Skilled Workforce

- **How will your party improve talent retention in Halifax?**
- **Will your party increase the amount of provincial immigration funding?**

Nova Scotia needs more people to boost our population and increase the province's economic potential. We will work with local businesses to expand the Provincial Nominee Program and partner with Ottawa to increase the number of skilled immigrants coming to our province.

A Progressive Conservative government will pressure Ottawa to help with the long-term costs of settling more refugees in Nova Scotia. The federal Liberals provide financial assistance to refugees for one year. We will work with other provinces to ensure support for refugees continues past 12 months.

Sincerely,



Janet Fryday Dorey  
Campaign Co-Chair  
PC Party of Nova Scotia