



THE PREMIER
HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA
B3J 2T3

October 30, 2014

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

Dear Ms. Payn:

Thank you for your most recent letter inquiring into the plans of the provincial government. As always, your contribution to the discussion is welcome.

As you know, the past year has been very busy – as government moves forward with its plan to effectively realign and rebuild the relationship between the provincial government and Nova Scotians.

In particular, the efforts undertaken on the labor front are especially fundamental.

As you undoubtedly recall, government passed the *Essential Services Act* in the spring of 2014. This law means that a predictable and safe level of service will remain in health care – while preserving and respecting the right to collective bargaining. As a logical follow-up, the recently passed *Health Authorities Act* will significantly streamline the relationship between the employer and employee representatives.

Of course, this is only one component of our plan to address the need to simplify the role of the provincial government.

Other elements include:

- The Comprehensive Tax Review is nearing completion – and actions will be taken in the 2015 budget
- This Review will point the way toward appropriate regulatory reform and red tape reduction
- Improvements to the education system are well underway – and the Curriculum Review will result in specific actions in early 2015
- Improvements to population retention and attraction are a cornerstone priority of government – and these twin goals are part of most of government's fundamental policy decisions

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Again, I want to thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stephen McNeil", with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Honourable Stephen McNeil, M.L.A.
Premier