

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**For Immediate Release**

**Nova Scotian Downtowns and Main Streets Are Calling for  
Increased Financial Measures from Provincial Government**

**Halifax, NS, May 6, 2021** – Twelve Nova Scotian business improvement districts, representing 4,000 businesses, are calling for the Government of Nova Scotia to increase financial measures to help small businesses survive the current third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result of the recently announced provincial public health restrictions, small businesses have either been forced to close or operate at a fraction of the capacity that would allow them to be financially sustainable. Recognizing that the new public health restrictions were necessary to slow the spread of the virus, Nova Scotian businesses are looking to government for increased assistance to help them through this wave, which has been financially detrimental.

“Small businesses are the backbone of our downtowns and main streets,” said Michelle Champniss, Executive Director, Sackville Business Association. “They make our communities vibrant and a desirable destination for locals and visitors alike. The third wave of the pandemic has hit them even harder than the first, with many just barely hanging on and in need of financial help now. The situation is dire.”

The 12 business associations are calling for the provincial government to:

- 1) Increase the Small Business Impact Grant Part 3. The current value of \$5,000 is not enough.
- 2) Include retail businesses in the eligibility for the Small Business Real Property Tax Rebate Program. Retail businesses have been significantly affected by the public health restrictions through mandated forced closure.
- 3) Adjust current restrictions so that large retailers that are selling non-essential items in-store do not have an unfair advantage over small retailers that were forced to close for in-person shopping.

The 12 business organizations that have partnered in this joint call to action include: 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 Association, Sydney Downtown Development Association, and The Village On Main Community Improvement District.

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**Media Contacts:**

Downtown Dartmouth Business Commission  
Tim Rissesco, Executive Director, [tim@downtowndartmouth.ca](mailto:tim@downtowndartmouth.ca), 902-430-8236

Downtown Halifax Business Commission  
Paul MacKinnon, Chief Executive Officer, [paul@downtownhalifax.ca](mailto:paul@downtownhalifax.ca), 902-483-5148

Downtown Truro Partnership  
Rochelle Roberts, Executive Director, [rochelle@downtowntruro.ca](mailto:rochelle@downtowntruro.ca), 902-895-7800

Kentville Business Community

Genevieve Allen Hearn, Executive Director, [info@kentvillebusiness.ca](mailto:info@kentvillebusiness.ca), 902-679-2328

North End Business Association

Tracy Jackson, Executive Director, [tracy@gonorthhalifax.com](mailto:tracy@gonorthhalifax.com), 902-483-1895

Porters Lake Business Association

Chris Atwood, Executive Director, [chrisr.atwood@cbdc.ca](mailto:chrisr.atwood@cbdc.ca), 902-414-8426

Quinpool Road Mainstreet District Association

Karla Nicholson, General Manager, [karla@quinpoolroad.ca](mailto:karla@quinpoolroad.ca), 902-209-2210

Sackville Business Association

Michelle Champliss, Executive Director, [michelle@sackvillebusiness.com](mailto:michelle@sackvillebusiness.com), 902-252-3099

Spring Garden Area Business Association

Sue Uteck, Executive Director, [sue@springgardenarea.com](mailto:sue@springgardenarea.com), 782-414-0700

Spryfield Business Association

Bruce Holland, Executive Director, [bruce@discoverspryfield.ca](mailto:bruce@discoverspryfield.ca), 902-452-7472

Sydney Downtown Development Association

Michelle Wilson, Executive Director, [michelle@downtownsydney.ca](mailto:michelle@downtownsydney.ca), 902-304-9996

The Village On Main – Community Improvement District

Graziella Grbac, Executive Director, [graziella@villageonmain.ca](mailto:graziella@villageonmain.ca), 902-407-3533, 902-229-6711