



News Release  
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**NSCoC Calls on NS Government to Reverse Paving Decision**

The Nova Scotia government should be doing more business with the private sector, not less. That's the reaction from the Nova Scotia Chambers of Commerce after reviewing the province's plan to get into the paving business.

"This is, without question, a backward step for Nova Scotia," said NSCoC President Wayne Fiander. "This move into a high capital cost business and one that requires efficient, effective and coordinated delivery of material and people is one that should be left to the private sector."

The Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal recently decided to spend \$6 million on paving equipment it claims would save money on certain tenders for paving over the long term. The Nova Scotia Chambers of Commerce finds this claim very hard to substantiate.

"I do not believe that government, which has to pay union wages and benefits, can effectively deliver any service more efficiently than the private sector, let alone road paving," explains Fiander.

The NSCoC is also very concerned that there appears to have been very little, if any, consultation with industry stakeholders before this decision was made.

"We can't help but wonder what's next? In what other areas will this government decide it can compete with the private sector," said Fiander. "We are requesting that this initiative be shelved, at least until the proper consultation with industry stakeholders takes place. Our preference would be to see it eliminated as an option entirely."

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For media inquiries, please contact:

Wayne Fiander  
President  
Nova Scotia Chambers of Commerce  
(902) 495-9549