



November 23, 2016

Mr. Glenn Davis, Vice President Policy  
Atlantic Chamber of Commerce  
[glenn@apcc.ca](mailto:glenn@apcc.ca)

Dear Mr. Davis:

Thank you for your email dated November 14, 2016, in which you raise a number of important issues facing New Brunswick including jobs, education and health care.

As your letter has noted, New Brunswick has faced a number of challenges in recent years. Our economy has underperformed and population declines were becoming increasingly common. However, we have seen recent improvements in our economy with real GDP growth in 2015 reaching its highest level since 2004, and was well above the average growth observed between 2011 and 2014.

We have also seen a reversal of recent population trends with four consecutive quarters of population growth. Immigration, supported by the arrival of Syrian refugees, reached an all-time high this year, while employment reached a 30-month high in September.

To support this economic momentum, our government recently introduced a comprehensive economic growth plan to better co-ordinate government resources as we works towards growing the economy.

Earlier this year, our government released our multi-year plan to return balance to the province's finances. This plan was built by New Brunswickers through an extensive engagement process known as the Strategic Program Review. Many of the issues raised in your correspondence touch on many of the same themes raised by New Brunswickers during the Strategic Program Review.

Our plan will balance the budget by the year 2020-2021. This timeline strikes the balance New Brunswickers want between fiscal responsibility and investments in jobs, education and health care.

Minister/Ministre  
Finance/Finances

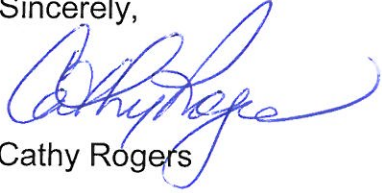
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Many of the hard decisions have been made, including raising the HST. A number of measures have been implemented, but there are additional initiatives to be implemented and there is still a lot of work to do if we are to keep our plan on track. It will take continued diligence and hard work to ensure that we meet our fiscal objectives, while investing responsibly in priority areas such as education, health care and jobs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cathy Rogers', with a stylized, cursive script.

Cathy Rogers