



NOVA SCOTIA BUSINESS & LABOUR ECONOMIC COALITION

Friday, June 25, 2021

Via Email: Chrystia.Freeland@parl.gc.ca

RE: Extension and Expansion of the CEWS and CERS to Highly Affected Sectors

Dear Deputy Prime Minister Freeland,

On behalf of the Nova Scotia Business and Labour Economic Council ([NSBLEC](#)), I am writing to you to express the need for an extension and expansion of the Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) and the Canadian Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS), specifically for sectors that continue to be highly affected by COVID-19 restrictions.

As I am sure you are aware, Atlantic Canada, and more specifically, Nova Scotia, has taken a more cautious approach to re-opening, relying on epidemiology and vaccination rates to ensure we evade a fourth wave that would result in many of our businesses being closed. While this approach has kept our case numbers low, crushed the third wave and allowed our economy to slowly reopen, it has hit several sectors particularly hard. Notably, the hospitality and tourism sectors, which rely on restriction-less consumers and open-borders, continue to be highly impacted by restrictions imposed to limit the spread of COVID-19.

This issue may not be as apparent nationally. However, for the Atlantic provinces, the extension of CEWS and CERS and the expansion of each to their previous (higher) rates is needed to ensure this economic generator, employer of thousands of Canadians and lifeline for many business owners, can survive through to 2022.

We are asking the Federal government to review the continuing impact of COVID-19 on these sectors in Atlantic Canada and refocus supports to levels that ensure highly affected sectors, including tourism and hospitality, can weather the remainder of the storm. The members of the NSBLEC agree that an extension and expansion of the CEWS and CERS would not only benefit these hard-hit sectors, but the economies of Atlantic Canada and the entire country more broadly.

We look forward to your reply or any questions you may have?

Sincerely,

Patrick Sullivan
President and CEO
Halifax Chamber of Commerce
Chair of NSBLEC

cc: Sean Fraser, MP for Central Nova and Parliamentary Secretary to the Deputy Prime Minister
Andy Fillmore, MP for Halifax
Darren Fisher, MP for Dartmouth-Cole Harbour
The Honourable Bernadette Jordan, MP for South Shore-St. Margarets
Darrell Samson, MP for Sackville-Preston-Chezzetcook
The Honourable Geoff Regan, MP for Halifax West

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