

August 20, 2015

Honorable Randy Delorey
Department of Finance
7th Floor, Provincial Building
1723 Hollis Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 1V9

Dear Minister Delorey:

We are following with much interest the recent discussions with the public sector unions regarding collective bargaining. The Halifax Chamber of Commerce is strongly supportive of the government looking for new and innovative approaches to ensuring the provincial budget is balanced in 2016.

With 52% of provincial spending on wages and benefits, working with the public sector unions to find ways to manage within the spending envelope is key. Affordability for Nova Scotia taxpayers should be the foundation for any such policy decisions and we are pleased to see you state your position clearly and invite collaboration to execute what should be all Nova Scotians objective – our fiscal sustainability.

Beneath all the rhetoric it is easy to forget that both government and unions have a strong interest in making Nova Scotia's public services sustainable for the long-term. This approach provides an excellent opportunity for both sides to decide on their priorities and ensure that their interests are represented in a final agreement.

Sincerely,



Valerie Payn, President and CEO
Halifax Chamber of Commerce