

Re: Item No. 13.3.1

Halifax Partnership

Activity Update

Presentation to
Halifax Regional Council
January 28, 2020

**HALIFAX
PARTNERSHIP**
CONNECT. COLLABORATE. PROSPER.



Economic Highlights

- Halifax's **GDP growth is expected to surpass both national and provincial forecasts**, averaging 2.2% annual growth between 2019 and 2023. The 2.6% growth rate forecasted for 2019 is the highest projected rate in a decade.
- **All industrial sectors are expected to show positive growth** in Halifax through 2023, led by transportation and warehousing (2.6%), wholesale and retail trade (2.6%), professional, scientific and technical services (2.5%), and finance, insurance, and real estate (2.5%).
- **Halifax's labour force grew by 6,400 in 2019** and employment rose by 6,500.
- **The 2019 labour force participation rate rose to 68.3%** and the unemployment rate fell to 5.8%.
- **Total enrolment at Halifax universities remained stable** in 2018-19.
- **International enrolment in Halifax universities continued to grow**, reaching 6,917. This marks thirteen straight years of consecutive growth in the number of international students studying in Halifax.
- **Office vacancy rates remained high in Q4 2019 high at 15.5%** despite strong leasing activity. Net rents for office space in Halifax increased to \$14.86 psf in Q4 2019.
- **Port cargo traffic (TEUs) in 2019 was down slightly (-0.1%)** from 2018 levels.

ECONOMIC GROWTH PLAN FRAMEWORK



By 2031 we have grown to:
population **550,000** (1.7% per year)
& GDP **\$30 billion** (2.9% Per year)



Convene. Connect. Collaborate.



Corporations



Post-secondary



Business development organizations



Innovation Hubs



Industry Associations



Startups & Scaleups



Governments



Talent

Attracting New Companies

Results 2019-2020

- **11 Wins** (5 in the Innovation District)
- 642 jobs
- Potential economic impact of \$64 M
- 115 Leads in the sales funnel
- 42 pitch meetings



Wattpad HQ2 to Open in Halifax



The screenshot shows a news article on the Betakit website. The article title is "WATTPAD TO OPEN SECOND HEADQUARTERS IN HALIFAX". The author is Megan Simpson, dated December 9, 2019. The article includes a photo of Allen Lau, CEO of Wattpad, and a quote from him: "We are entering a rapid growth phase of the company." The article also mentions that Wattpad is set to announce plans to open its second headquarters in early 2020 in Halifax-based Volta Innovation Hub. A sidebar on the right contains a promotional message for the Platform Junction program, stating "Ever wish you had a playbook to grow your startup?" and "The Junction program will set you up for success!" with an "APPLY NOW" button and the Platform logo.

“We believe Halifax has all the key ingredients to make HQ2 successful. The availability of top talent, government support, and great quality of life helped the city stand above the rest. What’s more, the willingness of key stakeholders to collaborate and work with us to launch and scale HQ2 was appreciated.”

Nazia Khan, Chief of Staff

Increasing Commercialization and R&D

Results (2019-2020 to date)

- Met with **75** companies that have the potential to increase R&D and commercialization capacity
- **148** referrals to ecosystem partners



Increasing Export Capacity

Results (2019-2020 to date)

- Met with **49** companies with export potential
- **46** referrals to ecosystem partners and resources
- **60** small and medium sized Nova Scotia companies participating in eBay Canada's Retail Revival Program





Attracting and Retaining Talent

Results (2019-2020 to date)

Connector Program

- **320** new Participants (newcomers, international students, recent grads and laid-off workers)
- **93** new Connectors (business & community leaders)
- **160** Participants found jobs in their career field

Connector+App

- Beta testing in February and early March
- MVP launch by mid-March.

Atlantic Immigration Pilot Program

- Met with **195** facing labour market challenges
- **101** referrals to Nova Scotia Office of Immigration for business designation





“Having completed studies in psychology, leadership and engineering . . . I keep coming back to my passion – helping people with an international background acclimate. It’s my joy to share my knowledge and see them live a life they deserve, so they can call Halifax home just as I have, after 10 years.”

Jade Jiang, Connector

Road to Economic Prosperity African Nova Scotia Community



Establish Land Ownership and
Develop Infrastructure



Build Unity and Capacity Among
African Nova Scotians



Increase participation in education,
employment and entrepreneurship

Thank you

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