

Dear [insert candidate name],

New Brunswick's retail industry is a key driver of economic growth and jobs in your riding. We need to keep it this way.

From independent neighbourhood stores to major multi-national chains, **retail is the largest private sector employer in New Brunswick.**

- **More than 45,300 people work in the retail industry in New Brunswick.**
- Each retail job creates up to 4 more jobs in other industries, such as transportation, construction, legal, financial, property management, technology and other services.
- For your constituents, retail enables a **critical source of stable income. The average hourly compensation for a full-time New Brunswick retail worker is \$20.07.**
- Retail contributes **\$12 billion in annual sales** to New Brunswick's economy.

The retail industry is undergoing unprecedented change and current policies are making it increasingly difficult for retailers in New Brunswick to remain competitive. For retail in New Brunswick to continue contributing to economic growth and meaningful jobs, it is crucial that your party **supports the following recommendations developed by Retail Council of Canada (RCC)** on behalf of its retail members.

- Reward employers for taking risks, growing their businesses and creating jobs.
- Once the budget is balanced, stimulate consumer spending by lowering the Harmonized Sales Tax from 15% to 13%.
- Restore WorkSafeNB's authority to slow the massive increase in workers' compensation employer premiums. (Rates increased 53% between 2016-2018, with an estimated additional 58% average increase in 2019)
- Restore the balance between employers and labour. Repeal first contract arbitration, and legislate secret ballot votes for union certification.
- Legislate the current government's commitment to increase minimum wage in relation to the change in the Consumer Price Index from the previous year.
- Provide a dedicated resource to support regulatory harmonization between Atlantic Provinces.
- Harmonize policies for solid waste regulations with best practices across Canada.
- Offer retailers the same incentives for investing in people, technology and e-commerce that are available to other industries.

When I vote, I will vote with these issues in mind.

These policies need to be carefully considered as part of the **September 24, 2018** election. If elected, I strongly encourage you to support them – each will have a profoundly positive effect on New Brunswick's economy and standard of living.

If you would like more information, please refer to RCC's VoteRetail.ca/nb site, or contact Jim Cormier at jcormier@retailcouncil.org or by phone at 902-422-4144.

Yours truly,

[Insert constituent name]