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## **Government makes right move with WorkSafeNB Task Force**

To the Editor:

As the independent voice of the region's business community, the Greater Moncton Chamber of Commerce challenges government when it sees fault and praises when it responds to business concerns.

We want to praise the Liberal government for its response to our concerns over an unsustainable spike in WorkSafeNB employer premiums. We joined other Chambers of Commerce and other business organizations around New Brunswick to launch a letter-writing campaign earlier this week to push for policy and legislative changes at WorkSafe.

It is not often that government – at any level – responds to the legitimate concerns of business in such a timely fashion. We fully support the government's establishment of a task force consisting of both employer and employee representatives to work on a long-term solution to rising rates. We are also pleased with government's decision to refer WorkSafeNB to the auditor general for a thorough value-for-money audit.

Government has also asked the WorkSafeNB board to ensure rates reflect the pending task force and auditor general reviews. We also applaud this directive, but urge the government to move quickly on the task force and set an early deadline for completion of its work. Employers and employees need a practical and fair resolution to this issue before the WorkSafe board sets rates for 2018 early this fall. If left unresolved, we fear another increase similar to the average 33 per cent applied this year.

The GMCC remains committed to a workers' compensation system that is fair to both employers and employees, but one that is also efficient and sustainable.

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