



THE PREMIER
HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA
B3J 2T3

April 5, 2016

Ms. Alaina Lockhart
MP - Fundy Royal
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Ms. Lockhart:

Thank you for your email of February 22. I appreciate you informing me of your Private Members Business Motion focused on immigration to Atlantic Canada.

As you know, the Province of Nova Scotia is focused on increasing immigration to Nova Scotia in an effort to address demographic pressures related to outmigration and an aging population. As this is a shared interest and priority of all Atlantic governments, we are collaborating to develop approaches to increase immigration levels and retain those who choose to come to Atlantic Canada.

In Nova Scotia, we have met and exceeded our nominee program cap over the last few years. In 2015, not only were we successful in obtaining a 50% increase in our cap (from 750 to 1050 nominations), we also negotiated and received an additional 300 nominations from the federal government.

While we are pleased with our success to date, we want to do more. Our government is working hard to advance a positive and responsive approach to immigration policy. We have demonstrated our capacity to attract and retain immigrants and as such we are seeking more autonomy over immigration to Nova Scotia.

Through the Office of Immigration, and under the leadership of Minister Diab, Nova Scotians would be pleased to work with the Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration once the proposed study is launched.

I wish you much success in your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stephen McNeil".

Honourable Stephen McNeil, M.L.A.
Premier of Nova Scotia

Copy to: Honourable Lena Diab, Minister of Immigration