



ATLANTIC CENTRAL

March 8th, 2019

VIA E-MAIL: Legc.office@novascotia.ca

The Honourable Mark Furey
Attorney General and Minister of Justice
Chair of the Law Amendments Committee
1690 Hollis St.
Halifax, NS B3J 2L6

Honourable Mr. Furey:

Re: Bill 97 – *An Act to Amend the Credit Union Act*

Thank you for the opportunity to make submissions to the Law Amendments Committee regarding Bill 97, *An Act to Amend the Credit Union Act* (the "Act"). We are supportive of Bill 97 and the changes it makes to the Act.

Atlantic Central is the regional credit union central and trade association representing credit unions in Atlantic Canada. In Nova Scotia, we represent 24 credit unions with \$2.7 Billion in assets and 146,000 members.

Credit unions are a force for local economic growth and job creation in Nova Scotia. Credit unions have a strong, unique understanding of local needs and opportunities that help inform our business and community activities. In 19 communities in Nova Scotia, credit unions are the only financial institution.

Credit unions are in business to serve members and their communities. Profits go back to members, meaning that credit unions help Nova Scotians hold on to more of their money. While credit unions generate profits for prudential and growth reasons, their primary objective is to meet the financial needs of their members. Since credit unions are owned and controlled by their members, credit unions' financial health is intrinsically related to the financial health of their members and the communities they serve.

Through the Nova Scotia Small Business Loan Guarantee Program, a joint initiative of the Nova Scotia Co-operative Council, Atlantic Central, local participating credit unions, and the Province

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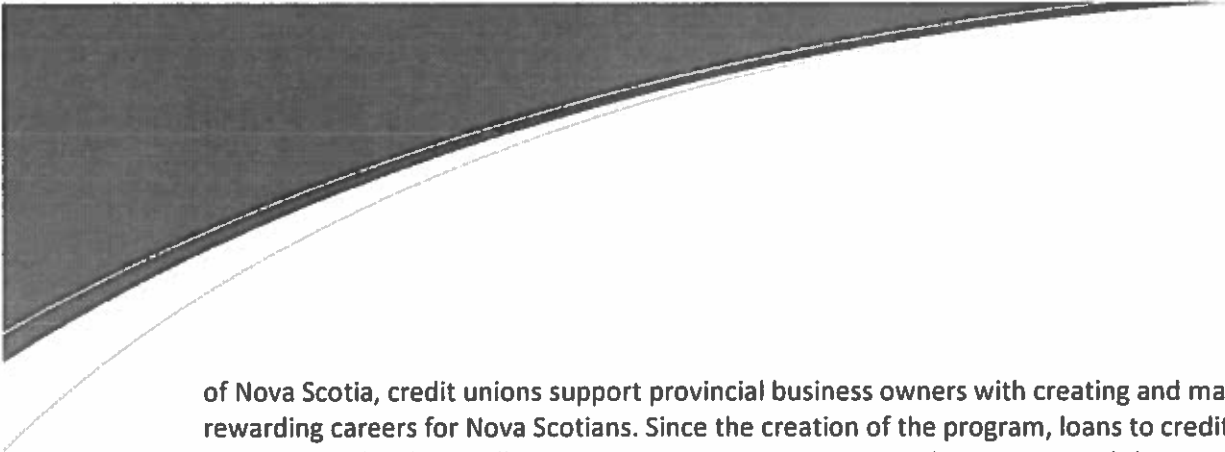
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of Nova Scotia, credit unions support provincial business owners with creating and maintaining rewarding careers for Nova Scotians. Since the creation of the program, loans to credit union members under the Small Business Loan Guarantee Program have supported the creation of 4,282 jobs in the province and helped to maintain an additional 10,456 jobs.

We were pleased to participate in the consultation process as part of the Act review. As part of the process, a working group made up of board and management representatives from across the Nova Scotia credit union system solicited input from all credit unions in the province. Credit unions, Atlantic Central, and the Nova Scotia Deposit Insurance Corporation worked together to develop a submission that represented the best interests of the individual credit unions and their members and promoted a strong, modern, competitive credit union system in the province.

The modernizations to the Act put forward in Bill 97 will put credit unions on a more level playing field with banks and allow them to better serve their members and communities while ensuring an appropriate level of regulation.

We note that Clause 36 adds to the Governor in Council's regulation-making power, specifically around branch closure notice requirements and liquidity and equity policies. We respectfully request to continue to be included in the consultation process when these new regulations are developed, so that credit unions have an opportunity to provide feedback on how new regulations will impact their businesses, members and communities.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to make this submission. We would be pleased to answer any questions.

Sincerely,



Michael Leonard
CEO, Atlantic Central

cc: The Honourable Karen Casey, Minister of Finance and Treasury Board