

December 5, 2017

RE: Tax Changes proposed by the Federal Liberal government.

Dear Mayors and members of council,

We are writing to you today because we believe that the concerns of small business must be taken seriously by governments at every level, including the Municipal level. We are also concerned about the tax changes proposed by the federal Liberal government this past summer.

We are extremely concerned about the manner of the announcement, the short consultation period and the possible negative effects on Farmers, and Farm Families in our communities.

We are very aware of the unfairness of the current tax system, and we do encourage a system of tax fairness to address rising inequalities in Canada, however the decision by government to launch a consultation process in the middle of summer limited the capacity of Canadians, especially our local farmers, to fully participate.

Family farms represent a particular kind of small business, and differ from other small businesses. MP Guy Caron, tabled Bill C-274 during the 42nd parliament and the aim of this Bill was to facilitate the transfer of small businesses, or farm and fishing businesses, between family members by modifying the Income Tax Act. Sadly, this initiative was rejected by the Liberals during second reading.

Today's government announcement of a reduced small business tax is good news. However, we remain concerned and uncertain of what is coming next.

We are asking you to write to the Minister of Finance and to continue to pressure the government to honour its campaign promises and focus on real tax fairness.

Sincerely,

*Lyle Hall*

President, Essex County Federation of Agriculture