

September 11, 2015

BY FACSIMILE
(902) 424-0635

Hon. Randy Delorey
Minister of Finance and Treasury Board
P.O. Box 187
Halifax, NS B3J 2N3

Dear Mr. Delorey:

I am writing to you today out of concern that what's driving your approach to collective bargaining is an ideological preference for austerity, rather than a fair and objective economic analysis.

We have reviewed what information is available to the public with respect to the Premier's Fiscal Plan. Having done so, we are now concerned that this government's stated objectives regarding economic growth could be undermined by its single-minded austerity-driven approach to administration – an approach that has remained pervasive throughout our early discussions, including our most recent meeting on August 18th.

I disagree with the notion that government should be balancing their books on the backs of our public sector employees. The people who work in our public sector not only improve the quality of life of all Nova Scotians through the services they deliver, but they also contribute to our Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Public sector workers understand the value of what they're doing and are proud of the contribution they make to our economy. They deserve more from their government than austerity-minded platitudes.

I am hoping to shed some light on the supposed economic concerns you cite in the media, and gain a better understanding of how the province has gotten to this point. In particular, I would like to receive the following:

- Information about the preparation of the "Proposed Public Service Sustainability Mandate" itself, the costs to date, and who was involved with its preparation;
- A breakdown of bargaining unit and non-bargaining unit employee compensation costs across all departments, agencies, boards and commissions for each of the last five years;
- A breakdown of the actual, forecast and projected "restructuring" costs, including how much money is set aside for bargaining in the public sector;
- A copy of any reports, studies, research, and briefing notes about what the government is expecting unions to give up or reduce in return for any wage increases;
- A copy of all written or email communications sent to all public sector employers in 2013-14, 2014-15, and 2015-16 about bargaining and employee compensation;

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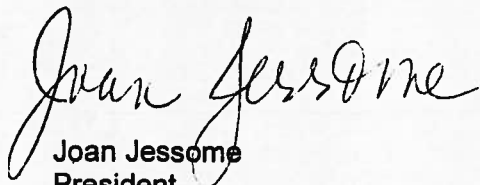
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- A copy of any reports, research, studies and briefing notes about possible changes to public service/long service awards;
- A copy of any reports, studies, research, briefing notes about the government's Program Review process, a list of the Cabinet Ministers, staff and any external consultants involved, and a breakdown of the costs involved with this process;
- A copy of any reports, studies, research and briefing notes about the size of the provincial civil service.
- A copy of any reports and briefing notes about what was received by the permiersuggestionbox@gov.ns.ca or its equivalent.
- A copy of any reports, studies, research and briefing notes about the government's approach to net zero bargaining.

Assuming the Premier and you, as the current Minister of Finance, are serious about meaningfully engaging the public sector employees through their unions in the collective bargaining process, we look forward to receiving the information requested above for which we will also be filing FOIPOP applications. Together, using the same information, we can achieve more than what ideologically driven austerity can accomplish for our province.

I look forward to hearing from you shortly.

Yours sincerely,



Joan Jessome
President

Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union

- c. Premier Stephen McNeil
Jamie Baillie, PC Leader
Maureen MacDonald, Interim NDP Leader