



## Atlantic Chamber Statement on Nova Scotia 2021 Budget

2021-22 Province increases competitiveness but falls short on economic supports

**Windsor, NS (March 25, 2021)** – After weathering the storm of COVID-19 and the challenges the pandemic has presented, the Government of Nova Scotia has put forward a reasonable budget with modest spending measures for economic support.

The Atlantic Chamber of Commerce (ACC) are encouraged by some of the proposals put forth in Budget 2021 by the Government of Nova Scotia. The Government has set a new target to reduce government's regulatory burden on business by \$10 million in 2021, increased resources in the Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness, and has committed \$1 million to continue to support businesses in rapidly adopting digital tools and innovations. The province has also committed \$1.5 million for the first year of a new five-year Aquaculture Expansion Strategy.

“The announcements in today's budget featured welcomed proposals to reduce the regulatory burden on businesses and accelerate recovery from the impacts of COVID-19.” said Sheri Somerville, CEO, Atlantic Chamber of Commerce. “We are encouraged by Nova Scotia's efforts to increase competitiveness within the private sector. At the same time, many small businesses continue to struggle and require more support from Government if they are going to recover from the pandemic.”

While the ACC supports measures to increase competitiveness, Budget 2021 does not provide new support the most vulnerable businesses impacted by the pandemic. With COVID-19 restrictions in place, it is imperative that Government support businesses that have been impacted by lockdowns and ongoing restrictions. Nova Scotia has maintained a good fiscal record for the majority of the past decade and could have found more room in the budget to put a greater focus on economic recovery.

ACC's Member Chambers of Commerce in Nova Scotia recognize the challenges of COVID-19 and are prepared to work with the current government and other partners to ensure a prosperous future and economic recovery for Nova Scotia.

## **About the Atlantic Chamber – The Voice of Atlantic Canadian Business**

The Atlantic Chamber of Commerce (ACC) is the largest accredited business organization of influence in Atlantic Canada representing more than 16,000 businesses through its network of 94 Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade and 30 corporate partners in the four Atlantic Provinces.

For more than 125 years, ACC has served as the voice of Atlantic Canadian business and actively partners with its members and other organizations to help create a strong, vibrant, and growing Atlantic Canada. ACC does this through strategic advocacy that shapes policy issues that impact business, the delivery of high-value programs and services to support business, and the facilitation and promotion of initiatives for business that contribute to sustainable economic growth in the region.

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