



June 11, 2021

The Hon. Iain Rankin  
Premier of Nova Scotia  
Office of the Premier  
7th Floor, One Government Place  
1700 Granville Street  
Halifax, NS B3J 1X5

Dear Premier Rankin:

We are writing to you today, as a follow up of the meeting you hosted with Nova Scotia's 12 business improvement districts (BIDs), on May 21. As requested, the BIDs would like to outline our Federal priorities and would appreciate your support in advocating for them as you communicate with the Prime Minister and the other premiers.

On an immediate and urgent basis, the following are key priorities:

- Eligibility for new businesses to participate in all Federal support programs.
- Extension of the CERS (rent subsidy) program, beyond the current September sunset, until the end of the first quarter of 2022. Even as health restrictions ease as vaccination rise, businesses will be entering the key fall period with depleted revenues and extended debt.
- Extension of the CEWS (wage subsidy) program, until the end of the first quarter of 2022.
- Extension of the December 2022 deadline on interest-free repayment of CEBA loans, or consideration of loan forgiveness, for those businesses in the hardest hit sectors.

These requests are similar to those being made by our colleagues across the country. For your interest we are including two submissions which have been made by International Downtown Association – Canada, which represents more than 500 downtowns and main streets, coast-to-coast.

Sincerely,

Downtown Dartmouth Business Commission  
Downtown Halifax Business Commission  
Downtown Truro Partnership  
Kentville Business Community  
North End Business Association  
Porters Lake Business Association  
Quinpool Road Mainstreet District Association  
Sackville Business Association  
Spring Garden Area Business Association  
Spryfield Business Commission  
Sydney Downtown Development Association  
The Village On Main – Community Improvement District

cc:

The Hon. Labi Kousoulis, Minister of Finance and Minister of the Department of Inclusive Economic Growth  
Scott Farmer, Deputy Minister of the Department of Inclusive Economic Growth  
Bernie Miller, Deputy Minister of the Office of Strategy Management  
Jennifer Church, Assistant Deputy Minister of the Department of Inclusive Economic Growth