



21 February 2018

Hon. Denis Landry, Minister of Public Safety
Province of New Brunswick
Chancery Place
PO Box 6000
Fredericton, NB
E3B 5H1

Dear Minister Landry:

Re: *Liquor Control Act Reform*

We are writing today to request that your department take action on liquor licensing reform so that New Brunswick's rules and regulations through the *Liquor Control Act* better reflect current realities of consumer behaviour and the continued evolution and diversification of establishments. Our members in the restaurant and bar industry have expressed concerns that many aspects of the current regulatory framework and licensing requirements are hindering business growth while not adding any health and safety value for the province's residents.

It is our understanding that several comprehensive consultations and reports have been completed over many years, most recently in 2012. As written in an email dated 22 January 2018 by Deputy Minister Mike Comeau in which you and Minister Horsman are copied:

"JPS (and previously DPS) is aware of a long list of Liquor Control Act reform ideas important to stakeholders – the hospitality industry, as well as producers and retailers – and more flexibility in licence choices (and fewer conditions to licences) is one common theme. We continue to work on proposals for government to consider. We are resuming engagements with industry this month, in order to ensure we have a fresh understanding of the wants and needs of the stakeholders, in preparation for our next opportunity to pursue reform options."

Our members that were involved in previous consultations tell us that those recommendations are still relevant today.

We suggest that not only is the current regulatory regime outdated but is becoming increasingly so as changing circumstances and public attitudes evolve. The continued proliferation of the craft beer industry and the pending legalization of marijuana are likely to further exacerbate the staleness of the



current Act and associated regulations. Now is the time for forward-thinking reform that aligns with modern attitudes, best practices from across the country, the changing sector as well as current and future realities. A comprehensive re-examination of New Brunswick's *Liquor Control Act* and regulations is warranted.

We would be pleased to speak with you and/or department staff in more detail as the department resumes engagement with industry as indicated by Mr. Comeau. We would also be willing to host a meeting at our office to re-engage industry stakeholders and initiate movement on these needed reforms.

Sincerely,

Keir Clark
Scotia Wealth Management
President, Fredericton Chamber of Commerce

Krista Ross, CEO
Fredericton Chamber of Commerce

cc: Hon. Stephen Horsman, Deputy Premier
cc: Ron Drisdelle, President & CEO, Tourism Industry Association of New Brunswick
cc: Brenda Perrin, President, Fredericton Hotel Association
cc: Luc Erjavec, VP, Atlantic Canada, Restaurants Canada
cc: Bruce McCormack, General Manager, Downtown Fredericton, Inc.