



November 24, 2020

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland
Minister of Finance
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Freeland,

As I'm sure you know the hospitality sector and more generally the tourism industry is a critical component of the Yukon's economy. Like many other regions, businesses in the Yukon tourism and hospitality industry have been hit hard by the COVID-19 health and economic crisis.

I know that the Government of Canada has introduced a range of measures to support businesses in its COVID-19 Economic Response Plan. Many Yukon businesses have benefitted from the business support programs in that plan, so I would like to thank you for your continued support and responsiveness.

I would however, like to add the support of the Yukon Party to a national campaign that is being coordinated by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce to repeal or freeze the escalator tax on alcohol in the government's upcoming update to the COVID-19 Economic Response Plan.

As the Canadian Chamber of Commerce has pointed out the escalation of this excise tax on alcohol will add to the costs on the hospitality industry and will affect the ability of those businesses to attract customers, retain employees and try to survive and recover from government-imposed shutdowns or restrictions. This is especially true in the Yukon, where our businesses rely considerably on revenue from visitors and tourists.

While we would prefer to see the escalator tax on alcohol removed altogether, we suggest that at a minimum that escalator be frozen.

Sincerely,

Currie Dixon
Leader of the Yukon Party