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REC'D - HALIFAX

CHANGE OF COMM.

January 12, 2012

Ms. Valerie Payn, President
Halifax Chamber of Commerce
656 Windmill Road, Suite 200
Dartmouth NS B3B 1B8

Dear Ms. Payn:

On December 9, the province released its Jobs and Building Plan for the upcoming fiscal year. The plan focuses on projects that will make life better for Nova Scotian families, like emergency rooms, schools, roads and hospital equipment, while creating thousands of good jobs and growing the economy.

Overall, the province is investing \$610 million in more than 150 projects that will generate direct employment equal to 4,500 full-time jobs in communities across the province. Spinoffs resulting from capital spending are expected to employ another 3,100 Nova Scotians.

As well, for the second time in the province's history, government is releasing the capital plan before the spring budget. This sends a clear signal of what the province intends to do in the year ahead and gives the private sector greater opportunity to prepare for upcoming projects, resulting in better planning, efficiencies and cost-savings for the province.

Beyond these broader benefits, I want to bring to your attention to the investments in 2012-2013 for schools in your area:

- \$900,000 to renovate the Atlantic Memorial/Terrence Bay School;
- \$20.8 million for the construction of a new school to replace Charles P. Allen High School in Bedford/Hammonds Plains;
- \$3 million for renovations, including classrooms, administration and site upgrades, for Dartmouth High School; and
- \$2.5 million for renovations, including a new tech-ed and innovation labs, for Prince Andrew High School

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The total investment of \$110 million across the province in new schools, renovations, buses and the continued expansion of the province's student information system is another example of government's commitment to put kids and learning first.

The government is investing \$22 million province-wide in upgrades to aging health care facilities to provide better care for patients and an improved environment for health care professionals. We are spending \$626,000 to expand home therapy to provide Nova Scotians living with kidney failure with better dialysis care, closer to home, and \$6.8 million to establish collaborative emergency centres in more Nova Scotia communities to reduce wait times and help more Nova Scotians receive better care sooner

We are investing in our health care system with a \$420,000 planned expansion of the dialysis unit in the QEII's Dickson Building, which will help provide better care for Nova Scotians receiving dialysis treatment in Halifax. We are funding the preliminary design for the expansion and renovation of the Dartmouth General Hospital, which will lead to better access to care for Dartmouth and area residents. We are providing funding for the first step to upgrade Capital Health's aging infrastructure with a feasibility study to determine the best ways to complete upgrades over the next five years to the benefit of all Nova Scotians.

We are also providing \$2.25 million in funding for the next phase of repairs to the Dominion Building, current home to the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia in downtown Halifax, to preserve an important part of our heritage for present and future generations of Nova Scotians.

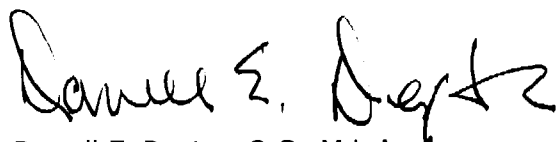
The Department of Justice is making the courthouses across the province safer for staff and court participants with upgrades that are part of a \$2 million investment.

Additionally, the government is investing \$281 million in major highway construction projects and upgrades across the province, including Highway 107 Phase 1 (Burnside to Bedford).

I would encourage you to read the Jobs and Building Plan, and the message from Finance Minister Graham Steele, at www.gov.ns.ca/treasuryboard.

While these projects are important to families at any time, they are even more significant during this period of economic uncertainty. That's why our government is investing in much needed infrastructure that will spur economic growth in all regions of the province, and make life better for us all.

Sincerely,



Darrell E. Dexter, Q.C., M.L.A.
Premier