



PRESS RELEASE

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HALIFAX CHAMBER OF COMMERCE RESPONDS TO MINISTER'S EDUCATION PLAN

January 29, 2015 - Halifax, NS – The Halifax Chamber of Commerce supports today's move by the Minister of Education to improve Nova Scotia's education system. The Chamber has been supportive of reviewing the education system 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 Minister's 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 the department to implement these reforms within their current spending envelope.

"A high-performing education system is critical for our province's economic future," says Valerie Payn, President and CEO of the Halifax Chamber of Commerce. "We will be looking for all parties to come together and do what it best for our province's children"

The Halifax Chamber of Commerce is committed to enhancing the prosperity of its members and to realizing Halifax's potential to be among the top 3 highest growth city economies in Canada by 2018.

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