



HALIFAX CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE

POLICY HISTORY

1995 - 2005

Review of Chamber Policies
June 14, 2005

Note:

Each policy document is identified by name. Policy type, committee responsible, date and status are listed. Status for policy issues is listed as closed, closed/updated, open/dormant or open/active.

Closed – document is a simple information piece and not the basis for advocacy, issue was temporary or has changed such that policy is no longer relevant.

Closed/updated – document is not the most recent/best version and does not form the basis for advocacy work on an issue.

Open/dormant – whole or part of the document is still valid and relevant. Issue not currently the focus of advocacy work.

Open/active – document is valid & relevant and forms the basis of current advocacy work.

Policy: Submission to House of Commons Standing Committee on Transportation

Committee: Transportation

Date: 9-Mar-2005

Summary:

Highlights of the submission:

- Chamber urged the federal government to review Canadian international air policy with a view to valuing the economic needs of Canadian regions and communities, rather than focusing on the desires of domestic carriers.
- Chamber voice its support for the termination of the NAS rent requirements imposed by the federal government, as well as the elimination of the air travelers' security charge and the federal excise tax on aviation fuel.

Status: Open/active.

Policy: 2005 Provincial Pre-Budget Submission

Committee: Provincial Affairs

Date: 8-Mar-2005

Summary: The 2005 pre-budget submission addresses the issues of planned debt reduction, tax cuts and net revenues.

Status: Open/active.

Policy: 2005/06 HRM Budget Response

Committee: Municipal Affairs

Date: 8-Mar-2005

Summary: The 2005 budget response highlights key areas, including: spending, inflation control, debt reduction, revenue sources, tax structure and regional planning. In particular, the proposed spending increases by HRM have the Chamber concerned.

Status: Open/active.

Policy: Submission to House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance

Committee: Federal Affairs

Date: 11-Nov-2004

Summary: Issues of concern for the 2005 budget include: fiscal restraint, debt reduction, tax relief and the federal cities agenda.

Status: Open/active.

Policy: Key Issues Briefing - Mayor Kelly

Committee: Staff

Date: 29-Oct-2004

Summary: Update on issues discussed by Chamber representatives with the Mayor. These issues include: regional planning, municipal tax reform and creative funding methods for HRM.

Status: Closed.

Policy: Annual Meeting with Deputy Ministers - Briefing Note

Committee: Staff

Date: 4-Oct-2004

Summary: Update on issues discussed by Chamber executive with Deputy Ministers. These issues include: transportation, people strategy/business environment, energy, finance, municipal issues, and consultation.

Status: Closed.

Policy: Business Occupancy Assessment Tax Submission Re: Elimination of the Tax

Committee: Municipal Affairs

Date: 30-Jul-2004

Summary: Submission of the Chamber supporting the elimination of the Business Occupancy Tax (BOT) while ensuring that the BOT is eliminated in such a way as to cause the least financial hardship for business, but still protects HRM's revenue gathered from the collection of the BOT.

Status: Open/dormant.

Policy: Immigration in Nova Scotia

Committee: Business Environment

Date: 14-Jul-2004

Summary: Update of the Chamber's policy on immigration. Makes the "demographic/business" case for immigration and calls on the government 1) to engage stakeholders to assist in developing an immigration policy and action plan to attract, integrate and retain a proportionate share of newcomers, 2) to clarify roles and accountabilities for immigration by, 3) to implement the Nova Scotia Nominee Program in an effective and efficient way that reflects the experience and lessons learned by other provinces, 4) to maximize the benefits of immigration by ensuring that support systems are in place to facilitate the early and successful

entry of immigrants into the Nova Scotia economy, and 5) to build welcoming communities in the province by leading and supporting public education on immigration.

Status: Open/active.

Policy: "Questions From the Business Community"

Committee: Staff

Date: 9-Jun-2004

Summary: Questions for members to put to federal candidates pre-election on issues including health care, cities, tax cuts, spending, debt, immigration, transportation and the economy.

Status: Closed.

Policy: Minister Valeri's address to the Chamber

Committee: Federal Affairs

Date: 14-Apr-2004

Summary: Remarks made by Tony Valeri, Minister of Transportation, to Chamber members.

Status: Closed.

Policy: Federal Budget Breakfast Presentation

Committee: Federal Finance

Date: 24-Mar-2004

Summary: Presentation on the budget presented by Deloitte, Stewart MacKelvey, and the Altus Group.

Status: Closed.

Policy: HRM CAO Lays it on the Line

Committee: Municipal Affairs

Date: 12-Mar-2004

Summary: Remarks by George MacLellan on the future of the city.

Status: Closed.

Policy: 2004/2005 HRM Pre-Budget Submission

Committee: Municipal Affairs

Date: 1-Mar-2004

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Summary: The Chamber's submission to the Mayor and HRM council focused on four main areas identified by members as important to the success of their business: municipal tax reform, the business occupancy tax, the development of new, creative funding methods for Halifax and the implications of the proposed provincial assessment cap.

Status: Closed/updated.

Policy: 2004 Provincial Pre-Budget Submission

Committee: Provincial Affairs

Date: 27-Feb-2004

Summary: The submission's main areas of focus are: debt management/reduction; program and infrastructure spending; transparency in financial reporting; tax cuts; and intergovernmental co-operation.

Status: Closed/updated.

Policy: Letter to Mayor Kelly re: Burnside Tax Levy

Committee: Staff

Date: 27-Feb-2004

Summary: The Chamber, as a business in Burnside, voted no on the creation of a proposed Burnside Business Commission and sent a letter to the Mayor regarding the proposed Commission. This Commission would be funded through a tax levy on businesses in the Park.

Status: Closed.

Policy: 2004 Key Issues Caucus Briefing Note

Committee: Provincial Affairs

Date: 27-Feb-2004

Summary: Summary of policy issues brought up at meetings with party caucuses. Issues include provincial finance, municipal relations, people strategy, oil and gas, customs pre-clearance, Sunday shopping and the importance of consultation.

Status: Closed.

Policy: Workers' Compensation: Proposed Legislation Changes

Committee: Provincial Affairs

Date: 10-Feb-2004

Summary: Letter expressing concern about the proposed changes to the Workers'

Compensation Act, given that the financial implications of the required change are unknown. The Chamber recommends that other changes to the Act should be dealt with separately.

Status: Open/dormant.

Policy: 2004 Regional Planning Submission

Committee: Municipal Affairs

Date: 22-Jan-2004

Summary: Outlines key principles the Chamber believes should guide the regional plan, including sustainability, flexibility, accessible, simple, transparent, timely. It should address issues such as competitiveness, the co-existence residential and commercial needs, development patterns, and transportation.

Status: Open/active.

Policy: Creating our Future

Committee: Municipal Affairs

Date: 21-Jan-2004

Summary: Regional Planning Submission.

Status: Closed.

Policy: 2004 Regional Planning Summary

Committee: Municipal Affairs

Date: 21-Jan-2004

Summary: Summary of principles guiding the Chamber's input into the regional plan.

Status: Closed.

Policy: Tax Burden – Are Things Getting Better or Worse?

Committee: Staff

Date: 12-Jan-2004

Summary: An assessment of the tax burden in Nova Scotia showed that in December 2002, Nova Scotians spent approximately 46% of their income on some form of tax and that this was relatively stable compared to the burden two years earlier. Compared to other provinces the tax burden for small businesses was comparable to that in other provinces, for large businesses the tax burden was higher than that in 6 other provinces. Personal taxes are generally higher in NS

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than in select US states, small business taxes slightly lower and large business taxes slightly higher.

Status: Closed.

Policy: Amended - Oil & Gas Policy Statement

Committee: Energy

Date: 9-Jan-2004

Summary: Amended version of the oil and gas policy statement.

Status: Open/dormant.

Policy: Oil and Gas Policy Statement

Committee: Energy

Date: 7-Jan-2004

Summary: Further to earlier energy work by the Chamber developed several policy recommendations pertaining to the oil and gas industry in Nova Scotia, including: single window access, the inclusion of Environment Canada in the Atlantic Energy Council, that the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Resources Accord be reaffirmed, enabling government to better streamline the process; and an updated reporting mechanism for Nova Scotia.

Status: Open/dormant.

Policy: Tax Survey Results 2003

Committee: Government Affairs

Date: 5-Jan-2004

Summary: The top three areas respondents suggested that the Chamber should focus efforts on in terms of taxation were: Business occupancy tax, Corporate income tax, and Sales tax.

Status: Closed.

Policy: DebtWatch update: Keeping government on track

Committee: Provincial Affairs

Date: 2-Dec-2003

Summary: Monitor of the financial progress of our province through five key indicators: tax competitiveness, sustainability, flexibility, vulnerability and managing within budget.

Status: Closed/updated.

Policy: 2004 Federal Finance Standing Committee Submission

Committee: Federal Finance

Date: 4-Nov-2003

Summary: Chamber's submission to the Federal Standing Committee on Finance. Chamber urges the government to keep three key issues in mind when developing the next budget: the need for fiscal restraint, debt reduction and a reduction in taxes. The submission also speaks to the importance of federal support for municipalities.

Status: Closed/updated.

Policy: Deregulated Store Hours: Let's Just Do It!

Committee: Business Environment

Date: 17-Oct-2003

Summary: Summary of policy supporting the deregulation of store hours.

Status: Open/dormant.

Policy: Law Amendments

Committee: Business Environment

Date: 17-Oct-2003

Summary: Submission to the law amendments committee supporting the deregulation of store hours.

Status: Closed.

Policy: View of the Business Community

Committee: Provincial Affairs

Date: 29-Jul-2003

Summary: Provides snapshot of main issues of importance to the business community in the lead-up to the provincial election. Includes: Tax competitiveness, Decreased debt charges, Grow own source revenue, Manage within budget, Control and reduce spending in Health, Education and Debt Servicing, Reduce debt to GDP ratio, Reduce debt per capita, A comprehensive debt repayment plan and implementation, Year round Sunday shopping, 100% smoking ban, Cooperation with other governments and the community on areas of shared interest, Reduce jurisdictional overlap and streamline the regulatory process for the energy sector, and Better air access to our region.

Status: Closed.

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Policy: Provincial Party Platform Responses 2003

Committee: Provincial Affairs

Date: 29-Jul-2003

Summary: Provincial Party Platform Responses 2003 offers Chamber members the verbatim responses provided by the NDP, Progressive Conservatives and Liberals to a series of key questions.

Status: Closed.

Policy: Provincial Party Platform Summary

Committee: Provincial Affairs

Date: 29-Jul-2003

Summary: Outlines the responses to questions posed by the Chamber by the NDP, Progressive Conservatives and Liberals.

Status: Closed.

Policy: Air Access Letter May 2003

Committee: Air Access Task Force

Date: 28-May-2003

Summary: Letter of request that the Department of Transport reinstate its review of Canada's international air access policy, suspended following the tragic events of 9/11. Prior to this suspension, the federal government's expressed intent was to encourage a national discussion concerning liberalization.

Status: Closed.

Policy: Chamber Impacts Winter/Spring 2003

Committee: Government Affairs

Date: 2-May-2003

Summary: Summary of some of the work the Chamber undertook over the winter and spring. Issues covered here include the Kyoto protocol, federal and provincial budgets and Debtwatch.

Status: Closed.

Policy: AGM and Spring Dinner 2003

Committee: Board

Date: 23-Apr-2003

Summary: Addresses from annual General Meeting.

Status: Closed.

Policy: Question and Answer - Nova Scotia Finance Minister

Committee: provincial affairs

Date: 25-Mar-2003

Summary: Pre-budget questions and answers.

Status: Closed.

Policy: Kyoto

Committee: Energy

Date: 3-Mar-2003

Summary: Submission expresses concerns about possible impacts on business and on Nova Scotia, as a whole, of federal government measures to meet Kyoto targets. The Chamber makes a number of recommendations including: The Chamber recommends that:

- Nova Scotia seek to achieve "equitable" in the calculation for burden share, to make the burden more proportionate;
- The Province must take steps to ensure the viability of Nova Scotia Power's assets;
- Nova Scotia must get credit for clean energy sources in emission target calculations;
- Clear policies are needed on how new industries are to be evaluated with respect to "emission permitting";
- particular business sectors needing more time to make significant cuts in greenhouse gas emissions should be eligible for less stringent Kyoto deadlines;
- The Province should insist that the federal government implement the emission cap to provide some degree of cost assurance to business;
- the federal government should consider tax incentives to consumers and small/medium-sized enterprises to retrofit homes and commercial buildings to make them more energy efficient;
- financial incentives introduced by the federal government in 2001 to accelerate the growth renewable energy industries in wind, solar and tidal energy should be reviewed and expanded where possible.

Status: Open/dormant.

Policy: 2003 Provincial Finance Pre-Budget Submission

Committee: Provincial Affairs

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Date: 13-Feb-2003

Summary: The submission's main areas of focus are: financial performance; lack of a debt reduction plan; control and reduction of spending; and tax cuts.

Status: Closed/updated.

Policy: Chamber Impacts - December 2002

Committee: various

Date: 23-Dec-2002

Summary: Chamber Impacts summarizes just some of the work the Chamber has done on behalf of our community this fall and early winter. Issues covered here include regional planning, pro-health legislation, airline access, federal finance and deregulated store hours.

Status: Closed.

Policy: Air Security Tax Letter

Committee: Transportation

Date: 23-Dec-2002

Summary: Letter from Valerie Payn, Chamber President, to John Manley, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and David Collenette, Minister of Transport, again calling for the flight tax imposed by the federal Air Travelers Security Charge Act to be rescinded or substantially reduced. Following are excerpts of the December 23, 2002 letter.

Status: Closed.

Policy: Key Issues Briefing Note 2002

Committee: Provincial Affairs

Date: 10-Dec-2002

Summary: Briefing note documenting Chamber representation before party caucuses. Includes updates on Chamber work in the following areas: finance, deregulation of store hours, health, integration of shared priority areas, energy, transportation, and immigration.

Status: Closed.

Policy: Senator Kirby's Address to the Chamber

Committee: Special Events

Date: 4-Dec-2002

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Summary: Remarks by Senator Kirby to Chamber members.
Status: Closed.

Policy: Halifax Port Authority CEO Addresses the Chamber

Committee: Special Events

Date: 6-Nov-2002

Summary: Remarks by Karen Oldfield to Chamber members.
Status: Closed.

Policy: 2003 Federal Finance Pre-Budget Submission

Committee: Federal Affairs

Date: 30-Oct-2002

Summary: Policy document prepared for the appearance of Chamber representatives before the federal Standing Committee on Finance during pre-budget consultations. The Chamber's key issues for consideration were fiscal restraint, debt reduction, and tax reduction.
Status: Closed/updated.

Policy: Business Climate Index Submission

Committee: Economic Development

Date: 10-Oct-2002

Summary: The Chamber commends the province on the timely issue of its business climate index. It notes that, as the index shows, there are some areas in which the province is doing well and other areas in which it could improve significantly. Furthermore the Chamber expressed its concern about the exclusion of several important measures from the index include key fiscal measures.
Status: Closed.

Policy: Air Access Resolution

Committee: Transportation

Date: 10-Oct-2002

Summary: Air access resolution brought by MHCC to the Canadian Chamber of Commerce AGM. Resolution was adopted unanimously by those Chambers present at the AGM.
Status: Open/active.

Policy: Minister Balseer Speaks to Energy Strategy

Committee: Special Events

Date: 24-Sep-2002

Summary: Remarks made by Energy Minister Gordon Balseer to a Chamber audience updating the business community on his department's energy strategy, greenhouse emission reductions, and new technologies.

Status: Closed.

Policy: Canada Marine Act Review Submission

Committee: Transportation

Date: 18-Sep-2002

Summary: The Chamber recommends that the CMA Review should mainly focus its attention on the issue of port finance, and in particular on four aspects of that issue: (1) borrowing limits; (2) financing instruments; (3) pledging of assets; and (4) the base for calculation of annual charges paid to the federal government.

Status: Closed.

Policy: Skills Nova Scotia Submission

Committee: Economic Development

Date: 16-Sep-2002

Summary: In addition to recommending that the government's skills agenda be developed in a fiscally responsible manner, the Chamber makes recommendations on including a consultative, non-partisan implementation structure, strong intergovernmental links, communicating the benefits of trade and apprenticeship and recognizing the importance of immigration among other things.

Status: Open/dormant.

Policy: Regional Plan Submission

Committee: Municipal Affairs

Date: 6-Sep-2002

Summary: In its submission the Chamber recommends the following principles for inclusion in the regional plan: competitiveness, efficiency, sustainability, balance and integration, measurement.

Status: Closed/updated.

Policy: Chamber Puts Air Access on National Agenda

Committee: Transportation

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Date: 6-Aug-2002

Summary: Update on Chamber advocacy activities supporting its recommendations on air access.

Status: Closed.

Policy: Chamber Impacts - June 2002

Committee: Various

Date: 24-Jun-2002

Summary: Summary of some of the work the Chamber has done on the following issues: pro-health legislation, airline access, HRM's boundary review and the new HRM regional plan.

Status: Closed.

Policy: Input on New Regional Plan for HRM

Committee: Municipal Affairs

Date: 14-Jun-2002

Summary: Letter outlining principles the Chamber would like to see 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.

Status: Closed/updated.

Policy: Input on HRM Boundary Review

Committee: Municipal Affairs

Date: 24-May-2002

Summary: Letter sent to Halifax Regional Municipality's Boundary Review Advisory Committee, asking that several key issues be considered as the review is undertaken. The Chamber asked the committee to measure the effectiveness and

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efficiency of the existing structure, to define the role of community councils, and to determine the appropriate average population per district.
Status: Closed.

Policy: Mayor Kelly's 2002 State of the Region Address

Committee: Special Events

Date: 22-May-2002

Summary: Address by the Mayor on the State of HRM.

Status: Closed.

Policy: 2001 Annual Report/AGM Presentation

Committee: Executive

Date: 1-May-2002

Summary: Presentation from annual General Meeting on May 1, 2002. Includes the Chamber's topline financial statement and a membership profile for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2001, as well advocacy highlights from the past year and a brief review of operational developments.

Status: Closed.

Policy: Air Access Task Force Report

Committee: Air Access Task Force

Date: 19-Apr-2002

Summary: Chamber recommends quality air access at the HIA and supportive national policy that would increase competition and improve access to air travel.

Status: Open/active.

Policy: Hon. Neil LeBlanc's 2002 Pre-Budget Address

Committee: Special Events

Date: 20-Mar-2002

Summary: Remarks by Neil LeBlanc in advance of the 2002 budget.

Status: Closed.

Policy: 2002 HRM Budget Submission

Committee: Municipal Affairs

Date: 7-Mar-2002

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Summary: Pre-budget submission to HRM Mayor and Council regarding the 2002-2003 HRM budget. Key messages focussed on: capital reserves, operating budget, and corporate taxation.
Status: Closed/updated.

Policy: Dr. Tim O'Neill's Presentation to Chamber

Committee: Special Events

Date: 6-Mar-2002

Summary: Remarks by Dr. Tim O'Neill, Executive Vice President and Chief Economist of the Bank of Montreal, on the outlook for Canadian business.

Status: Closed.

Policy: Quick Biz Hits #1

Committee: Various

Date: 25-Feb-2002

Summary: Update provides snapshot of and asks for feedback on a number of issues: parental leave, red tape reduction, review of minimum wage, domestic fuel oil spill policy, elevators and lifts act and regulations, and a new wastewater discharge by-law.

Status: Closed.

Policy: Air Travelers' Security Charge

Committee: Transportation

Date: 22-Feb-2002

Summary: Chamber expresses its concern with regard to the proposed air security charge in a letter to the Minister of Finance, Paul Martin and Minister of Transport, David Collenette.

Status: Closed.

Policy: 2002 Provincial Pre-Budget Submission

Committee: Provincial Affairs

Date: 23-Jan-2002

Summary: Pre-budget submission to the Minister advocates for control of provincial spending, paying down the debt, long-term planning and elimination of non-core areas in government.

Status: Closed/updated.

Policy: A Healthier Community is a Stronger Community

Committee: Health Care Task Force

Date: 17-Dec-2001

Summary: Chamber underlines importance of healthy community as the major driver for its work on health care.

Status: Open/active.

Policy: Chamber Applauds Release of New Energy Strategy

Committee: Energy Task Force

Date: 12-Dec-2001

Summary: Chamber applauds the Province following the release of the new energy strategy but expresses concern over lack of inclusion of implementation tactics and reiterates its desire to see royalties go to pay down the debt.

Status: Closed.

Policy: 2001 Member Survey Findings

Committee: Research

Date: 10-Dec-2001

Summary: Results of the annual membership survey. Among other feedback, 2001 results show that members perceive greater value for their membership over previous years and that members continue to be largely satisfied with the Chamber, and support the direction and priorities advocated by the organization

Status: Closed/updated.

Policy: Chamber Impacts - December 2001

Committee: Various

Date: 10-Dec-2001

Summary: Update on municipal affairs, provincial caucus meetings and upcoming advocacy work.

Status: Closed.

Policy: Health Task Force Report

Committee: Health Care Task Force

Date: 30-Nov-2001

Summary: Advocates 7 principles to govern health care in Nova Scotia, these are: 1) An effective governance body knows why it exists and what difference it aims to make in its community, 2) An effective governance body has a clear understanding

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of its role in relation to other governing bodies and in relation to the role of senior management, 3) An effective governance body functions as a team, 4) An effective governance body fulfils an important role model function, 5) An effective governance body makes informed decisions, 6) An effective governance body strives to maintain excellent communications with its stakeholders, 7) An effective governance body is accountable. The report also focused on improving access to health access and improving the health of Nova Scotians.

Status: Open/dormant.

Policy: Ambassador Cellucci's Speech to the Chamber

Committee: Special Events

Date: 15-Nov-2001

Summary: Paul Cellucci's address to Chamber members.

Status: Closed.

Policy: Key Issues Briefing Note

Committee: Provincial Affairs

Date: 5-Nov-2001

Summary: Briefing Note in support of meetings with party caucuses on the issues of finance, municipal affairs, energy, health, immigration, transportation, deregulation of store hours and community relations.

Status: Closed.

Policy: Bayers Lake Committee Key Issues Briefing

Committee: Bayers Lake

Date: 26-Oct-2001

Summary: Bayers Lake committee outlines key issues of concern, the primary issue being traffic and transportation into and around Bayers Lake Business Park.

Status: Closed.

Policy: HRM 20/20 Letter to Mayor

Committee: Municipal Affairs

Date: 17-Aug-2001

Summary: Letter sent to the Mayor commending the Municipality for the adoption of the HRM 20/20 vision and values and urging that HRM continue moving towards an integration of the core values with a regional strategic plan.

Status: Closed/updated.

Policy: Chamber Impacts - August 2001

Committee: Various

Date: 13-Aug-2001

Summary: Updates member on policy activities including energy, the Burnside Transit Survey, events, and upcoming health work.

Status: Closed.

Policy: Toward a Collaboration Framework

Committee: Economic Development

Date: 31-Jul-2001

Summary: The Economic Development Committee set out to identify the primary focus of selected economic development organizations impacting HRM and to gain an understanding of how they interact with one another.

Status: Closed.

Policy: Mayor Replies to Composting Letter

Committee: Burnside

Date: 26-Jul-2001

Summary: Reply from the Mayor to the letter sent by the Chamber's Burnside Committee outlining short-and long-term concerns with the local composting facility potentially operating over-capacity.

Status: Open/dormant.

Policy: Burnside Composting Facility Letter

Committee: Burnside

Date: 17-Jul-2001

Summary: Letter sent by the Chamber's Burnside Committee outlining short-and long-term concerns with the local composting facility potentially operating over-capacity.

Status: Closed.

Policy: Input on Provincial Energy Strategy

Committee: Energy Task Force

Date: 29-Jun-2001

Summary: Energy must be identified as a priority in government and a Minister exclusively assigned to energy. The report, among other things, encourages the

government to look at the long term economic benefits when developing policy. It argues that Nova Scotians must be the primary beneficiaries of offshore development and that there must be a training component to the development of policy. It encourages the streamlining of offshore regulation and planned, appropriate deregulation of the electricity sector. It encourages the government to give greater consideration to transportation, especially public transit, in its energy strategy.

Status: Open/dormant.

Policy: Fred Smithers' Keynote Address

Committee: Special Events

Date: 15-May-2001

Summary: Keynote address of Fred Smithers, President and CEO of the Secunda Group.

Status: Closed.

Policy: CTA Review - supplementary letter

Committee: Transportation

Date: 7-May-2001

Summary: Letter responds specifically to questions regarding urban transportation raised by the Canada Transportation Act review. Recommends federal support of urban transportation planning and infrastructure through a national strategy, funding for municipal projects, and advanced notice of rail line abandonment with potential for public transit infrastructure use.

Status: Closed.

Policy: The Need for an Integrated Transportation Strategy

Committee: Transportation

Date: 4-May-2001

Summary: Policy recommends the creation of an Integrated Transportation Strategy for the Halifax Regional Municipality and posits that to be successful, this strategy should involve setting clear objectives, integrating transportation planning, and identifying sources of funding.

Status: Closed.

Policy: Review of Canada's Int'l. Air Policy

Committee: Transportation

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Date: 27-Apr-2001

Summary: The Chamber provided input to a review of Canada's international air policy. The Chamber expressed its support of the liberalization of Canada's International air policy, argued that Canada's overall objectives should relate to enhancing economic development by ensuring optimum air access and that Canada must give priority consideration to the potential resulting economic benefits for communities and their airports.

Status: Open/active.

Policy: Chamber Impacts - April 2001

Committee: Various

Date: 23-Apr-2001

Summary: Policy Update outlines the impact the Chamber has had on several key issues recently, including equalization, harbour clean-up, and the provincial budget. The document also summarizes some upcoming initiatives (Workers' Compensation, provincial energy strategy) on which members are welcome to provide their input.

Status: Closed.

Policy: Province's Municipal Equalization Proposal

Committee: Municipal Affairs

Date: 29-Mar-2001

Summary: Chamber expresses concern that the Province's municipal equalization proposal is wrong, unfair and ignores fundamental principles of fairness and accountability.

Status: Closed.

Policy: 2001 Provincial Budget Response

Committee: Provincial Affairs

Date: 29-Mar-2001

Summary: The Province today released its budget for 2001-02. This news release shows why the Chamber is alarmed with the Province's spending and considers it another "missed opportunity" to eliminate the operating deficit.

Status: Closed/updated.

Policy: Sunday Shopping: Call to Action

Committee: Retail

Date: 19-Mar-2001

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Summary: Calls on members to write to the Premier and Minister of Justice to emphasize that the time has come to deregulate store hours and permit Sunday openings. Provides background on the issue and key messages to include in correspondence.
Status: Closed.

Policy: Harbour Solutions Letter to HRM

Committee: Executive

Date: 6-Feb-2001

Summary: Letter, sent to the Mayor and HRM Council, outlines the Chamber's concerns with the selection process to date and urges them to make the most of this opportunity in solving one of our community's most pressing problems.

Status: Open/dormant.

Policy: Second Term Report Card

Committee: Provincial Affairs

Date: 2-Feb-2001

Summary: Summarizes results of Fiscal Report Card. Overall grade of "D".

Status: Closed.

Policy: Second Term Report Card - Detail

Committee: Provincial Affairs

Date: 2-Feb-2001

Summary: Report evaluates the government's progress on six key areas: reducing the number of boards, commissions, agencies, getting out of commercial enterprises, reducing the number of departments, reducing the public service, reducing program spending and eliminating the deficit.

Status: Closed.

Policy: 2001 Provincial Pre-Budget Submission

Committee: Provincial Affairs

Date: 26-Jan-2001

Summary: Provincial pre-budget submission focuses on four areas: 1. Deficit elimination, 2. A Debt reduction plan, 3. Getting Government Spending Under Control, and 4. Foreign Debt exposure.

Status: Closed/updated.

Policy: Chamber Impacts - December 2000

Committee: Various

Date: 11-Dec-2000

Summary: Update on development in major policy areas of the Chamber including: finance poll results, working with industrial Cape Breton, Canadian Transportation Act review and meetings with Party Caucuses.

Status: Closed.

Policy: Annual Meetings with Provincial Caucuses

Committee: Executive

Date: 1-Dec-2000

Summary: Briefing document on Chamber meetings with party caucuses. Document outlines areas of focus as being: finance, economic development, immigration, energy, transportation, and deregulation of store hours.

Status: Closed.

Policy: Presentation to CTA Review

Committee: Transportation

Date: 20-Nov-2000

Summary: Presentation to the federal government's Canadian Transportation Act Review that recommends:

- that in relation to Canada Transportation Act and Canada Marine Act, a mechanism should exist to insure the changes or requirements of one are reflected in the other quickly and efficiently;
- The rail connection to the Port of Halifax is essential to its continued success.
- The Coast Guard cost recovery plan should be revisited. Ports contributing to cost reductions should receive the benefits of their initiatives.
- The Chamber requests that the review panel recommend the federal government examine the current level of subsidies to U.S. east coast ports in the light of fair and free trade and ensure the Port of Halifax has the resources and infrastructure necessary to compete with its U.S. counterparts on a level playing field if it is to remain a major North American gateway.

Status: Active/dormant.

Policy: Sunday Shopping: The Time Is Now

Committee: Retail

Date: 30-Oct-2000

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Summary: This Update outlines why the Chamber feels government should not be in the business of regulating shopping hours. The Chamber is telling the Hamm government "now is the time to deregulate store hours" with a simple message: Nova Scotians want it; visitors to our province want it, and it is a good thing for the business community.

Status: Active/dormant.

Policy: Tax Cuts or Debt Reduction?

Committee: Federal Finance

Date: 16-Oct-2000

Summary: Asks for feedback from members whether they continue to support the Chamber policy of encouraging the federal government to take focus on debt reduction before considering lowering taxes. The Chamber would like to get your feedback in this brief, three-question survey as to whether you continue to support this policy.

Status: Closed/updated.

Policy: Mayoral Candidates Speak for Themselves

Committee: Special Events

Date: 6-Oct-2000

Summary: Transcript of the Mayoralty forum question and answer period.

Status: Closed.

Policy: Province Fails First Chamber Report Card

Committee: Government Affairs

Date: 2-Oct-2000

Summary: Summarizes results of Fiscal Report Card. Overall grade of "F".

Status: Closed.

Policy: First Term Fiscal Report Card for Nova Scotia

Committee: Government Affairs

Date: 1-Oct-2000

Summary: Report that evaluates the government's progress on six key areas: reducing the number of boards, commissions, agencies, getting out of commercial enterprises, reducing the number of departments, reducing the public service, reducing program spending and eliminating the deficit.

Status: Closed.

Policy: Immigration Key to Nova Scotia's Growth

Committee: International Business

Date: 25-Sep-2000

Summary: Update that presents discussion paper on immigration and asks for feedback from members on the issues. Recommendations to the provincial government outlined in the paper are: 1) Bring together stakeholders to act on Voluntary Planning's recommendation to "immediately develop an immigration policy and action plan and work with Ottawa", 2) Develop an effective immigration policy that reflects the Province's fiscal position, 3) Clarify roles and accountabilities and develop a process in which all interested stakeholders can provide ongoing input to the immigration strategy, 4) Adopt a provincial nominee program that reflects the experience in other provinces, 5) Maximize the benefits of immigration by ensuring that support systems are in place to facilitate the early and successful entry of immigrants into the Nova Scotia economy.

Status: Closed/updated.

Policy: Revised Long-Term Strategic Plan

Committee: Board of Directors

Date: 21-Sep-2000

Summary: Revised Strategic Plan that includes some minor revisions from the document implemented in 1999.

Status: Closed/updated.

Policy: Private Sector Will Drive NS Prosperity

Committee: Economic Development

Date: 14-Aug-2000

Summary: Policy Update summarizes the Chamber's August 9th submission on the direction the provincial government should take in developing an economic growth strategy.

Status: Closed.

Policy: Toward a Business-Friendly Policy

Committee: Economic Development

Date: 9-Aug-2000

Summary: This input to a provincial economic growth strategy calls on the government to create a strategy that focuses on:

1. Business-Friendly Policies that:
 - a. foster the growth of export driven industries
 - b. encourage the growth of locally owned businesses as well as new investments by foreign owners
 - c. eliminate direct business subsidies should be eliminated and provide tax incentives that focus on growth industries and are supported by transparent processes, clear objectives and measurable results,
 - d. avoid artificial incentives and barriers to the flow of capital or labour between the
 - e. "two economies"(i.e. rural and urban Nova Scotia)
 - f. support innovation and competitiveness across all industries, and in particular, those industries where Nova Scotia has a distinct competitive advantage
2. Highly-Skilled and Flexible Work Force with particular attention on reducing the high school dropout rate,
3. Simplified Regulatory Environment,
4. Physical Infrastructure, and
5. Collaboration at all Levels:

Status: Closed.

Policy: Do you know how to run the Liquor Store?

Committee: Retail

Date: 29-Jun-2000

Summary: Asks Chamber members for their views on possible changes to the way beer, wine and spirits are sold in Nova Scotia as part of a review process of liquor distribution announced in the provincial budget.

Status: Closed.

Policy: Reducing Red Tape

Committee: Government Affairs, Economic Development

Date: 2-Jun-2000

Summary: Invites Chamber members to provide feedback/input to the provincial government's Red Tape Reduction Task Force.

Status: Closed/updated.

Policy: Chamber Impacts - May 2000

Committee: Various

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Date: 22-May-2000

Summary: Summarizes impact Chamber has had on the following issues: P3, an MOU on a 4th Iceland Air Flight out of HIA, WCB Periodic Payment, Parental Leave Debate, URB orders HRM Council to reduce size.

Status: Closed/updated.

Policy: 2000 Member Survey Results

Committee: Research

Date: 15-May-2000

Summary: Overview of the Chamber's 2000 Member Survey Results.

Status: Closed/updated.

Policy: 2000 Provincial Budget Response

Committee: Government Affairs

Date: 12-Apr-2000

Summary: The Chamber expresses mixed feelings about the 2000 Provincial Budget: cautious optimism about the "smart cutting" of services such as NSLC and investing in priority items and concern about an increase in user fees.

Status: Closed/updated.

Policy: 83% of Members Endorse Sunday Openings

Committee: Retail

Date: 3-Apr-2000

Summary: Survey results of Sunday Shopping poll indicate strong support for deregulation of store hours in NS.

Status: Closed/updated.

Policy: Premier Takes First Step

Committee: Executive

Date: 31-Mar-2000

Summary: Reports on steps taken by the government since the start of the Chamber's get alarmed campaign. These steps include priority setting and elimination of duplication in the government.

Status: Closed/updated.

Policy: Alarm Must Continue to Sound

Committee: Executive

Review of Chamber Policies
June 14, 2005

Date: 6-Mar-2000

Summary: This Update summarizes some of the feedback the Chamber received following its fiscal alarm, and encourages all concerned Nova Scotians to have their voices heard at Province House.

Status: Closed/updated.

Policy: HRM 20/20 News

Committee: Government Affairs

Date: 3-Mar-2000

Summary: Update on number and success of public consultations of HRM 20/20 project.

Status: Closed.

Policy: HRM Municipal Boundaries

Committee: Executive

Date: 2-Mar-2000

Summary: In a letter to the NS Utilities and Review Board the Chamber expressed its support of the minority view in the Report of the District Boundaries Advisory Committee. This minority view stated that the proposed level of 12,000 voters per district is considerably lower than the average for communities of a similar size to HRM and should be increased, that a reduce number of councilors would create a more efficient, cohesive, effective governing body to address regional issues, and that a reduced council would be less divisive on major issues, and as a result the cohesiveness on these key decisions would reinforce their ability to achieve the desired outcomes from their decisions.

Status: Closed.

Policy: 2000 Federal Budget Response

Committee: Federal Affairs

Date: 28-Feb-2000

Summary: In this news release the Chamber expressed its dissatisfaction with the federal government's lack of commitment to debt reduction in its 2000-2001 budget and expressed concerns about the sustainability of tax cuts.

Status: Closed/updated.

Policy: Sunday Shopping Poll

Committee: Retail

Date: 28-Feb-2000

Summary: Survey asks members to indicate whether they are in favour of the Chamber taking a position in favour of Sunday Shopping.

Status: Closed/updated.

Policy: Call to Action - Be Alarmed (provincial debt)

Committee: Executive

Date: 22-Feb-2000

Summary: This Call to Action summarizes the steps we are recommending to Premier Hamm to make the necessary changes to secure our financial future. The Chamber recommends the Premier act immediately, not raise taxes and spend less but spend smarter. It urges Chamber members and all Nova Scotians to express support to the Premier, Cabinet and MLAs for immediate action to reduce spending, refocus government on essential services, and avoid tax increases.

Status: Closed/updated.

Policy: HRM Harbour Solutions

Committee: Executive

Date: 21-Feb-2000

Summary: In this letter to the Mayor, the Chamber urges HRM to move forward with the Harbour Solutions Project and the partnership approach which has been followed to this point.

Status: Open/dormant.

Policy: Raise the Alarm FAQs

Committee: Executive

Date: 21-Feb-2000

Summary: Update outlines the financial crisis of the province and urges members to take action on it.

Status: Closed.

Policy: Less But Better Government Position Paper

Committee: Executive

Date: 21-Feb-2000

Summary: Reiterates points made in the Less But Better Government Policy and outlines the plan of action it recommends to government to eliminate the deficit and establish the financial viability of our province the government. This plan

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indicates the government must: 1) Act immediately and with determination, 2) Exit effectively from non-core activities, 3) Improve the delivery of core functions, 4) Use the potential of the public service to greatest advantage, 5) Engage the private sector, 6) Implement a clear and concise communications strategy.
Status: Open/dormant.

Policy: HRM 20/20 Community Roundtables

Committee: Government Affairs

Date: 18-Feb-2000

Summary: Update on HRM 20/20, a community-based project which asks citizens to get involved and express themselves about the future of our area. Explains the project, gives information about the consultation process and how to get involved.

Status: Closed.

Policy: Review of 1,126 Government Programs

Committee: Government Affairs

Date: 20-Dec-1999

Summary: Update and survey on government program review which asks for member feedback based on their experiences with program and services of government.

Status: Closed.

Policy: Chamber Impacts - December 1999

Committee: Various

Date: 13-Dec-1999

Summary: Updates Chamber activities and showcases Chamber impact in four advocacy areas: federal finance, provincial finance, air merger and business and policing.

Status: Closed.

Policy: Merger of OH&S and WCB in Nova Scotia?

Committee: Government Affairs

Date: 6-Dec-1999

Summary: This update informs members of the Chamber's membership of an ad-hoc employer group formed to submit its views on the provincial government's strategies to reduce the high cost of the Workers' Compensation System. It outlines the committee's proposal which favours a merger of the OH&S and WCB but

emphasizes the need for strong stakeholder input. The update also asks for feedback from members to gauge member support for the proposals.
Status: Closed.

Policy: Less But Better Government Submission

Committee: Government Affairs

Date: 29-Nov-1999

Summary: The Chamber is calling on the Hamm government to deal with the Province's financial resources as its top priority in today's written submission to the Nova Scotia Fiscal Management Task Force, the independent body established to provide Nova Scotians with a voice in the province's fiscal review. The Chamber sets out five management principles for the program review and makes recommendations designed to achieve the objectives. These principles are: 1) Government must urgently eliminate its operating deficit and commit itself to sustainable balanced budgets, 2) Government must establish a framework for the future that sets a clear vision and direction for a fiscally responsible province, 3) Government must restore public confidence in the province's accounting policies and financial reporting, 4) Government must select its priorities and provide only those services that can be funded over the long term, and 5) Government must promote and foster a culture of self-sufficiency. The Chamber also pushes for the establishment of review criteria and benchmarks, and frank and regular communication on the likely impact the resulting changes will have on Nova Scotians.

Status: Open/active.

Policy: 1999 Federal Finance Submission

Committee: Government Affairs

Date: 15-Nov-1999

Summary: The federal finance committee, based on feedback from members, suggests the government should: first, control spending and achieve surpluses, second, bring down the federal debt and finally 3) having reduced the debt, and freed up money currently being spent on interest payments, deliver sustainable reductions in personal taxes that will make a meaningful impact on the national economy. It urges the government to take control of spending and not to prematurely deliver a tax cut.

Status: Closed/updated.

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Policy: The Chamber and International Business

Committee: International Business

Date: 1-Nov-1999

Summary: Survey on international business, members' international activities including export, trade and production abroad.

Status: Closed.

Policy: 1999 (October) Provincial Budget Response

Committee: Government Affairs

Date: 14-Oct-1999

Summary: The budget response calls the budget a missed opportunity to take measure to reduce the deficit.

Status: Closed/updated.

Policy: 1999 (October) Provincial Pre-Budget Submission

Committee: Government Affairs

Date: 5-Oct-1999

Summary: In its pre-budget submission the Chamber presents its four major priorities for the budget. They are: 1. Deficit elimination, 2. A Debt reduction plan, 3. Getting Government Spending Under Control, and 4. Foreign Debt exposure

Status: Closed/updated.

Policy: Air Merger Poll Results

Committee: Transportation

Date: 1-Oct-1999

Summary: In the poll on the proposed air merger Chamber members expressed concern about the Onex proposal. There was a strong preference for the idea of promoting improved access for smaller Canadian carriers in the domestic marketplace, as well as for having the Competition Bureau review the proposal.

Status: Closed.

Policy: Air Merger and Alternatives

Committee: Transportation

Date: 17-Sep-1999

Summary: Survey seeks member feedback on the proposed merger of Air Canada and Canadian Airlines.

Status: Closed.

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Policy: 1999 (June) Provincial Budget Response

Committee: Government Affairs

Date: 1-Jun-1999

Summary: In this response to provincial budget the Chamber expresses concern over the continued increase in the debt and calls on the government to restrict spending in order to allocate a greater surplus to the debt. It also expressed concerns over the Enterprise Zone program on the grounds that government assistance to business distorts the playing field for businesses.

Status: Closed/updated.

Policy: Response to Maersk/Sea-Land Announcement

Committee: Port Task Force

Date: 7-May-1999

Summary: News release regarding Maersk/Sea-Land's announcement that they selected New York-New Jersey as the principle port for their current business volume. The Chamber and other port stakeholders agree that there will be continued growth for the Port of Halifax and that the Port benefited from increased international profile on account of the bid that was made.

Status: Closed.

Policy: Bill 90 Passes Through Legislature

Committee: Government Affairs

Date: 23-Apr-1999

Summary: Policy update summarizes Bill 90, which brought amendments to the Province's Workers' Compensation Act, and passed through the Legislature. The update indicates that the legislation brought some necessary changes to the system while limiting increased costs. The Chamber praises all three political parties for their work and Chamber members for their support and for providing feedback on the original Bill 90 to the Law Amendments Committee.

Status: Closed.

Policy: Committee Activity - 1999

Committee: Various

Date: 31-Mar-1999

Summary: Update on committee activities, meetings and presentations.

Status: Closed.

Policy: Public Private Partnering Report

Committee: Government Affairs

Date: 26-Mar-1999

Summary: The report debunks some of the common myths surrounding public/private partnerships by analysis several key infrastructure projects to see whether these myths have any credence. The report urges that the following principles be followed with respect to public-private partnerships: 1) that the objectives of employing public private partnerships in the delivery of public services should be broadened and clearly communicated, 2) Government should develop and communicate a clear protocol for evaluation of projects and services for delivery through public private partnerships, 3) that P3 projects should have a consistent and transparent process for financial evaluation, and 4) P3 projects should be extended to other non-core government activities when appropriate.

Status: Closed.

Policy: Further Changes Needed in Bill 90

Committee: Government Affairs

Date: 19-Mar-1999

Summary: Updates members on the Chamber's communication with government re. concerns over changes to the Workers' Compensation Legislation, especially, universal coverage and certain extended benefits.

Status: Closed.

Policy: 1999 Municipal Budget Response

Committee: Government Affairs

Date: 19-Feb-1999

Summary: The Chamber indicates its pleasure with the proposed 1999-2000 budget for Halifax Regional Municipality. The Chamber is supportive of the path that Council and HRM staff have set for themselves and encourages them to continue to make the hard fiscal choices that are in the long-term best interests of the municipality.

Status: Closed/updated.

Policy: 1999 Federal Budget Response

Committee: Government Affairs

Date: 16-Feb-1999

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Summary: Chamber expressed disappointment in level of spending in the federal budget.

Status: Closed/updated.

Policy: Call to Action - Act Now or Pay Later! (WCB)

Committee: Government Affairs

Date: 12-Feb-1999

Summary: Calls on members to submit input to the law amendments committee to express their concern over payroll taxes.

Status: Closed/updated.

Policy: 1999 (February) Provincial Budget Submission

Committee: Government Affairs

Date: 11-Feb-1999

Summary: This pre-budget submission calls upon government to give special attention to the following four areas: 1) multi-year financial planning; 2) establishing priorities; 3) reducing the debt and 4) reducing foreign debt component of total debt.

Status: Closed/updated.

Policy: Call to Action - Proposed WCB Changes

Policy type: Call to Action

Committee: Government Affairs

Date: 29-Jan-1999

Summary: Encourages members to provide input on Bill 90 directly to the Law Amendments Committee. Provides logistical information to members and very brief overview of the proposed legislation.

Status: Closed/updated.

Policy: Submission on Bill 90 (WCB Changes)

Committee: Government Affairs

Date: 28-Jan-1999

Summary: Submission to law amendments committee on proposed changes to the WCB on which the Chamber had a number of key areas of concern related to: the cost of implementing expanded chronic pain benefits and universal assessment (the extension of WCB coverage to ALL employers in Nova Scotia, even those exempted by the current Act), the threat to existing private coverage for employees, the need

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for fine tuning the WCB appeal process, and perhaps most importantly, the overall impact of the changes proposed in Bill 90 on the competitiveness of Nova Scotia companies.

Status: Closed/updated.

Policy: Proposed WCB Changes Need Review

Committee: Government Affairs

Date: 15-Jan-1999

Summary: The update outlines concerns with legislation introduced making changes to WCB, namely, the speed with which the legislation was introduced, the lack of understanding of impacts of the legislation and specific concerns regarding the burden on employers and employees created by extending WCB coverage to all employers.

Status: Closed/updated.

Policy: Port Governance

Committee: Port Task Force

Date: 30-Dec-1998

Summary: The update explains the shift from the Port Corporation to Port Authority, the composition of the new Port Authority Board of Directors, and encourages members who are users of the Port of Halifax to get involved in port governance.

Status: Closed/updated.

Policy: Provincial Debt Update

Committee: Government Affairs

Date: 22-Dec-1998

Summary: Chamber submission expresses disappointment with budget deficit and calls on the provincial government to balance the budget, reduce foreign debt exposure, create targets for debt reduction, and to continue to engage in public-private partnerships.

Status: Closed/updated.

Policy: 1998 Member Satisfaction Survey Results

Committee: Research

Date: 21-Dec-1998

Summary: Quantitative results of survey.

Status: Closed/updated.

Policy: 1998 Member Satisfaction Survey Summary

Committee: Research

Date: 21-Dec-1998

Summary: Results of the satisfaction survey. Generally very positive.

Status: Closed/updated.

Policy: No New Municipal Taxes

Committee: Government Affairs

Date: 11-Dec-1998

Summary: Policy update indicates the Chamber's satisfaction at the Mayor's announcement of no new taxes and underlines the need for HRM to control expenditures, commends HRM for its development of Management Principles.

Status: Closed/updated.

Policy: Workers' Compensation Act Reform Poll

Committee: Government Affairs

Date: 4-Dec-1998

Summary: Requests feedback from members on legislative changes to the WCB in the areas of universal assessment, changes for out-of-province employers, rating review commission, periodic payment, chronic pain and survivor benefits.

Status: Closed/updated.

Policy: Chamber Impacts - November 1998

Committee: Various

Date: 27-Nov-1998

Summary: Provides examples of the impact the Chamber's advocacy work had in the areas of bank mergers, federal budget, EI surplus and municipal finance.

Status: Closed.

Policy: Fiscal Submission to HRM Council

Committee: Government Affairs

Date: 17-Nov-1998

Summary: Fiscal submission to HRM calling on the government to take aggressive action to control expenditures and curb rising taxes. Update on HRM's progress on earlier Chamber recommendations featured in "Building a Stronger Municipality". It

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reports some progress, particularly in the areas of creating a governance model and setting targets, while in other areas, such as rising expenditures and deficit, little progress was evident.
Status: Closed/updated.

Policy: Call to Action - HRM Finances

Committee: Government Affairs

Date: 4-Nov-1998

Summary: Call to action for members to pressure municipal politicians to address high levels of spending, increasing taxes and to consider the needs of HRM as a whole.

Status: Closed/updated.

Policy: MacKay Report Submission

Committee: Bank Merger Task Force

Date: 9-Oct-1998

Summary: The submission is a response to the MacKay report on the financial services sector and focuses on the following five areas: 1) access to capital for small and medium sized businesses, 2) need for increased competition for financial services, 3) lack of research on the financing needs of SMEs, 4) need to reduce capital tax, 5) need to improve commercial account management by banks.

Status: Closed.

Policy: 1999 Federal Budget/EI Surplus Submission

Committee: Federal Finance

Date: 7-Oct-1998

Summary: Submission sets out priorities for the federal surplus as being debt reduction, health and education spending and transportation and communication infrastructure. Promotes strategic investments and tax strategies to take advantage of a "new era of fiscal flexibility". A supplementary submission suggests capping EI surplus and not treating that surplus as general revenues.

Status: Closed/updated.

Policy: Halifax International Airport Gets a Fair Deal

Committee: Transportation

Date: 16-Sep-1998

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Summary: Reports that the federal government and the Halifax International Airport reach a satisfactory arrangement re. local control of the airport. The deal meets the requests of the HIAA for levels of infrastructure investment comparable to other airports, protection from hidden liabilities and builds in financability.
Status: Closed.

Policy: Workers' Compensation Act Reform

Committee: Small Business

Date: 28-Aug-1998

Summary: Soliciting feedback from members to be involved in review of WCB legislations.

Status: Closed.

Policy: Maersk/Sea-Land Bid

Committee: Port Task Force

Date: 21-Aug-1998

Summary: Update on the Port Corporation's bid for a Maersk-Sea Land container terminal and on the efforts of all stakeholders to make the bid successful.

Status: Closed.

Policy: Chamber Impacts - August 1998

Committee: Various

Date: 7-Aug-1998

Summary: Chronicle of impacts of Chamber lobby work on making WCB system more effective and efficient, input into new OH&S regulations on violence in the workplace, the transfer of the Halifax International Airport to private operators and on the Port Corporation's response to a request for bids for a Maersk-Sea Land container terminal.

Status: Closed.

Policy: Port Opportunities - Maersk/Sea-Land

Committee: Port Opportunities Task Force

Date: 17-Jun-1998

Summary: Policy update calls on Chamber members and the community at large to support the Halifax Port Corporation bid for the Maersk-Sea-Land proposal.

Status: Closed.

Policy: Halifax International Airport

Committee: Transportation

Date: 8-Jun-1998

Summary: Chamber of Commerce, TIANS and Hotel Association join to advocate for a "fair deal" for the HIA. They call upon the federal government to give the HIA a fair deal that: 1) Places Halifax International on a level playing field in terms of infrastructure investment with other similar airports such as Ottawa and Winnipeg, 2) Does not put any hidden liabilities for historical environmental or other issues passed on to the community and, 3) Is financable, in that it must: a) Create a community-based operation that can support investment over the long term, b) Allow HIAA to implement fair, reasonable and competitive charges; and, c) Allow for future growth.

Status: Closed.

Policy: We Want a Fair Deal Billboard

Policy type: Public Campaign

Committee: Transportation

Date: 8-Jun-1998

Summary: Billboards being erected in Halifax and Ottawa by the Chamber and its community partners, the Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia and the Hotel Association of Nova Scotia, will look like.

Status: Closed.

Policy: 1998 Provincial Budget Response

Committee: Government Affairs

Date: 4-Jun-1998

Summary: Budget response is cautiously optimistic due to a balanced budget, no new taxes and a private sector-led Economic Advisory Council.

Status: Closed/updated.

Policy: Skills Gap

Committee: Business and Education

Date: 3-Jun-1998

Summary: Survey of members on the Skills Gap.

Status: Closed/updated.

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Policy: Bank Merger Survey

Committee: Small Business

Date: 15-May-1998

Summary: Survey of members on potential bank mergers.

Status: Closed.

Policy: Building a Stronger Municipality

Committee: Government Affairs

Date: 24-Apr-1998

Summary: Policy update on "Where Do We Go From Here?" Report.

Status: Closed/updated.

Policy: "Where Do We Go From Here?" Place Audit

Committee: Government Affairs

Date: 24-Apr-1998

Summary: The Report details what the Chamber recommends the municipality do to control its fiscal difficulties. These recommendations include long-term planning and goal, priority setting and baselines to compare against, adoption of a governance model, periodic review of services, HRM linking with interested stakeholders to develop options for an improved tax structure.

Status: Closed/updated.

Policy: HST - Still A Good Deal For Business

Committee: Government Affairs

Date: 6-Apr-1998

Summary: The Chamber continues to support the HST. There have been continuing calls for the elimination of the HST. The Chamber believes these statements are being made in the absence of any discussion about the benefits of the HST, the options for replacement or the implications of such a move. Read why the Chamber believes, as it has since the beginning, that the HST is still a good deal for business.

Status: Closed.

Policy: 1998 Municipal Budget Response

Committee: Government Affairs

Date: 20-Mar-1998

Summary: In this budget response the Chamber expressed concern about spending levels, escalating debt burden and limited contingency reserves. The Chamber

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makes the following recommendations to council: 1) Service delivery re-engineering -what should we be doing and how, explore: should we be doing it? 2) Public/private partnerships -shared cost, shared risks. 3) Outsourcing/contracting out -can the private sector deliver the same level of service at a lower cost?
Status: Closed/updated.

Policy: Business and Essential Public Services

Policy type: Survey

Committee: Government Affairs

Date: 13-Mar-1998

Summary: Survey on whether the Chamber should take a position and comment on back to work legislation.

Status: Closed.

Policy: Future of HRM Depends on You

Committee: Economic Development

Date: 9-Mar-1998

Summary: Survey of members on the five areas identified as important challenges to the future of HRM identified in the Economic Development committee's Place Audit. These were: urban development, population growth, information technology, education and training and transportation infrastructure.

Status:

Policy: 1998 Federal Budget Response

Committee: Government Affairs

Date: 25-Feb-1998

Summary: The Metropolitan Halifax Chamber of Commerce expressed its pleasure with the introduction of the first balanced budget in 28 years. It expressed concern about the lack of debt reduction and the use of only a two-year planning horizon leaves the business community with uncertainty over taxation levels and the costs of doing business in Canada.

Status: Closed/updated.

Policy: The Privacy Act - Does it Affect You?

Committee: Government Affairs

Date: 20-Feb-1998

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Summary: Provides information on legislation introduced by the government to protect personal information collected by the private sector. Ask members for their feedback on anticipated impacts and concerns.
Status: Closed.

Policy: 1998 Federal Budget Survey

Committee: Federal Finance

Date: 13-Feb-1998

Summary: Survey of members pre-federal budget. Survey asks questions re.: debt, spending, taxes, skilled workers training and economic development.

Status: Closed/updated.

Policy: Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S)

Committee: Occupational Health & Safety Task Force

Date: 27-Jan-1998

Summary: Member survey on changes in OH&S regulations.

Status: Closed.

Policy: Transportation Key to our Future

Policy type: Op-ed piece

Committee: Transportation

Date: 27-Jan-1998

Summary: Chamber President Mark Richardson discusses the importance of both the Port of Halifax and Halifax International Airport to our regional economy. Both of these economic engines are the key to our future prosperity and success.

Status: Closed/updated.

Policy: Meeting with Federal Transport Minister

Committee: Executive

Date: 15-Dec-1997

Summary: Chamber representatives met with David Collenette, Federal Minister of Transportation, on December 11, to discuss the future of both the Halifax International Airport (HIA) and Port of Halifax. The Chamber expressed its concern that in transferring management of the Port to the private sector, the Minister have the support of the community and that the terms of any agreement be fair and reasonable. The Chamber also argues that the new Port Authority must be able to attract investment — with comfort for investors — by minimizing the risks

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associated with investing in what has been traditionally a government domain, and increasing the chances of a valuable return.
Status: Closed.

Policy: New Deal Better for Nova Scotia

Committee: Sable Task Force

Date: 12-Dec-1997

Summary: On December 10, 1997, Premier MacLellan announced the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement with the Sable partners called a new deal for Nova Scotia. With this announcement the Chamber saw movement on all five of the principles that put forward to govern offshore development: 1) Timeliness, 2) Open and Fair Access, 3) Financially Self Supporting, 4) Fair Rate Structure, 5) Future Opportunities.

Status: Closed.

Policy: New Gas Deal

Policy Type: News Release

Committee: Sable Task Force

Date: 11-Dec-1997

Summary: In this news release, the Chamber indicates its pleasure with this new direction. The Premier has heard the concerns of the business community and is moving to address them.

Status: Closed.

Policy: 1997 Provincial Budget Submission

Committee: Government Affairs

Date: 8-Dec-1997

Summary: Presentation of the major concerns of Chamber members pre provincial budget. These included: 1) Spending (money should go to debt, tax reductions, spending in that order of priority), 2) Debt Structure (excessive foreign currency exposure), 3) Harmonized Sales Tax (tax rules too complex), 4) Public/Private Partnering (members supportive of partnerships).

Status: Closed/updated.

Policy: Place Audit of HRM

Committee: Economic Development

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Date: 2-Dec-1997

Summary: The EDC sees five areas which will pose significant, future challenges for this region. This paper is not intended to provide solutions but to point out the areas for future action. Each of these areas is described briefly. These five areas are: urban development, population growth, information technology, education and training and transportation infrastructure.

Status: Closed/updated.

Policy: Canada Marine Act

Committee: Transportation

Date: 21-Nov-1997

Summary: Outlines the two main Chamber concerns re. the CMA: governance and the ability for new Port Authorities to attract private sector funding.

Status: Closed.

Policy: Long Term Vision for the NS Offshore

Committee: Oil & Gas Committee

Date: 21-Nov-1997

Summary: Chamber recommends a number of actions to encourage the development of an offshore industry including demanding higher royalties, legislating the right to restrict sales of natural gas liquids out of Nova Scotia and providing "right of first refusal" to Nova Scotia based companies to purchase natural gas liquids and create a government agency through which liquids must be sold.

Status: Closed/updated.

Policy: Marine Services Fees

Committee: Transportation

Date: 12-Nov-1997

Summary: In this letter to David Anderson, the federal Fisheries Minister, the Chamber stated its opposition to the views put forward by a coalition of central Canadian business interests. The Chamber calls on the Minister to live up to his commitments regarding a marine fee structure more closely linked to the concept of user pay.

Status: Closed.

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Policy: Chamber Pleased with Sable Decision

Committee: Sable Task Force
Date: 10-Nov-1997

Summary: In this Policy Update to our members the Chamber expands upon why the Chamber supported the decision of the Joint Review Panel. Specifically because it addressed the issues of Timeliness, Open and Fair Access and Future Opportunities - Natural gas liquids offer the potential for significant industrial development in Nova Scotia. The decision of the Joint Review Panel should not preclude future exploitation of this resource.

The Update also laid out areas of future focus for the Chamber. Areas key to a Nova Scotia based petro-chemical industry such as natural gas liquids.

Status: Closed.

Policy: Natural Gas Liquids

Committee: Sable Task Force
Date: 5-Nov-1997

Summary: Chamber President Joe Randell emphasizes, in a letter to the Premier, the importance of keeping the Sable natural gas liquids in Nova Scotia.

Status: Closed.

Policy: Sable Joint Review Panel Decision

Committee: Sable Task Force
Date: 5-Nov-1997

Summary: In its report today the Joint Review Panel satisfied three out of the five principles the Chamber called for for Sable development. These were:

1. Timeliness
2. Open and Fair Access - equal access to the transmission infrastructure.
3. Financially Self Supporting - The mainline should be financially self supporting.
4. Fair Rate Structure - Those closest to the resource should pay lower transmission charges, consistent with sound economic principles.
5. Future Opportunities - Natural gas liquids offer the potential for significant industrial development in Nova Scotia. The decision of the Joint Review Panel should not preclude future exploitation of this resource.

The joint review panel report satisfied three of five principles (1,2,5).

Status: Closed.

Policy: Policy activity for October 1997

Committee: Various

Date: 5-Nov-1997

Summary: Update on committee projects.

Status: Closed.

Policy: Sable Contracts

Committee: Sable Task Force

Date: 30-Oct-1997

Summary: The Sable Offshore Energy Project offers a wide variety of business opportunities to members. Members should be proactive in seeking work with the Sable Offshore Energy Project. This update suggests how to do that and gives names and contact numbers.

Status: Closed.

Policy: Port Opportunities Task Force Report

Committee: Port Opportunities Task Force

Date: 5-Oct-1996

Summary:

Key recommendations:

1. The commitment of all key stakeholders to the vision.
2. Revisions to the proposed Canada Marine Act.
3. A new Port Authority, controlled and driven locally by the private sector, with full responsibility for the Port, and active involvement of major stakeholders and investors.
4. Rapid upgrading of Port facilities.

Key Challenges:

Divided leadership
Inability to borrow capital
Lack of local control
Limited local market
Lack of private sector involvement
Lack of adequate infrastructure
Land space availability
Distance/transit times
Legislated costs

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Is not (or is not perceived as) major centre
Status: Mostly closed. Some challenges still "open" and active. E.g. transit times.