

January 26nd 2009

Via e-mail

Mayor and Council:

I write on behalf of the Chamber's Municipal Affairs Committee. It has come to the Committee's attention that Council is approving new priorities this coming Tuesday.

First, we would like to congratulate Council on the progress made towards the current priorities, which include: public safety, infrastructure and community development. In particular, improvements in public safety have been significant. In fact, in the upcoming 2009 Scorecard the "crime rate" measure will receive a score of two green lights.

Unfortunately, to date, tax reform has not made substantial progress and therefore, the Chamber feels that it should remain top of mind for Council.

The Committee is pleased with the other choices for new priorities, which include: infrastructure, community planning, governance and communications, transportation and public safety.

We realize that Council has limited resources and that setting priorities is difficult. However, we hope that Council will reconsider and leave tax reform on the list, as tax collection impacts every citizen and business in Halifax.

Regards,



Valerie Payn, President & CEO on behalf of

Alan Richardson, Chair, Municipal Affairs Committee