

# IT'S TIME

A LOT HAS HAPPENED OVER THE PAST YEAR

## MARCH 2015

Memorandum of Understanding signed between Nova Scotia and New Brunswick to create the Joint Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness

## AUGUST 2015

Office is preliminarily staffed

## NOVEMBER 2015

Maritime Premiers' Action Plan for Regulatory Reform announced

- Prince Edward Island joined Office
- Charter of Governing Principles for Regulation adopted
  - commitment made to mirror legislation
  - commitment made to common measurement for regulatory costs
  - immediate actions identified:
    - aligning dates for minimum wage changes
    - aligning record-keeping requirements
    - moving to common documents for procurement

## JANUARY 2016

- Premier McNeil earned honourable mention in national red tape reduction awards for removing barriers to apprenticeship mobility within Canada

## MAY 2016

Based on input from business groups, including the Atlantic Chamber of Commerce, CFIB and Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters, the Council of Atlantic Premiers announced commitment to:

- adopt Canada Revenue Agency's One Business Number to simplify business registration with Workers' Compensation Board
- give mutual recognition in specific areas of Occupational Health and Safety
- move to standardize the Carrier Profile for the regional transportation industry

## MAY 2015

Nova Scotia's first Chief Regulatory Officer Fred Crooks appointed

## OCTOBER 2015

Small Business Week

- Convenience store bundle, changes to weight and dimension regulations, and elimination of Amusement License announced

## DECEMBER 2015

- Regulatory Accountability and Reporting Act introduced and passed in Nova Scotia
- Mandate letters sent to all departments, including expectation to work with the Office to reduce regulatory burden
- Regulatory Accountability and Reporting Act introduced in New Brunswick

## APRIL 2016

- Minimum wage aligned in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick on April 1; PEI to align in 2017
- Regulatory Accountability and Reporting Act introduced in Prince Edward Island
- Legislation to align record-keeping requirements introduced in 3 Maritime provinces

## JUNE 2016

- Regulatory Accountability and Reporting Act passes in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island
- Joint Office publishes first Annual Report



*We want to become one of the most competitive and prosperous business climates in Canada. To do that we have to remove obstacles and increase regulatory predictability so businesses are confident in making investments in our region.*

*Honourable Stephen McNeil, Premier of Nova Scotia*

*Businesses have too much paperwork. Compliance with regulatory requirements leaves small and medium-sized business owners with less time to do business and they often face proportionally higher costs than larger businesses due to economies of scale - resulting in a disadvantage for the sector as a whole.*

*So when the Atlantic Red Tape Reduction Partnership was announced last year, ACC was delighted to take part in the consultation to determine what regulatory constraints are unduly restrictive or burdensome and to make recommendations that focus on deliverable results.*

*Valerie Roy, Chief Executive Officer  
Atlantic Chamber of Commerce*



## EXAMPLES OF COST SAVINGS ASSOCIATED WITH REDUCTION OF REGULATORY BURDEN

▶ **\$730,000** ◀

Annual savings for three initiatives, representing only a fraction of the work that's been done throughout the year.

**\$420,000**

aligning record-keeping requirements

**\$288,000**

moving apprenticeship forms online

**\$21,000**

aligning timing of changes to minimum wage to April 1

## FUTURE PRIORITIES

- **Measurement**
  - Implement Regulatory Assessment and Costing Tool.
- **Service Improvement**
  - Develop a service program as one means to address and reduce the regulatory burden.
- **Internal Trade**
  - Enhance access to Maritime market for businesses through regulatory reduction, elimination, or streamlining.
- **Workers' Compensation**
  - Implement Canada Revenue Agency's One Business Number across Atlantic Canada.
- **Occupational Health and Safety**
  - Mutual recognition in specific areas of certification and training across Maritimes.
- **Procurement**
  - Implement common solicitation documents for procurement across Maritimes.
- **Transportation**
  - Alignment of carrier profile systems across Atlantic Canada.