



Restaurants Canada

Formerly the Canadian Restaurant and Foodservices Association
Antérieurement l'Association canadienne des restaurateurs et
des services alimentaires

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June 13, 2014

Mr. Brian Gallant
Leader of the Official Opposition
P.O. Box 6000
96 St. John Street, 2nd Floor
Fredericton, NB E3B 5H1

Dear Mr. Gallant:

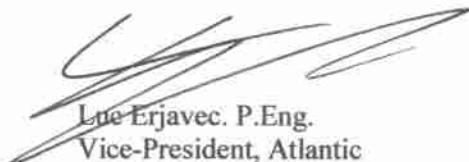
On behalf of Restaurants Canada, I would like to thank you and Mr. Melanson for meeting foodservice industry operators earlier this week in Moncton. It was a good opportunity to share information on the state of the foodservice industry in the province and have a frank and open discussion on some of the issues impacting this industry, the fourth largest employer in the province.

Participants were pleased that you recognize the significant role the industry plays both economically and socially in creating healthy, vibrant communities. Given the importance of the industry in New Brunswick, it is our aim to work with you to develop policies to help this labour intensive industry grow and prosper. In particular, operators were pleased with your willingness to work with the industry on minimum wage, beverage alcohol issues and the universal drug plan. Increases in minimum wage must be more in line with other economic indicators and a tip differential should be implemented to recognize the income earned by servers in licensed establishments. On beverage alcohol issues, licensees must be recognized as wholesale beverage alcohol purchasers and red tape intensive and redundant regulatory barriers must be eliminated to ensure businesses can thrive. While a catastrophic drug plan is a laudable goal, the plan implemented by the current government is unaffordable and unsustainable.

As discussed, using the foodservice industry as a lens by which to filter government policy would go a long way toward creating an environment where small businesses can flourish. Restaurants Canada is more than willing to work with you on other policy initiatives such as tax competitiveness, energy, labour shortage and environmental issues to ensure the province is a good place to do businesses.

Once again, on behalf of the foodservice industry, I thank you for meeting with us and hope we can work together on initiatives to ensure this vital industry continues to create job opportunities across the province. In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Luc Erjavec, P.Eng.
Vice-President, Atlantic

Cc: **Roger Malanson, MLA**
Industry participants