

SPRING 2022 ADVOCACY UPDATE



The Halifax Chamber's advocacy team has been working diligently to ensure the voice of our members is heard. Whether in stakeholder submissions, during one-on-one meetings, or while attending in-person events with hundreds of attendees, the Chamber is in your corner!

We'd love to show you what we've been up to since our last Policy Update.

Click to jump to your preferred section.

[Our Response to the 2022-2023 Budgets](#)

[Halifax Chamber Advocacy wins](#)

[Chamber Task Forces](#)

[Updates from HRM](#)

[Contact our Policy team](#)

Minimum Wage Review Committee seeking employer representative

The Committee, which is composed of an equal number of employee and employer representatives, conducts an annual review and provides advice to the Minister of Labour, Skills and Immigration on the minimum wage rate. The Committee typically meets 2 to 3 times during the fall each year to conduct its review. Staff of Labour, Skills and Immigration provide support to the Committee.

Interested individuals are encouraged to submit their application to Executive Council Office by June 20, 2022.

[Submit your application HERE!](#)



With the passing of the provincial and municipal budgets, the Halifax Chamber has had time to reflect on our pre-budget submission recommendations and the budget items that either mirror these recommendations or missed the mark entirely. While restrictions have been lifted, and more people are visiting local restaurants and shops, there are still sectors facing a long road to recovery. The provincial and municipal budgets, while setting aside money for some of our most pressing issues, like healthcare and climate change, neglected to focus on the business community, a staple in many of our lives. Over the course of this article, we will delve a bit deeper into the budget items that we support and those that need more clarification or are just in fact, missing.

[Read our response to the 2022-2023 budgets here.](#)

Halifax Chamber Advocacy Wins



Non-Resident Property Tax Reversed

The Halifax Chamber was pleased to see the non-resident property tax reversed. We are in support of affordable and sustainable housing and have offered many options both provincially and municipally to start to achieve this, but this tax would not have fixed the problem. We are grateful for the

opportunity to speak with the Premier and we'd like to thank him for consulting with the community when making this decision. Consultation is key to our continued growth and collaboration as a city and as a province. The Chamber will be releasing our statement on the housing crisis in the coming weeks with our recommendations for all levels of government



Housing

Our lobbying on behalf of affordable housing and housing affordability has impacted city hall and the province significantly, and federally as it was a significant part of the Federal budget. Minister Freeland virtually attended a meeting, and the Chamber, alongside the Canadian Global Cities Council, also lobbied the Feds to step into the housing crisis.



Childcare

Successfully advocated for the change in requirements that were implemented by the Provincial government as part of the Federal Childcare deal.



Rapid Testing

The Chamber was the catalyst for the entire provincial business Rapid Testing Program.



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50/30 Challenge

Participation in the Federal 50/30 Challenge Leadership Team and the development of the Federal Publicly Available Specifications.



THANK YOU!

We want to thank our two past task force chairs, Michele Peveril and Caroline Wolfe Stewart, as we transition to new chairs. Their passion and commitment to the task force, the Chamber, and our members are second to none. We will certainly miss their leadership, but their dedication has left a great path to forge for the new chairs.

Task Force Update

The Task Forces are a pivotal group for the Chamber, providing key discussion points, guest speaker suggestions, and recommendations for our core submissions. Each task force focuses on the pillars assigned through our strategic plan, enhancing the work of the Chamber to support our membership. To learn more about our task force, check out their links or reach out to [Kathleen](#).

[Fostering Private Sector Growth](#)

[Accessing a Skilled Workforce](#)

Updates from the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM)

- [Notice to Quick Service Restaurants Regarding Drive-Thru Litter Receptacles](#)
 - [Memorandum - Permitting, Planning, Licensing & Enforcement Project: Release 2 Implementation](#)
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Have an advocacy question?

Check out our advocacy [FAQs page](#) to find the answer.

Not there? Reach out us:



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