

2020-2021 Provincial Budget Response: A Little Something for Everyone

The Halifax Chamber of Commerce was pleased to hear that budget 2020-2021 will bring Nova Scotia closer to the national average for the corporate tax rate and the small business tax rate. The business community has worked hard to grow the economy and build jobs in our province for many years with tax rates that were much greater than other provinces and this change will build a more competitive Nova Scotia tax environment. For years, the Halifax Chamber of Commerce has requested a decrease in the corporate tax rate to 14%, the national average, to increase our competitiveness and availability of funds for investment. The Chamber is also excited to hear that the Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness will be saving businesses another \$10 million, adding to the current \$34 million in savings in the last year. These savings are beneficial to current business owners and to new entrepreneurs looking to start a business in this province.

We know that while many have seen success and have achieved higher than expected goals as Nova Scotia's economy improves, some Nova Scotians were left behind. We are glad the Province has looked to ensure success is felt by all, with commitments in areas like affordable housing, transportation, and accessibility. We are concerned though, that with a projected flattened economy and issues like the rail blockages, the gaps in the forestry sector and reliance on federal transfers, the larger than expected capital plan will pose a threat to our debt/GDP ratio. The Ivany goal of a 30% debt to GDP goal is significantly eroded with the capital plan as presented.

Budget 2020-2021 is optimistic about the future of our province and the ability of the government to partner with organizations, like the Halifax Chamber of Commerce and the business community, to strengthen the economy and proactively create new opportunities for employment, innovation and investment in Nova Scotia. To learn more about the Halifax Chamber's strategic priorities for the province, check out our [2020-2021 Pre-Budget Submission](#) and [2019-2023 Strategic Plan](#).

If you have any questions or would like to provide feedback, please contact our policy analyst, Kathleen MacEachern, as Kathleen@halifaxchamber.com