



Tim Houston, CPA  
MLA Pictou East  
Leader, PC Party of Nova Scotia

Hon. Premier McNeil  
One Government Place  
1713 Barrington Street  
Halifax, N.S. B3J 2A4

May 21, 2020

Dear Hon. Premier,

During the COVID-19 update on Tuesday, May 19 you indicated that consultations with business organizations were nearing an end and that you intended to announce a reopening strategy imminently.

As noted in my correspondence of April 17, I remain ready to work with government and with businesses, in both rural and urban Nova Scotia to ensure a safe and successful reopening of our province.

The experiences of other provinces can be instructive in ensuring that businesses and other workplaces are safe, and that Nova Scotians understand the rules and responsibilities associated with safely patronizing businesses. One thing has become clear: precise and detailed information is key.

A stumbling block in nearly every other jurisdiction has been the availability and accessibility of personal protective equipment (PPE) that is necessary to keep workplaces and customers safe. As noted in our letters dated March 23, April 17 and April 21, we are happy to work with you to source PPE and ensure there is an adequate supply.

As you develop Nova Scotia's reopening plan, we in the PC Caucus urge you to include the following measures:

- Provide greater clarity on the protocols, rules and timelines for reopening businesses of all types;
- Provide and advertise a single platform for those seeking information on reopening, instead of expecting them to potentially visit multiple sites with conflicting information; and
- Create a central information hub for Nova Scotia small businesses to locate PPE and other protective equipment that meets standards laid out by Dr. Strang, with clear prices stated to prevent price gouging.

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Nova Scotia's entrepreneurs are smart and resilient. But necessary restrictions put in place to fight COVID-19 have left many businesses anxious. They have the right to expect support from their government as they get back on their feet.

The straightforward measures listed above will go a long way toward supporting them to a successful recovery.

Should you want to discuss any of these ideas, or need some assistance in developing the plan, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim", with a large, sweeping flourish above the first letter.

Tim Houston  
Leader, Progressive Conservative  
Party of Nova Scotia