

Tourism group supports new minimum wage consultation.

(Fredericton) The Tourism Industry Association of NB (TIANB) is pleased with Minister Coulombe's announcement to put the September 1st scheduled Minimum Wage increase on hold." Said Réal Robichaud, Executive Director of TIANB. "This is a true demonstration of industry working together to present its case to policy makers" continued Robichaud...

The planned increase to the Minimum Wage was creating such an impact that New Brunswickers were actually at risk of losing jobs, TIANB is pleased the Provincial Government have been able to listen to the plight of an industry responsible for creating 32,000 jobs in our province.

TIANB, as the voice of the tourism industry in New Brunswick, also commends the work of the organizations that formed a working group to ensure the government, policy makers and commissions possessed all the details to be able to make an informed decision. "The wage differential will be studied in future months and we look forward to continue working in a consultative and pro-active way to ensure all will benefit." Said Robichaud. The members of the working group have stated that their industry members need to have time to adjust to the increased costs to their businesses.

With the current economic environment, many tourism businesses are finding it a significant challenge to make ends meet. The industry has stated that they would like to see a tip and training differential to help them adjust to another cost increase. "Our membership is facing some very difficult challenges and to put this program on hold for a little while for us to be able to do an assessment of the costs versus benefits is a very pragmatic approach." Said Robichaud. "It is commendable to see the government having a look at this initiative to answer some basic questions; are jobs being created or lost; is the cost to business detrimental and is poverty in the province being reduced? These are the type of questions we and our members put our own businesses through and we feel it would be beneficial for the government to put this initiative through a similar process." Says Robichaud.

The Tourism Industry Association of New Brunswick acts as the provincial tourism and hospitality organization of the province, existing to fulfill the needs of its membership, in cooperation with both private and public sector partners. As a representative and industry driven organization, the Association provides leadership and direction, aiming towards making tourism and hospitality the leading and most viably sustainable industry in New Brunswick.

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