

Starritt, Ginelle

From: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Sent: April 13, 2022 9:51 AM
To: Starritt, Ginelle
Subject: FW: Law amendments today

From: Lisa Lachance <lisalachancemla@gmail.com>
Sent: April 13, 2022 9:40 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel <legc.office@novascotia.ca>
Subject: Fwd: Law amendments today

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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Good day,

I realize this submission is late but I am passing it along just in case there is still time.

Best regards,
Marius

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Farmers' Markets of Nova Scotia <fmns@farmersmarketsnovascotia.ca>
Date: Wed, Apr 13, 2022 at 9:36 AM
Subject: Law amendments today
To: Lisa Lachance <lisalachancemla@gmail.com>, Tufford, Frances <Frances.Tufford@novascotia.ca>

Hi Lisa,

FMNS was only made aware that Law Amendments started at 9am today. We wish to add some further information to be considered during Law Amendments. Am I able to join by Zoom to present to Law Amendments? Could this be submitted on our behalf, or could you provide an email that we could send this to?

Farmers' Markets of Nova Scotia is pleased to see the amendments made to Bill 147, the Public Utilities Act. We are satisfied with the addition of Clause 7, which adds "farmers' markets" to the list of organizations or institutions that must be charged domestic electricity rates.

Farmers' Markets of Nova Scotia commends this long overdue amendment, but wishes to stress that this does not address the fact that for years now farmers' markets have been charged significantly more on their power bills than they should have.

Farmers' markets are the economic backbone of their communities and the birthplace of Nova Scotia's buy local movement. They are small business incubators, job creators, and social and economic hubs. Without farmers' markets, we would not have a thriving craft alcohol sector. Countless restaurants, cafes, and small businesses made their start at farmers' markets.

2022 has already been difficult for our sector. Between unfair commercial power bills with massive demand charges, the unfortunate timing of multiple market day Saturday winter storms to start the year, and the ongoing impacts of COVID-19, many of Nova Scotia's year-round farmers' markets remain in a precarious financial situation. Many have lost thousands of dollars already this year.

Farmers' markets of Nova Scotia reiterates its request for the Province to provide one-time emergency relief funding for year-round farmers' markets. This may be seen as a retroactive compensation for power bills that these markets should have never had to pay. It may also be seen as an investment in the very institutions that will be so integral to launching the upcoming Nova Scotia Loyal Program.

We appreciate the Province's ongoing support of our sector and look forward to working together to continue building a strong and sustainable local food movement in Nova Scotia.

*Sincerely,
Justin Cantafio
Executive Director
Farmers' Markets of Nova Scotia*



Justin Cantafio
Executive Director
902-932-7282

Mailing address: 9 Chestnut Lane, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, B2Y 3X1

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Marius van Leeuwen
Constituency Assistant to Lisa
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any pronouns

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