



It's now easier

for small businesses to do business.

Tax Cuts

The province will reduce the small business corporate tax rate for the fourth consecutive year, from 3.5 per cent to 3 per cent, starting Jan. 1, 2014. This amounts to a 2 per cent drop in income tax and almost \$78 million in savings for small business that can be re-invested in growth. This is the lowest small business taxes have been in 20 years.

Easier Access

Businesses say they need better support and simpler access to programs and services. The province is cutting red tape and helping small businesses find the programs and services that best meet their needs. Instead of having to wade through a complex list of nearly 40 programs, the province is opening five doors to businesses as clear entry points to the same range of programs and services.

The Five Doors

- Small Business and Regional Development
- Innovation and Learning
- Trade and International Competitiveness
- Tourism
- Jobs Fund

One-on-One Support

Small businesses can access more:

- One-on-one support and more frequent site visits to discuss business solutions
- Faster support through a 1-800 number
- E-forms that are fully integrated with Service Nova Scotia's Access to Business function, which means less red tape

Easier Applications

New, easier application processes will improve service delivery and enable clients to provide better feedback. For example, small businesses applying for funding through the Workplace Innovation and Productivity Skills Incentive (less than \$15,000) can expect faster turn-around times.

Support for Business Competitiveness and Growth

Small businesses will have access to tools, resources, and services that will ultimately help them improve their bottom line. For example, small businesses can get help in using IT tools, digital technology, and social media.

Stronger Regional and Community Focus

Regional Enterprise Networks will provide regional economic leadership and help develop regional economic strategies, while supporting small businesses. Going through the Small Business and Regional Development door, businesses will find a bundle of programs focused on business start-ups, business planning, and website development.

"Donald Savoie said Nova Scotia should set out to be the most business-friendly jurisdiction in Canada. We are taking another step along this road – helping businesses slice through red tape, saving them time and money, and letting them do what they do best – provide good jobs for Nova Scotians here at home."

– Economic and Rural Development and Tourism Minister Percy Paris