

Provincial Pre-Budget Summary

On Monday the Chamber made a Pre-budget Presentation to Hon. Tom Marshall on your behalf.

The categories presented were:

- **Economic Investment**
 - More focus on RURAL areas and consideration into further decentralization of government services.
 - Minimum wage increase – impact on small and medium sized businesses.
 - Increase the threshold levels of programs under the Human Resources Labour and Employment Department – Social programs. An increase in these thresholds would allow individuals, caught in the situation of potential losing their subsidies, to join the workforce and at the same time receive these vital family benefits.
 - Marine Atlantic and the economic effects its service is having on our region and the Province.
 - Whatever happened to the Red Tape Reduction initiative – seems we have more regulations now than ever.
- **Tourism**
 - Continue its investment in Tourism.
- **Health Care**
 - Ongoing investment and recruitment of doctors and nurses.
 - Review of the Air Ambulance service.
- **Municipal**
 - Review and increase in Municipal Operating Grants – especially for smaller municipalities.
 - Subsidy to offset the costs that will be incurred with the implementation of the new Central Waste Management site.
 - With smaller municipalities attempting to amalgamate services and councils any provision Government is prepared to make, especially when it comes to debt relief, will not only benefit municipal governance but will greatly enhance economic development for the area and the Province.
- **Policing**
 - Continue to provide additional funding to the RCMP to ensure we have the required number of RCMP to provide adequate protection within the area.
 - Supported the Gander/Lewisporte District request for funding for the addition of two new members to the General Investigations Service of the Gander Detachment.