

February 12, 2015

**Department of Education and Early Childhood Development**

4th Floor, Brunswick Place  
2021 Brunswick Street  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 2Y5

Dear Minister Casey,

The Halifax Chamber of Commerce supports your plan to improve Nova Scotia's education system. The Chamber has been calling for serious change for many years and submitted a detailed report to the Minister's Panel on Education in early 2014. With the release of Nova Scotia's Action Plan for Education however, the difficult work of implementing change will begin. Overall, we are pleased with the recommendations included in the plan, particularly its proposals to:

- Refocus the curriculum to provide a greater emphasis on math and literacy education.
- Expand entrepreneurship education, create a Business Education Council, and expand Junior Achievement.
- Improve teacher education and certification in Nova Scotia to better support student and teacher success.

The Chamber's submission to the Minister's Panel asked for similar recommendations and we will be watching the Department of Education closely to ensure that it follows its timelines to implement them. The report was less clear about the cost of the plan and given the government's current fiscal situation, we will be looking for you to implement these reforms within the current spending envelope.

We are committed to doing what we can to help build a better education system here in Nova Scotia. If you would like to discuss these issues further please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Valerie Payn, President & CEO  
Halifax Chamber of Commerce