

For Immediate Release
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Ottawa should say “YES!” to Nova Scotia’s immigration request

Halifax Chamber of Commerce disappointed feds cutting number of immigrants by more than 20 per cent

News that the federal government is cutting the number of immigrants coming to Nova Scotia under the provincial nominee program is disappointing and surprising, according to the Halifax Chamber of Commerce.

“Nova Scotia needs more immigrants, not fewer immigrants,” said Robert Batherson, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Halifax Chamber of Commerce. “We urge the federal government to reconsider its refusal of Nova Scotia’s request, stop the cuts planned for this year and say yes to bringing more new Canadians to our city and our province.”

In September 2015, the Government of Canada approved the latest request from Nova Scotia to increase the number of new immigrants coming to the province through the nominee program from 1,050 to 1,350. Canada’s Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Minister John McCallum reportedly informed Nova Scotia Immigration Minister Lena Diab that the number for 2016 is going back to 1,050 – a cut of more than 20 per cent.

In October 2015, Minister Diab announced that she was going to ask Ottawa to permanently remove the cap on the nominee program. Premier Stephen McNeil also raised the same question with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in January. The Halifax Chamber of Commerce echoed this call in meetings with Finance Minister Bill Morneau and Treasury Board Minister Scott Brison.

“The Halifax Chamber of Commerce is a strong supporter of the work done by Premier McNeil and Minister Diab to convince federal governments – past and present – to ensure Nova Scotia gets our fair share of new Canadians,” added Batherson. “Increasing the number of immigrants that call Halifax and Nova Scotia home is a key part of the chamber’s strategic plan to see Halifax become one of Canada’s top three economic growth cities by 2018. With Halifax and Nova Scotia supporting the new federal government so strongly last fall, we hope Ottawa will now support Halifax and Nova Scotia on this important matter.”

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Minister John McCallum is addressing the Halifax Chamber of Commerce at a distinguished speaker series luncheon on March 15th at the Halifax Marriott Harbourfront Hotel. Minister McCallum will be speaking at approximately 12:50 pm.

- 30 -

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