

July 8, 2021

Honourable Jim Reiter
Room 302, 2405 Legislative Drive
Regina, SK S4S 0B3

RE: Termination of SLGA Off-sale Privileges

Dear Minister Reiter,

I write to you, the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming (SLGA), regarding the “Return to Normal Operations” plan released on July 7, 2021 to restaurants and taverns in Saskatchewan. As you know, the plan specifies that the ability of restaurant and tavern owners to off-sale alcohol will end on July 11, 2021.

I have heard from a number of restaurant owners about this change. Although I know restaurant and tavern owners look forward to ‘normal operations’ and a time where business is sustainable, these owners are also frustrated about very short notice received concerning the end of off-sale privileges.

Although all remaining public health restrictions are lifted on July 11, the food and beverage sector is a long way from business as usual. A recent poll by Restaurants Canada shows that although the usually busy summer season is upon us, forty per cent of Canadians are still hesitant to return to dining-in. Further, nearly half of restaurant owners are concerned about bankruptcy.

I call on the SLGA to immediately extend the off-sale privileges for restaurants and taverns as they continue to recover from an extremely challenging sixteen months of fluctuating, damaging operating restrictions. I also ask the SLGA to expedite their commitment to review liquor licencing, which should modernize and stabilize alcohol distribution in Saskatchewan.

Sincerely,



Nicole Sarauer, MLA
Critic for Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority