



16 May 2017

Hon. Cathy Rogers  
Minister of Finance  
Province of New Brunswick  
Chancery Place  
PO Box 6000  
Fredericton, NB  
E3B 5H1

**Re: Property Tax Fairness in New Brunswick**

Dear Minister Rogers,

We are writing today to echo the request made by the New Brunswick Real Estate Association that the Government of New Brunswick establish a task force to review and recommend changes to the province's property tax system in its entirety. It is our position that the current system has serious flaws that are having a deleterious effect on both business investment and ordinary New Brunswickers on a daily basis.

While we support the important review currently being conducted by Justice Robertson, its scope is reactionary and limited to the issues Service New Brunswick has recently faced with imputing property assessment values based on an in-house formula created by staff. The issues with the property tax regime in New Brunswick are more systemic and pervasive than this singular issue. A newly-created task force should incorporate the recommendations of Justice Robertson into its work.

Specifically, a task force should be struck to to:

- create a property tax system that is predictable and fair;
- develop a property tax system that by design avoid major spikes in assessment increases (anything more than 5% in one year);
- conduct a comprehensive review of the province's entire property tax structure, including relevant existing legislation, to ensure that New Brunswick follows best practices, and is competitive in a global marketplace with a fair and equitable property tax system. This should include a review of: (1) how Land Transfer Tax is calculated; (2) taxation on commercial and non-owner-occupied properties; and (3) property tax rates.



**FREDERICTON  
CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE**

— *The Voice of Business* —

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It has been more than 30 years since our property tax laws have been updated, a comprehensive review is overdue. A task force should include a wide range of affected stakeholders, including chambers of commerce, the New Brunswick Real Estate Association and other business groups.

We appreciate your attention to this important matter for our province and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Paul Simmonds  
Robert Simmonds Clothing  
President, Fredericton Chamber of Commerce

Krista Ross, CEO  
Fredericton Chamber of Commerce

cc: Hon. Brian Gallant, New Brunswick Premier

cc: Hon. Ed Doherty, Minister Responsible for Service New Brunswick

cc: Kari McBride, Chair, Government Relations, New Brunswick Real Estate Association

cc: David Duplisea, CEO, Saint John Region Chamber of Commerce

cc: Carol O'Reilly, CEO, Greater Moncton Chamber of Commerce