

## Chamber Impacts Through the Fall

December 10, 2001

### Municipal Affairs

The Chamber has recently addressed several municipal issues, including equalization, harbour clean-up and HRM governance. To move these issues forward, Chamber representatives met with Minister Angus MacIsaac and Deputy Minister Brian Stonehouse of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations, and Mayor Peter Kelly.

### Provincial Caucus Meetings

Chamber representatives continue to meet with Nova Scotia party caucuses. The most recent sessions included discussions on provincial finance (eliminating the deficit and paying down the debt), municipal equalization, the professional administration of HRM, energy, health, immigration, transportation and deregulation of store hours. The full briefing material is available at [www.halifaxchamber.com](http://www.halifaxchamber.com).

### Speakers on Key Issues

The Chamber offers members many opportunities to hear presentations by business and government leaders on key issues. Some of the distinguished speakers the Chamber brought to you this fall include: U.S. Ambassador Paul Cellucci; Premier John Hamm; Premier Ralph Klein; Neil LeBlanc, Nova Scotia minister of finance; Reg Milley, president and CEO of the Halifax International Airport Authority, and Fred Smithers, president & CEO of Secunda Marine.

### FYI

The Atlantic Provinces Chamber of Commerce is developing a list of trade barriers specific to Atlantic Canada so they can be addressed and the Atlantic Canadian business climate improved. If your business is experiencing any barriers trading within the provinces (e.g. food importation, preferential construction bidding), please let us know at [info@halifaxchamber.com](mailto:info@halifaxchamber.com).

### On the Horizon

- Watch for the Chamber's reaction to Finance

Minister Paul Martin's federal budget on December 10. The Chamber will host Minister Martin at a luncheon on December 20. Visit [www.halifaxchamber.com](http://www.halifaxchamber.com) to register today!

- The Chamber's Municipal Affairs Committee is developing an annual report of HRM, focusing on three areas: municipal finance, business climate and regional planning. Look for the final report next spring.

- The Chamber is addressing the issue of air access to and from our region as it impacts Halifax's ability to grow and do business. The Chamber's new Air Access Task Force will undertake a review of international airline service to and from Halifax International Airport. The group will make recommendations for developing and sustaining international passenger routes through Halifax, and identify any challenges and barriers that may impact positively or negatively upon such service.

- HRM needs an integrated transportation strategy. To this end, the Chamber has established a Transportation Planning Task Force to bring together key players who influence transportation planning. This group plans to work with Anne Muecke, HRM's regional plan project manager, to provide leadership and business input into the development of a common vision for transportation planning in Metro Halifax.

- The Provincial Affairs Committee is preparing a pre-budget submission to the NS minister of finance and a new provincial report card. Both initiatives will stress the need for fiscal responsibility and provide members with a coherent assessment of that performance.

*Your investment in the Chamber ensures we can continue to raise concerns and offer input to government on issues that affect our community's ability to retain and attract business.*

**METROPOLITAN HALIFAX  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
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