



6 July 2018

Hon. Benoît Bourque, Minister of Health  
HSBC Place; P. O. Box 5100  
Fredericton, NB E3B 5G8  
VIA Email: [benoit.bourque@gnb.ca](mailto:benoit.bourque@gnb.ca)

**RE: Prorating Restaurant Licensing Fees (Classes 3, 4, 5)**

Dear Minister Bourque,

I am writing today to request that your office consider a prorated food premises licensing fee under regulation 2009-138 of the *Public Health Act* for an applicant's first year of operation. Currently, section 12 (1) of Reg. 2009-138 states that licenses expire on 31 March each year (unless suspended or revoked earlier). This means that a restaurant opening its doors on (for example) 15 March, would have to pay the full \$265.00 fee, only then to have to renew two weeks later at another \$265.00.

This is the type of red tape that discourages growth and sends a signal that New Brunswick is 'closed for business.' Obviously, the issue applies to food-based businesses in the first year of operation - the most vulnerable time for any business - but particularly in the restaurant industry where margins are tight and the failure rate is high.

Alternatively to proration, you may want to consider a cut-off point for paying the current year's fee and simply including the remainder of the year into the following year's licensing period for new operations. For example, a food-premise license issued on 1 January 2018 would be valid until 31 March 2019 (with a single \$265.00 fee).

We would be pleased to speak with you further regarding this issue or please reach out to our office at any time should you have questions or require further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Krista Ross'.

Krista Ross, CEO  
Fredericton Chamber of Commerce

cc: Luc Erjavec, VP, Atlantic Canada, Restaurants Canada