



CALL TO ACTION

To all Members of the Metropolitan Halifax Chamber of Commerce February 12, 1999

Act Now or Pay Later!

The Law Amendments Committee is getting ready to wrap up its hearings and send proposed changes to the Workers' Compensation system back to the House for approval. In the absence of strong opposition, it is likely that this **new payroll tax** will be accepted by the Legislature without a clear understanding of the possible long term impacts. If you have not yet done so, now is the time for you to tell the Law Amendments Committee that you are concerned about the introduction of this new tax.

Early estimates indicate that \$75 million more will be charged to all Nova Scotian businesses. **\$75 million in new payroll taxes for you and your business.**

The Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) estimates that \$46 million of this new payroll tax will come from companies that are not currently covered by the WCB. **If you do not already pay Workers' Compensation premiums, you will now have to under these changes.** The remaining \$29 million will have to come from general increases in premiums for all employers - if you already pay Workers' Compensation these changes will cost you more.

Any level of new taxation is a serious threat to the continued growth of Nova Scotia's economy. In order to convince the government to fully consider the long term affects of these changes, the Chamber encourages you to immediately take any or all of the following steps:

- 1) Immediately **contact the WCB** to see how much this new payroll tax is going to cost you. WCB can help you estimate the eventual cost of these changes for your company. Contact WCB Assessment Services at 491-8324; you supply your industry type and they can give you your 1999 assessment rate.
- 2) **Contact your local MLA** to advise them of the impact a new payroll tax will have on your business. We know that payroll taxes are job killers - express your opposition to this new payroll tax.
- 3) **Contact the Premier's Office** to express your opposition to this new payroll tax - 424-6600.
- 4) **Contact the members of the Law Amendments Committee** to express your opposition to this new payroll tax.
- 5) **Write a letter to the Law Amendments Committee** expressing your opposition to this new payroll tax. (A detailed submission is not necessary, you simply need to be on record as being opposed to Bill 90 because of the negative impacts it could have on your business and your employees. **A sample letter is attached for your use.**
- 6) **Arrange to appear** before the Law Amendments Committee to express your opposition to this new payroll tax. Call now - 424-8941. Unless the Committee hears from you, they will wrap up on February 17, 1999.

A list of phone and fax numbers is attached to this update to assist you in taking the above steps. If you would like further information on the proposed changes or on the Law Amendments process, please contact Nancy Conrad or Charles Cirtwill at the Chamber office (468-7111). We would like to thank those members who answered our earlier call to action by registering their concerns with the Law Amendments Committee.



CALL TO ACTION

Via facsimile 424-0547, original to follow by mail:

Date: _____

Hon. Robert Harrison, Chair
Law Amendments Committee
Office of Legislative Counsel
PO Box 1116
9th Floor, 1690 Hollis Street
Halifax, NS B3J 2X1

Dear Minister Harrison:

Re: Bill No. 90, Workers' Compensation Act (Amended)

When the Metropolitan Halifax Chamber of Commerce appeared before the Law Amendments Committee on January 28, 1999, you asked them to call upon their members to make individual submissions to the Committee. As a concerned business owner, I would like to express my support for the position taken by the Chamber when they appeared before you.

I too am concerned with the haste in which fundamental changes to the Workers' Compensation System of Nova Scotia have been proposed and are being considered. It is imperative that Bill 90 not move forward for approval by the Legislature until a full assessment of the impact of the changes on business and on our employees is completed.

Sincerely,

Name: _____

Company: _____

LAW AMENDMENTS COMMITTEE

		Phone	Fax
Hon. Robert Harrison (Chair)	Minister of Justice	424-4044	424-0510
Hon. Jim Smith	Minister of Health	435-6870	434-5099
Gerald Fogarty	Halifax-Bedford Basin	443-2826	443-1845
Kevin Deveaux	Cole Harbour -Eastern Passage	465-4455	465-4224
Bill Estabrooks	Timberlea - Prospect	876-2472	876-2192
John MacDonnell	Hants East	424-4134	424-0504
Ernest Fage	Cumberland North	424-2731	424-7484
Michael Baker	Lunenburg	424-2731	424-7484
Murray Scott	Cumberland South	424-2731	424-7484

LOCAL MLA'S

		Phone	Fax
Yvonne Atwell	Preston	434-9965	434-1531
Hinrich Bitter-Suermann	Chester - St. Margaret's	857-1231	857-1109
Hon. Keith Colwell	Eastern Shore	827-2810	827-3385
Don Chard	Dartmouth South	461-5000	461-5004
Robert L. Chisholm	Halifax Atlantic	477-4100	477-4100
Hon. Francene J. Cosman	Bedford - Fall River	835-9482	835-6223
Peter Delefes	Halifax Citadel	425-3559	424-0504
Kevin Deveaux	Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage	465-4455	465-4224
Darrell Dexter	Dartmouth - Cole Harbour	462-5300	462-5306
Howard Epstein	Halifax Chebucto	425-8521	424-0504
Bill Estabrooks	Timberlea - Prospect	876-2472	876-2192
Gerald Fogarty	Halifax - Bedford Basin	443-2826	443-1845
Rosemary Godin	Sackville - Beaverbank	864-7905	864-7912
John E. Holm	Sackville - Cobequid	864-0396	864-8409
Maureen MacDonald	Halifax Needham	455-2926	455-3929
Eileen O'Connell	Halifax Fairview	424-4134	424-0504
Jerry Pye	Dartmouth North	461-6111	461-1895
Hon. Jim Smith	Dartmouth South	435-6870	434-5099

To send a written submission to the Committee, write to:

**Office of Legislative Counsel
PO Box 1116
9th Floor, 1690 Hollis Street
Halifax NS B3J 2X1
Facsimile (902) 424-0547**

To schedule an appearance before the Committee, telephone 424-8941.

WCB Assessment Services: 491-8324

Premier's Office: 424-6600