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ACC seeks greatly clarity on business, economic issues in NB

The Atlantic Chamber of Commerce (ACC) wants to know what provincial leaders will do over the next four years and is asking questions about how they will accomplish their goals for New Brunswick.

“The potential leaders of New Brunswick have serious economic and financial issues to address,” said Valerie Roy, CEO of the ACC. “The business community drives growth, innovation and employment and therefore has a major stake in policy decisions that will be made until 2018. ACC wants to shed light on public policy that affects everyone.”

The ACC is asking direct questions to all party leaders about the following topics: provincial debt; responsible resource development; efficient government; education; forestry and health care. Business leaders want clarity on issues such as improved student performance, the implementation of the prescription and catastrophic drug plan, what evidence is being used to determine positions on shale gas development, and other key topics.

“Voters should be able to cast an informed ballot,” said Ms. Roy. “We are doing our part by asking party leaders about the big issues and sharing those answers with our members. They want to know how government plans to pay down the New Brunswick collective credit card bill over the next four years, what independent, third-party evidence a party is using for its policy on shale gas development, and whether they would rescind the ‘no fail’ system to reflect real world practice. These issues and more affect us all.”

The ACC’s advocacy framework is aimed at improving New Brunswick’s economy, competitive position, and business community and labour force in the short and long terms. The ‘4P’ framework includes population (growth, attraction/retention of youth and immigrants); productivity (better results from inputs to maintain a standard of living); policy (an environment of sustainable job and wealth creation); and, partnership (coordination of resources to generate benefits for all).

Since 1896, the Atlantic Chamber of Commerce and its predecessors have been championing the cause of business in Atlantic Canada. It represent upwards of 16,000 businesses through a network of 100 member chambers of commerce and boards of trade across the region.