



**Saint John
Board of Trade**
Making It Happen For Business

**Provincial Pre-Budget Dialogue Session
Friday, February 20, 2009 – 9:00 a.m.
Delta Hotel, Fredericton**

Minister Boudreau, on behalf of the Saint John business community we would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide our input into 2009-2010 budget.

The Saint John Board of Trade is a nationally accredited business organization dedicated to fostering an economic climate that enhances growth, prosperity, and an improved quality of life in the community. With more than 1,000 members, representing 600 small, medium, and large businesses and organizations and therefore, the interests of more than 30,000 citizens, the Board is a dynamic advocate and the principal voice for the business community of Greater Saint John.

Our input is themed on New Brunswick's balanced approach to stimulate the provincial economy with a focus on achieving self-sufficiency by transforming our economy, workforce, relationships and government.

We would encourage the New Brunswick government to continue to make strategic investments in infrastructure, working with the Federal Government to fund common infrastructure priorities that will create jobs and further develop our province as an Energy Gateway, as part of the Atlantic Gateway.

In addition to working with the Federal government, work in partnership with municipalities, such as Saint John, to replace our antiquated water infrastructure and to implement projects outlined in the Benefits Blueprint.

Transportation infrastructure, such as roads, remains critically important for business. While the funding has been announced for the building of the One Mile Highway Interchange, completion of twinning of Route 1, and the building of the Welsford Bypass, it is imperative that these projects remain on schedule and are completed on time.

We are very appreciative of the funding announcements made recently for the New Brunswick Community College Saint John campus and Anglophone Medical Training Program for Saint John. We would encourage your government to continue to follow through on these announcements to ensure we have a well-educated, skilled workforce for the future and that you continue to invest in our schools and hospitals infrastructure needs.

We understand that you plan to look at restraining and reducing government spending as part of the upcoming budget. We would also urge the government to avoid any duplication in government services such as in the health sector.

As the Premier has said in the past "A strong, self-sufficient New Brunswick requires strong communities". We wish you well in your budget deliberations and that we come through this global economic downturn well positioned for future growth and prosperity.

Thank you!



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