



Nova Scotia Chambers of Commerce

News Release
November 21, 2011

Nova Scotia Chambers of Commerce Disappointed with Province's Anti- Business Stance.

The Nova Scotia Chambers of Commerce is very disappointed with the introduction of the First Contract Arbitration legislation by the Dexter Government. The NSCoC stresses that this legislation does nothing to promote business growth or retention in the province of Nova Scotia

"I am very disappointed that despite businesses large and small and several business organizations voicing their objection and concern to the Premier, here we are today with more anti-business legislation" says Chris Atwood, president of the NS Chambers. "Bill 100 was brought in under the exact same circumstances."

The purpose of the Trade Union Act is to respect the rights of employees to organize. It is widely recognized that since 2003, Nova Scotia's time lost due to work stoppages has been consistently below the national average and that 97% of bargaining does reach agreement during conciliation. The most compelling fact is that for the last fourteen years the Labour board has only ordered parties to bargain in good faith three times. That is one of the best records in Canada and speaks volumes that this legislation is totally unnecessary.

"I have a great deal of concern that the FCA legislation could hurt future investment in this province," adds Atwood. "We can only hope that government will start listening to our concerns.

The Nova Scotia Chambers of Commerce has never been provided with any significant rationale as to why this legislation is necessary and firmly believes there are much more pressing issues facing this province.

The NSCoC is comprised of 33 Chambers of Commerce across the province representing close to 7000 businesses of all sizes.