

FinanceMinister@novascotia.ca

May 21, 2025

Minister John Lohr
Department of Finance and Treasury Board
7th Floor, Provincial Building
1723 Hollis Street
P.O. Box 187
Halifax, NS B3J 2N3

Dear Minister Lohr,

Re: Nova Scotia Liquor Corporation (NSLC)

I write to you today in your capacity as the Minister responsible for the Liquor Control Act and Nova Scotia Liquor Corporation to request a meeting with you to discuss the potential implications of moving the sale of liquor products into convenience stores across Nova Scotia.

As you know, the NSGEU represents 1700 dedicated employees of the Nova Scotia Liquor Corporation (NSLC), many of whom reside in rural communities throughout our province. These individuals contribute significantly to their local economies and provide a valuable service to Nova Scotians through the responsible sale of beverage alcohol.

Our primary concerns regarding the potential shift in distribution focus on two critical areas:

1. **Preservation of Good Rural Jobs:** The NSLC currently provides stable, well-paying jobs in numerous rural communities. A move to convenience stores could lead to the loss of these vital positions, negatively impacting local economies and the livelihoods of NSGEU members and their families. We want to work on solutions to ensure good jobs remain within the NSLC and continue to support rural Nova Scotia.
2. **Maintaining Social Responsibility:** The NSLC operates under a mandate that prioritizes the responsible sale and distribution of beverage alcohol. This includes measures to prevent underage drinking, combat impaired driving, and promote responsible consumption. We have serious concerns about whether the same level of social responsibility and oversight can be effectively maintained in a broadened private model. We believe a thorough discussion is necessary to understand how the government intends to safeguard these crucial social responsibility measures in any potential new distribution model.

We believe that any decisions regarding the future of liquor distribution in Nova Scotia must consider the economic well-being of our communities and the importance of social responsibility.

Minister Lohr
Page 2
May 21, 2025

We look forward to your positive response and the opportunity to meet with you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sandra Mullen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sandra Mullen
President

SM/dt