

Thursday, September 14, 2017

Dear Premier McNeil:

Upon the return of the House the Halifax Chamber of Commerce is attaching our 2017 Pre-Budget Submission for your review and consideration. The document articulates our areas of focus from our 2013-2018 strategic plan. The budget launched in April still leaves many issues which remain a concern for our members. While we were pleased to see that the budget delivered a balanced budget and projected budget surplus, as well as, the earlier announcement of the increase to the small business tax threshold, many issues remain, such as;

- Fiscal restraint is needed to achieve provincial spending targets, especially in health care.
- Signing affordable collective agreements with public sector unions is still a key issue to support fiscal sustainability.
- The surplus will provide fiscal room for tax reform, we hope to see progress on that front.
- The Chamber is looking for the Office of Regulatory Affairs to set specific targets to eliminate regulations and take a more aggressive approach in its second year.
- Actions we support include the continued implementation and review of the Graduate to Opportunity program and increasing experiential learning opportunities; and the Implementation and review of the Atlantic Immigration Pilot.

We encourage you to read our budget submission which we believe conveys our concerns. For your interest, we have attached our response to the April 2017/2018 budget which further outlines the goals of the Halifax Chamber of Commerce.

I look forward to working with you and your team(s) on the issues that are very important to the Chamber and our members.

Sincerely,



**Patrick Sullivan**  
President and CEO

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