

January 20, 2010

Honourable Marilyn More  
Minister of Education  
P.O. Box 578, 2021 Brunswick Street  
Halifax, NS B3J 2S9

Dear Minister More:

On behalf of the Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia (TIANS) and the Nova Scotia Tourism Human Resource Council (NSTHRC), we are writing to you in regards to the school year start date for the Nova Scotia public school system.

Over the past few years, the tourism industry has expressed concerns regarding schools starting prior to the Labour Day Weekend.

From a workforce perspective, many employers lose their workers early and have to adjust their operating schedule. As well, leisure travel is greatly affected by the early start date and results in significant economic loss to businesses throughout Nova Scotia. Labour Day has traditionally been a very strong weekend for tourism businesses and there is a marked difference when the school year is adjusted to start prior to this weekend.

We have noted that the proposed start date for 2010 is September 1, and we are receiving calls and letters of concern.

We would respectfully ask your department to review its policy around the start date of school and take into account the labour and economic impact on the tourism industry and other businesses in the province. There is significant benefit to the province when economic activity is running optimally, as additional tax dollars are generated to support schools and other important social programs.

We understand from our colleagues in other provinces, that this has been an issue. Many have been able to work on a resolution with their provincial ministries, once the workforce and fiscal effects were considered.

We look forward to hearing back from you on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Darlene Grant Fiander  
President, TIANS  
Executive Director, NSTHRC

cc TIANS Board



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