



Hon. Donald Arseneault
Minister of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour
Fredericton, N.B.

Feb. 21, 2017

Minister Arseneault,

I am writing to express the support of the Greater Moncton Chamber of Commerce for proposed amendments to the Workers' Compensation Act. It is our understanding these amendments will soon be presented to government with the hope they will make it to the floor of the Legislature the week of March 14.

As you are aware, the dramatic increase in WCB rates for employers by an average of 33 per cent this year was an unexpected – and unbudgeted – shock for New Brunswick businesses. The WCB has also warned of additional significant rate increases in 2018.

Following a discussion with Tim Petersen of WorkSafeNB and officials within your department, we believe the legislative and procedural changes will greatly reduce the financial burden to business and create a more equitable system that protects injured workers in New Brunswick without severely penalizing their employers.

We strongly support the restoration of policy-making authority within WorkSafeNB and measures that limit the retroactive application of Appeals Tribunal decisions. The pendulum has swung too far toward the Appeals Tribunal without adequate understanding of the impact of its decisions on the province's business community.

We support a sustainable workers' compensation system that adequately protects injured workers and their families, but also provides cost certainty for business. We thank you for your support and we urge you to lobby your cabinet colleagues and MLAs to ensure passage of this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

Carol O'Reilly
CEO, Greater Moncton Chamber of Commerce