

# CALL TO ACTION

## Sunday Shopping: Let's Just Do It!

March 19, 2001

With the spring sitting of the provincial legislature commencing later this week, we are asking Chamber members to write to the Premier and Minister of Justice to emphasize that the time has come to deregulate store hours and permit Sunday openings.

An overwhelming majority (83%) of Chamber members called for the deregulation of store hours in a February 2000 survey, including 68% of retail respondents. The issue of deregulated store hours and Sunday openings remains a significant concern to the business community and to the retail, tourism and hotel sectors in particular. By allowing stores to open as the market dictates, it allows communities, particular industries and individual stores to make their own decisions on when, and when not, to be open.

Several recent public opinion polls indicate that the majority of Nova Scotians, in all areas of the province, now support Sunday shopping.

According to one estimate, Sunday shopping has the potential to add up to \$21 million in shopping revenue through increased tourism traffic. This could translate into 300 sustainable full-time equivalent positions with 1,036 additional people working on any given Sunday.

With the summer tourist season quickly approaching, general deregulation of retail hours should be introduced now, even on an experimental basis. While full deregulation of retail store hours is the Chamber's preferred option, limited Sunday openings is better than no Sunday openings at all.

To address possible concerns, any move to deregulation could include protections limiting the impact on employees and small retailers. In Ontario, for example, retailers in a mall can elect to open or close, thus overriding any general opening provisions in mall leases. In addition, Ontario implemented a labour standard protecting employees who declined to work on Sunday.

It is important that you tell the Premier and Minister in your own words why it is paramount to move ahead on this issue without further delay. The basic context of your message to the Province is simple:

- Nova Scotians want it;
- visitors to our province want it;
- it is a good thing for our community.

Now is the time to deregulate store hours. Let's just do it!

Send your message for Premier Hamm and Justice Minister Michael Baker to the following points of contact:

**Office of the Premier**  
1700 Granville Street  
PO Box 726  
Halifax NS B3J 2T3  
premier@gov.ns.ca

**Minister of Justice**  
5151 Terminal Road  
PO Box 7  
Halifax NS B3J 2L6  
justweb@gov.ns.ca

*Editor's note: if possible, please copy your message to the Chamber by faxing 468-7333 or emailing [info@halifaxchamber.com](mailto:info@halifaxchamber.com). Thank you in advance for your action on this issue. The Chamber will keep you updated on legislative changes as they occur.*

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