



**METROPOLITAN HALIFAX  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
*Strong Business. Strong Community. Since 1750.*

June 14, 2002

Anne Muecke  
Project Manager  
1<sup>st</sup> floor - City Hall  
P.O. Box 1749  
Halifax, NS B3J 3A5

Dear Ms. Muecke

**RE: REGIONAL PLAN FOR HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY**

The Metropolitan Halifax Chamber of Commerce is a best-practice business organization that continuously strives to make Halifax an even more attractive city in which to live, work and play. The 2,000-plus Chamber members employ more than 60,000 people, representing over one quarter of Metro Halifax's labour force of 204,000.

One of the Chamber's key goals in our long-term strategic plan is to demonstrate leadership in planning a city by design, for Halifax. The Chamber started down this road when we collaborated in 2000 with regional government on the HRM 20/20 visioning exercise. The Chamber again became involved in February of 2002, by assembling a committee, to provide comment on HRM's regional planning project.

The Chamber of Commerce believes it is important that the business community be recognized as a stakeholder in the process. Business in HRM contributes approximately 40% of the tax base in the municipality. It is our view that the breadth of the regional plan must be broadened to consider the needs of the business community. The contribution that the business makes in the development of our region must be recognized. Halifax is the economic engine for the Province and much of the economic activity is attributable to the business community in the region.

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Feedback from the Chamber group has identified the following principles to be included in the regional planning process:

- Efficiently manage our region's infrastructure, including transportation, environment, utilities, schools, oil and gas and technology elements.
- Balance the needs of our business and residential communities.
- Ensure economic and environmental sustainability.
- Contain measurements and accountability.
- Ensure our region is competitive at local, regional, national, and international levels.
- Foster integration and cooperation between public and private sector.
- Consider short-term critical areas that need to be addressed as well as long-term growth.

We are a diverse collection of communities within HRM. Our region desperately needs an overall strategy that will guide the kind of city that we want to be. We applaud HRM Council for showing leadership to champion this process. The Chamber looks forward to continuing to contribute to HRM's efforts to plan a city by design.

Sincerely,

(Signed)  
Valerie Payn,  
President