



**FREDERICTON  
CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE**  
— The Voice of Business —

364 York Street, Suite 200  
Fredericton, NB  
E3B 3P7



10 February 2021

Hon. Dorothy Shephard, Minister of Health  
HSBC Place  
P. O. Box 5100  
Fredericton, NB  
E3B 5G8

Hon. Ted Flemming, Minister of Justice and Public Safety  
Chancery Place, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
P. O. Box 6000  
Fredericton, NB  
E3B 5H1

Via email: [dorothy.sheppard@gnb.ca](mailto:dorothy.sheppard@gnb.ca)

Via email: [hugh.flemming@gnb.ca](mailto:hugh.flemming@gnb.ca)

**Re: 2021-2022 Food Service and Liquor Licensing Fees**

Dear Ministers Shephard and Flemming:

I am writing you today on behalf of our members in the food service industry that require food premises licenses or liquor control licenses to operate their businesses. As you are aware, restaurants have been amongst the hardest hit businesses throughout the pandemic – here in New Brunswick and across the world. Governments have reacted in various ways to support business and economies – through both direct financial aid as well as policy decisions and regulatory adjustments.

We are nearing the one-year mark of government restrictions aimed at reducing the positives cases of COVID-19 in New Brunswick. Despite recent outbreaks, by any metric, our province and your government have been very successful in your efforts to keep New Brunswickers safe. We, of course, support these efforts but they do not come without a cost.

Our local restaurants are in trouble. Government restrictions and related changes to individual's behaviour have some of our member restaurants down 85% of their year-over-year revenue. Most are hanging on, but just barely and as the timelines for getting to a stage where we "live with COVID" in the



**FREDERICTON  
CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE**  
— The Voice of Business —

364 York Street, Suite 200  
Fredericton, NB  
E3B 3P7



Green Phase of the NB Recovery Plan vary from six months to a year, some won't make it to the other side.

Early in the year is typically the worst time for restaurants – with or without a pandemic – and now the renewal date for food service and liquor licenses are quickly approaching.

We are asking your departments to provide one-time relief to current food premise and liquor license holders and waive renewal fees for 2021-2022. This would not only inject much need cash into the hardest-hit businesses, but also demonstrate that your government understands the long-term effects of the pandemic and that you are listening to their concerns.

Thank you for considering this request and please contact me at any time should you have questions or require further clarification.

Sincerely,

Krista Ross, CEO  
Fredericton Chamber of Commerce

cc: Hon. Arlene Dunn, Minister Responsible, Economic Development and Small Business; Opportunities New Brunswick

cc: Luc Erjavec, VP Atlantic, Restaurants Canada

cc: Carol Alderdice, President and CEO, Tourism Industry Association of New Brunswick