



December 19, 2018

Jean-Marc Dupuis, Deputy Minister
Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour
Government of New Brunswick
PO Box 6000
Fredericton, NB E3B 5H1

Via email: jean-marc.dupuis@gnb.ca

Re: Minimum Wage Consultation

Dear Mr. Dupuis:

The Chamber of Commerce for Greater Moncton representing more than 750 businesses in Dieppe, Moncton, Riverview, and the surroundings areas of our region, appreciate the opportunity to provide comments in the process of setting the minimum wage for New Brunswick in 2019.

The role of the Chamber is to foster an economic climate that enhances growth, prosperity and an improved quality of life in the community. Our members represent small, medium and large businesses and organizations from across the region.

The cost of doing business is always a main concern for our members, and with an economy that could be more dynamic in the province, business owners of the Greater Moncton area still seem to be fairly positive towards the state of the economy of our region. On the other hand, provincially, they are more anxious about New Brunswick's ability to reach new heights.

In recent years, the cost of doing business has increased exponentially. Our members have seen increases in personal income tax, minimum wage, gas and diesel tax, a new statutory holiday, HST and corporate tax. They have faced in the past three years enormous increases in workers' compensation premiums, and 2019 could bring more taxes with the introduction of carbon pricing, plus modifications in the Canada Pension Plan.

Employers prefer stability and they like to be able to adapt in a coordinated way, not in an arbitrary way. That is why, the government of New Brunswick should not add additional payroll costs at a time when New Brunswick is already one of the most heavily-taxed jurisdictions in Canada. We think the current system that calls for the minimum wage to increase with the

Consumer Price Index each April is sufficient for our labour market. Above all, this is a concerted approach that is possible to plan.

The new Progressive Conservative government has already passed legislation that will help control WorkSafe NB rates and has promised to eliminate the Small Business Tax. For us and our members, that is an excellent start; let's not reverse course by adding wage costs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Wishart". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

John Wishart
CEO
Chamber of Commerce for Greater Moncton