



March 8, 2017

Premier Brian Gallant  
Province of New Brunswick  
P.O. Box 6000  
Fredericton, NB  
E3B 5H1

**Re: Delay in legislative changes to Workers' Compensation Act**

Dear Premier Gallant,

I write to you today to express the collective concern of the Greater Moncton Chamber of Commerce to reports that your government will not introduce much-needed changes to the Workers' Compensation Act in the spring session of the legislature.

As an organization, we have been working closely with other business groups, WorkSafeNB and officials in your Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour to lobby for and prepare changes that will benefit employers around New Brunswick. It has recently become apparent these legislative changes will be postponed until at least the fall sitting, ensuring that WorkSafeNB rates will rise again substantially in 2018.

As you are aware, New Brunswick's employers have already been hit with an average 33 per cent increase in 2017 – an unforeseen tax that impacts their bottom line and hampers their ability to grow, provide jobs and create wealth in the province. A similar increase in 2018 would be an unbearable burden for many small- and medium-sized businesses who are already struggling under heavy tax and competitive challenges.

We urge your government to expedite the necessary changes proposed by WorkSafeNB and prepared by PETL for the spring session. These changes are a significant step in rebalancing the burden of cost for WorkSafeNB and Appeal Tribunal decisions which are driving recent rate hikes on employers.

As a Chamber of Commerce representing more than 750 businesses in Greater Moncton – the growth capital of the province – we cannot stress enough the importance of swiftly addressing these changes. We remain available at any time to further discuss this issue and work collaboratively to resolve any legislative impasse.

Sincerely,



Carol O'Reilly  
CEO, Greater Moncton Chamber of Commerce

Cc: Donald Arseneault, Minister of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour  
Cathy Rogers, Minister of Finance  
Greg Byrne, Principal Secretary, Office of the Premier  
Jean-Marc Dupuis, Deputy Minister, Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour