

February 12, 2008



The Honourable Rodney MacDonald
Premier of Nova Scotia
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Dear Premier MacDonald:

Over the past several years, there has been much debate and discussion regarding the need for expanded convention facilities in the Halifax Regional Municipality. TIANS believes that greater capacity in our ability to host larger events and conventions would provide a significant economic boost to the Nova Scotia economy. An updated, modernized facility would afford opportunities for our city and for Nova Scotia as a whole.



One of the key advocacy areas for TIANS is to advance new investment that would stimulate the tourism sector. Research indicates that up to 40% of convention delegates spend time pre and post travelling throughout a destination. The development of an appropriate sized facility would represent the most significant boost to the tourism product in a number of years, and we would be able to attract events and conventions from many new markets. The economic spin offs from this business sector are considerable.



Tourism will continue to provide Nova Scotia with significant revenues but will need investment in new infrastructure to reach its true potential. With new and appropriate sized convention facilities, tourism receipts in Nova Scotia will rise substantially.

TIANS strongly supports the development of a new convention centre in the HRM and offers any assistance and support to the government as it considers its economic priorities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Tilley-Russell".

Susan Tilley-Russell
Chair, TIANS

cc TIANS Board

Minister William Dooks, Nova Scotia Department of Tourism, Culture and Heritage