

August 11, 2014

Honourable Maureen MacDonald
A/Leader of the New Democratic Party
NDP Party Caucus Office
BMO Building, 5151 George Street, Suite 601
Halifax, NS B3J 1M5

Honourable Jamie Baillie, FCA, MLA
Leader of the Opposition
Progressive Conservative Caucus Office
Centennial Building, 1660 Hollis Street, Suite 1001
Halifax, NS B3J 1V7

Dear Ms. MacDonald and Mr. Baillie:

Your letter of August 5, 2014 to Premier McNeil in his capacity as Chair of the oneNS Coalition has been referred to me for reply, as the Office of Planning and Priorities is serving as the Secretariat to the Coalition.

At the inaugural meeting of the Coalition on May 15, 2014, the Coalition members and oneNS Commission Chair, Ray Ivany, suggested the Coalition set a limited number of priorities for immediate attention and action, and stay focused on those areas in the initial phase of the Coalition's work on its 10-year strategy and action plan for economic transformation and renewal for Nova Scotia. The members of the Coalition then decided that the first three areas of focus should be: immigration, start-ups and exports.

At the June 2 meeting of the Coalition, Saeed El-Darahali (for immigration), Jevon MacDonald (for start-ups), and J.P. Deveau (for exports) were tasked with working with OPP staff and other Coalition members (working groups) to commence action plans for each area of focus. Working groups focused on immigration, inter-provincial migration and retention (chaired by Saeed El-Darahali), start-ups and entrepreneurship (chaired by Jevon MacDonald), and global competitiveness and trade (chaired by J.P. Deveau) are underway, making progress on their action plans and intend to be in a position to report back on progress at the September meeting and again on October 2.

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Hon. Maureen MacDonald

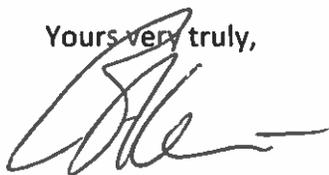
Hon. Jamie Baillie

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Your suggestion to set an ad hoc August meeting and turn the Coalition's attention to the BCE (Bell Canada Enterprises) corporate transaction appears to be outside the intended scope of the Coalition's mandate for planning and oversight work for the development of the 10-year strategy and action plan, as called for in the oneNS Commission's report, and may not be consistent with the Coalition's desire to stay focused on its identified priorities of exports, immigration and start-ups.

That said, I would be pleased to meet with both of you to discuss the workplan of the Coalition and its goals and objectives if that would be useful to you. I can be available at your convenience.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bernie Miller', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Bernie Miller

Deputy Minister

Office of Planning and Priorities

c: Premier Stephen McNeil, Chair, oneNS Coalition