



December 20, 2022

Hon. Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Veteran's Affairs and MP for Cardigan

Sean Casey, MP for Charlottetown

Robert Morrissey, MP for Egmont

Heath MacDonald, MP for Malpeque

House of Commons

Ottawa, ON

K1A 0A6

*Delivered via Email*

**Re: Letter to Island MPs Regarding Federal Employees Partially Returning to Office**

Dear PEI Members of Parliament,

On behalf of the Greater Charlottetown Area Chamber of Commerce (GCACC) and our over 1,150 members, I am writing to thank the federal government for adopting a common hybrid work model that will see employees return to the office at least two to three days per week, or between 40-60% their regular schedule, by March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

Our Chamber welcomes the decision as even a partial return to offices is positive news for businesses in our capital region, who have had to deal with several hardships over the past few years including the pandemic, lockdowns, supply chain issues, and rising inflation causing business costs to increase and resulting in consumers spending less.

For over two years, our Chamber has advocated for a federal employee return-to-work transition, including in our federal pre-budget submissions for [2021-22](#) and [2022-23](#).

Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) headquarters in Charlottetown, alone, has approximately 1,800 employees across various office spaces. This daily commuter and foot traffic contributes significantly to the economic well-being and vibrancy of our business community.

Many federal employees dine, shop, and access services in our capital region. This common hybrid work model is a positive step in re-stimulating the downtown economy.

We look forward to continuing to work together to support our economy and Island businesses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill DeBlois".

Bill DeBlois

*2022-23 GCACC Board President*