

August 15, 2014

Dear Premier McNeil:

You are entering the second year of your mandate. I know. How times flies.

Speaking of time...I remind you that this is "your time". Your time to make change; your time to start new programs; and your time to remove those that do not have clear objectives and outcomes that contributes to our provincial growth.

High on your focus must be our provincial fiscal situation, in particular our rapidly escalating \$13Billion debt. High focus on the need to grow our economy, to target our education priorities towards math and science, and how we will keep our young people in this province.

You will never have a better time than now, Mr. Premier. Now is the time to be bold. To be bold, and step up for the enormous challenge before us all. To be bold, and wiling to take the criticisms and the hits for those decisions that will not make everyone happy. This is the epitome, and the price, of leadership. You were elected by a strong majority as our leader; and now we need you to visibly lead.

I encourage you to stay focused on the goals you have laid out, and support the right conditions for the business community to flourish: reasonable and competitive taxes, regulations that make sense, and a welcoming business attitude that starts with you...an attitude that is reflected throughout government.

At the Chamber, we are seeing many positive early moves from your government. You have built a strong team of capable ministers to support your work -- and who are working tirelessly for this province.

We, the business community, stand at the ready to support you through the tough leadership decisions you need to make. Publicly share with us, and all Nova Scotians, your vision for the future of our province and your plans to get us there.

We are with you. Are you with us?

Valerie A. Payn
President and CEO
Halifax Chamber of Commerce