

# IT'S TIME

A LOT HAS HAPPENED OVER THE PAST YEAR

## MARCH 2015

Memorandum of Understanding signed between Nova Scotia and New Brunswick to create the Joint Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness

## AUGUST 2015

Office is preliminarily staffed

## NOVEMBER 2015

Maritime Premiers' Action Plan for Regulatory Reform announced

- Prince Edward Island joined Office
- Charter of Governing Principles for Regulation adopted
  - commitment made to mirror legislation
  - commitment made to common measurement for regulatory costs
- immediate actions identified:
  - aligning dates for minimum wage changes
  - aligning record-keeping requirements
  - moving to common documents for procurement

## JANUARY 2016

- Premier McNeil earned honourable mention in national red tape reduction awards for removing barriers to apprenticeship mobility within Canada

## MAY 2016

Based on input from business groups, the Council of Atlantic Premiers announced commitment to:

- adopt Canada Revenue Agency's One Business Number to simplify business registration with Workers' Compensation Board
- give mutual recognition in specific areas of Occupational Health and Safety
- move to standardize the Carrier Profile for the regional transportation industry

## MAY 2015

Nova Scotia's first Chief Regulatory Officer Fred Crooks appointed

## OCTOBER 2015

Small Business Week

- Convenience store bundle, changes to weight and dimension regulations, and elimination of Amusement License announced

## DECEMBER 2015

- Regulatory Accountability and Reporting Act introduced and passed in Nova Scotia
- Mandate letters sent to all departments, including expectation to work with the Office to reduce regulatory burden
- Regulatory Accountability and Reporting Act introduced in New Brunswick

## APRIL 2016

- Minimum wage aligned in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick on April 1; PEI to align in 2017
- Regulatory Accountability and Reporting Act introduced in Prince Edward Island
- Legislation to align record-keeping requirements introduced in 3 Maritime provinces

## JUNE 2016

- Regulatory Accountability and Reporting Act passes in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island
- Joint Office publishes first Annual Report



*We want to become one of the most competitive and prosperous business climates in Canada. To do that we have to remove obstacles and increase regulatory predictability so businesses are confident in making investments in our region.*

*Honourable Stephen McNeil, Premier of Nova Scotia*

*Businesses of all sizes share with the Chamber the cost and frustration of trying to figure out and comply with countless rules and regulations. Each rule or regulation that is unnecessary, overly complex, unclear, or disproportionately costly is an impediment to business growth. We applaud government and the Office for taking this on and for working closely with the business community on this challenging work. The Chamber is looking forward to seeing the next phase of this work and the associated cost and red tape reductions. If they stick with it, all Nova Scotians will see the benefits of more efficient and effective government.*

*Patrick Sullivan, President and CEO  
Halifax Chamber of Commerce*



*The disparity of rules and regulations (OH&S, WCB, labour laws, etc.) that exist between such closely connected economic provinces in the Atlantic Region is highly unproductive, inefficient and negatively impacts business productivity.*

*I welcome the efforts of the Office to start chipping away at these. It's a daunting task, but if successful, it'll make business easier and improve the economic strength of our region. I would urge government leadership from all Atlantic provinces to ambitiously and courageously embrace and support these efforts to make it easier to do business in the region. Working together, we can all win!*

*Darren Nantes, Chairman Guildford Group of Companies &  
Halifax Chamber of Commerce member*

## EXAMPLES OF COST SAVINGS ASSOCIATED WITH REDUCTION OF REGULATORY BURDEN

# \$730,000

Annual savings for three initiatives, representing only a fraction of the work that's been done throughout the year.

## \$420,000

aligning record-keeping requirements

## \$288,000

moving apprenticeship forms online

## \$21,000

aligning timing of changes to minimum wage to April 1

## FUTURE PRIORITIES

- **An overall reduction in the regulatory burden**
- **Measurement**
  - Implement Regulatory Assessment and Costing Tool.
- **Service Improvement**
  - Develop a service program as one means to address and reduce the regulatory burden.
- **Internal Trade**
  - Enhance access to Maritime market for businesses through regulatory reduction, elimination, or streamlining.
- **Workers' Compensation**
  - Implement Canada Revenue Agency's One Business Number across Atlantic Canada.
- **Occupational Health and Safety**
  - Mutual recognition in specific areas of certification and training across Maritimes.
- **Procurement**
  - Implement common solicitation documents for procurement across Maritimes.
- **Transportation**
  - Alignment of carrier profile systems across Atlantic Canada.