



**METROPOLITAN HALIFAX
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**
*Strong Business. Strong Community.
Since 1756.*

Deregulated Store Hours: Let's Just Do It!

The provincial government should not be in the business of regulating store hours. The Metropolitan Halifax Chamber of Commerce believes in a market driven approach to business. The Chamber stands firm in the conviction that our region must deregulate shopping hours if we are to be a truly competitive province. Individual business must have the right to open as the market dictates, and to make their own operating decisions.

- 83% of respondents to a Chamber poll support the deregulation of store hours (over two thirds of retail respondents support deregulation).
- At a minimum, a pilot program deregulating hours should be considered. Options proposed by the Chamber include:
 - A one to three year experiment with general deregulation
 - A one to three year experiment with deregulation for limited time frame (ie. June- December)
 - A one to three year experiment with deregulation in a geographically limited area
- To address possible concerns, any move to deregulation could include protections limiting the impact on employees and small retailers.
 - Interim protection to existing employees; excluding new employees hired after the legislation comes into effect.
 - Interim protection for businesses in a shopping complex that are in leases requiring them to be open when the complex is open; excluding new leases once the legislation comes into effect.
- Deregulated store hours is an issue that resonates even past the individual business owner. The tourism industry is also effected. With deregulated store hours there is a potential to grow new business from increased tourism. The deregulation of shopping hours would result in approximately a \$21 million increase in tourism revenue alone. Create 300 full-time jobs for Nova Scotians. Generate over \$2.5 million in revenue for the province to invest in such areas as health and education.
(Source: Campaign for Shopping Choice)

Now is the time to deregulate store hours. Nova Scotians want it, visitors to our province want it and it is a good thing for the business community.

For further information contact:
Valerie Payn, President
(902) 468-7111