



## PRESS RELEASE

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### INTRODUCING THE COVID-19 BUSINESS/EMPLOYEE NOVA SCOTIA TEAM

**March 17, 2020 - Halifax, NS** – The Halifax Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce the creation of the COVID-19 Business/Employee Team. The group represents the business and labour community and will work to support businesses, labour and employees and allow collaboration across Nova Scotia during this uncertain time.

The team met via teleconference to discuss the current status of COVID-19 for the business community and employees. The team will continue to meet regularly over the coming weeks to answer important questions. This team includes representatives from:

- Halifax Chamber of Commerce
- Nova Scotia Federation of Labour
- ACOA
- Atlantic Convenience Stores Association
- CFIB
- Business Improvement Districts of Halifax
- Center for Ocean Ventures & Entrepreneurship (COVE)
- Construction Association of Nova Scotia
- Cape Breton Partnership
- Discover Halifax
- Department of Business, Province of Nova Scotia
- Department of Labour and Advanced Education, Province of Nova Scotia
- Develop Nova Scotia
- Halifax Partnership
- Hotel Association of Nova Scotia
- Mayor of Halifax's Office
- Nova Scotia Business Inc.
- Restaurant Association of Nova Scotia
- Restaurants Canada
- Retail Council of Canada
- Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia
- United Way Halifax
- Yarmouth and Area Chamber of Commerce
- *Organizations will be added from across the province in the coming days.*

Collectively, this group will be a point of contact for government as they make rapid decisions and changes to the business environment and will help share these decisions with the Nova Scotia business community. We will also be advocating on behalf of Nova Scotians to ensure their questions and concerns are heard. The group will be reaching out to include other organizations throughout Nova Scotia with a shared interest in supporting the business and labour community in the coming days.

"The business community, government, and labour associations are united in their support for Nova Scotia," said Patrick Sullivan, President & CEO of the Halifax Chamber of Commerce. "We want Nova Scotia business and labour communities to know that we are here for them in these difficult times."

“These are extraordinary times. COVID-19 is having very real public health impacts and we know there will be economic impacts. Small businesses have an important role in our economy and we are committed to assisting small business owners,” says Geoff MacLellan, Minister of Business. “Led by the Department of Business, we will be actively working with businesses, associations and labour – including this group – to understand what our businesses require in the immediate term. Policy decisions, programs and supports will be announced over the coming days.”

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