



December 21, 2018

The Honorable Blaine Higgs,
Premier of New Brunswick, MLA (Quispamsis)
Chancery Place
P. O. Box 6000
Fredericton, NB
E3B 5H1
Canada

Via email: premier@gnb.ca

Dear Premier Higgs,

The Chamber of Commerce for Greater Moncton representing more than 750 businesses in Dieppe, Moncton, Riverview, and the surroundings areas of our region, feels obliged to reach out to express the concern of our members for the competitive disadvantage that our region and our province will soon face.

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.

Earlier this year, the Federal Government required every province to submit a carbon plan. In October, we learned that New Brunswick's plan was not approved, which means that the Federal Government will impose what is known as the Federal Backstop. All other Atlantic Canadian provinces reached an agreement with the Federal Government.

The federal government's rejection of a Made in New Brunswick carbon program means that on April 1, residents of our region will pay more to fuel their vehicle and heat their homes. This will put Greater Moncton and New Brunswick at an immediate competitive disadvantage – particularly when compared to our Atlantic neighbors. Overnight, the fuel costs will jump by over four cents per litre and may grow to 11 cents more per litre by 2022.

As the only province in Atlantic Canada in the position of having to prepare for the federal backstop, this will make local businesses less competitive and squeeze already-tight margins for business owners. The only option will be to pass costs through to consumers. This will affect all residents of the region and the province, and the promise of a future rebate will provide little comfort to a fixed-income New Brunswickers faced with higher energy costs or a business owner already challenged with multiple taxes and added costs like the increase of the premiums of

Worksafe NB. Ultimately, it will be tough for the region to remain competitive, grow and prosper, and attract people and businesses to our region.

We understand that time is ticking, and we also understand and fully support that everyone – individuals and businesses – must do their part to combat climate change. However, we respectfully ask the government of New Brunswick to work together with the federal government to reopen negotiation for a Made in NB solution, just as Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and PEI have been able to accomplish. Your willingness to take action now, for the Greater Moncton region, will demonstrate your support for a stronger New Brunswick economy and quality of life.

In the name of all our members, along with my colleagues at the Chamber, I am confident that working together, we can identify a path toward what's best for both the environment and the communities where we live, work, and call home. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



John Wishart
CEO
Chamber of Commerce for Greater Moncton

CC:

Honorable Ernie Steeves, MLA (Moncton Northwest)
Honorable Sherry Wilson, MLA (Moncton Southwest)
Bruce Fitch, MLA (Riverview)
Brian Gallant, MLA (Shediac Bay-Dieppe)
Roger Melanson, MLA (Dieppe)
Monique LeBlanc, MLA (Moncton East)
Robert McKee, MLA (Moncton Centre)
Cathy Rogers, MLA (Moncton South)