



Tim Houston, CPA
MLA Pictou East
Leader, PC Party of Nova Scotia

Hon. Premier McNeil
One Government Place
1713 Barrington Street
Halifax, N.S. B3J 2A4

May 25, 2020

Dear Hon. Premier,

Nova Scotia is the crown jewel of tourism in Canada. We have everything anyone could want within just a short drive: from our beaches, our world-class golf, our wineries, our breathtaking landscapes to our incredible array of restaurants. Nova Scotia is a place people want to be.

Often, we ourselves are spoiled by the beauty and opportunity of this great province and don't take enough advantage of it.

The hospitality industry is one of the financial backbones of our province with over two million visitors annually. Nova Scotians and business owners have never needed their government to stand up for them more than right now.

Sadly, Restaurants Canada has estimated that 24,000 Nova Scotian restaurant jobs from every part of our beautiful province, have been lost due to COVID-19. Like so many Nova Scotians, they wonder about the future and whether they will even be able to reopen.

We've already seen two prominent Halifax establishments close their doors in recent weeks. This is a trend we need to acknowledge and step up to address.

Nova Scotia must be innovative and flexible in its approach to supporting the hospitality industry. That's why the Progressive Conservative Caucus is calling for the following supports:

- Increase the Tourism Nova Scotia marketing budget by \$2 million to run a marketing campaign focused on home grown tourism.
- Double the allowable tax deduction for business-related meals to 100% for the 2020 fiscal year.
- Establish a tax deduction of \$200 for meals and/or accommodations within Nova Scotia per filer; with an additional \$100 deduction per dependent for the 2020 fiscal year.
- Help municipalities to expedite permits for patio and outdoor dining for food and liquor service.
- Consider any increased patio or outdoor space a continuation of an existing provincial liquor approval and no longer require additional applications or fees for 2020.
- Permanently allow restaurants to include delivery of alcohol and expand policy to include ready to drink alcoholic beverages made in Nova Scotia.

Suite 1001 - 1660 Hollis Street, Halifax, NS B3J 1V7
Tel: 902-424-2731 Toll Free: 1-800-363-1998
Tim.Houston@nspccaucus.ca

When it is safe, we must work to let Nova Scotians know that it is safe and encourage them to take advantage of the beautiful province, attractions and opportunities that surround them.

Everyone should be made to feel that there is a future for them in Nova Scotia.

Yours truly,



Tim Houston
Leader, Progressive Conservative
Party of Nova Scotia