



April 18, 2024

City of Miramichi
141 Henry Street
Miramichi, NB E1V 2N5

RE: Proposal to Amend Sunday Shopping Hours By-law #74

Dear Mr. Noel, City Manager, Mayor Lordon and City Council Members:

We hope this message finds you well. We are writing on behalf of the retail businesses of Miramichi and the Retail Council of Canada to bring to your attention a matter of importance to our local retail industry.

As you are aware, the City of Miramichi current by-law dictates fixed Sunday shopping hours for the retail sector. We believe that granting retail business owners the autonomy to set their own Sunday operational hours will greatly benefit the community by providing more flexibility and convenience to both businesses and customers.

Therefore, the *Greater Miramichi Chamber of Commerce* proposes an amendment to the existing bylaw specifically **By-Law #74** to allow retail establishments the freedom to choose their own operating hours on Sundays – “Retailers Choice.”

This change would bring the City of Miramichi in line with modern practices and provide our local businesses with the flexibility they need to thrive in today's dynamic market. It is worth noting that we are currently the last city in the province to enforce fixed Sunday shopping hours, which puts our local retailers at a disadvantage compared to neighboring municipalities. In February 2024, the Town of Woodstock, NB changed their Sunday Shopping hours By-Law to Retailer's Choice.

We believe that empowering our retail business owners with the ability to determine their own Sunday operational hours will lead to increased economic growth, job opportunities and overall prosperity for our community. This will also encourage residents to shop locally instead of traveling to neighbouring cities such as Moncton who have already adopted a Retailers Choice model for Sunday Shopping.

We kindly request your support in considering this proposal and initiating the necessary steps to amend the bylaw accordingly, we are open to further discussion and collaboration to ensure that the changes benefit all stakeholders involved. Together, we can make a positive difference for our city and its residents.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alvin Bell'.

Alvin Bell, President
Greater Miramichi Chamber of Commerce

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