
Connect • Support • Influence

March 21, 2024

Honourable Dale Nally
Minister of Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction
Office of the Minister, Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction
319 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue, Edmonton, AB, T5K 2B6
E-mail: ministersa@gov.ab.ca

Dear Minister Nally:

Thank you once again for your continued work in Red Tape Reduction and for following up on previous issues we raised around Truck Driver Training and the modernization of registry agents in the fall of 2023.

Since that time, we have been made aware of a new issue concerning some of the media and conversations related to the sale of liquor in grocery stores. We know that no decisions have been finalized and are hoping to seek clarity in the Government's direction.

The concerns raised have been that if this were to occur, existing liquor stores would see a drop in sales and profit. Since most stores are not flush with profit, many will end up losing money and risk closure.

Examples have been provided to us of jurisdictions in the US and the UK that have implemented similar strategies with limited success. Specialty stores would survive and would have to expand their services, like deli operations, specialty foods, event planning, glassware, higher-end wine and spirits, and beer selection, all things that grocery stores tend not to supply.

There would be challenges for landlords as locations close with financial impacts to small liquor stores. We have also heard concerns that delivery services would suffer, and liquor store employment would be reduced.

We also understand that the President of the Alberta Liquor Store Association says its members are not pushing for the province to allow beer to be sold inside grocery stores and most major grocery chains in the province already sell beer, along with wine and spirits, in separate buildings.

This is not an issue of red tape as it is widely felt that Alberta's existing provincial system already works very well.

We would welcome any clarification you can provide on the direction of the provincial Government on this matter as it is creating quite a concern with our small liquor stores and would impact liquor stores across the province. We would be happy to schedule a meeting with you, alongside our key community stakeholders on this, along with other issues related to your Ministry. We would encourage you to reach out to our office at 403.527.5214 ext 221 or by email at admin@medicinehatchchamber.com to arrange a meeting or discussion.

Sincerely,



Steve Heid
2023-2024 President, Board of Directors



Lisa Dressler
Executive Director

Cc: Premier Danielle Smith, MLA brooks.medicinehat@assembly.ab.ca
MLA Justin Wright, cypress.medicinehat@assembly.ab.ca
Deputy Minister, Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction, Stephanie Clark, stephanie.clark@gov.ab.ca
Issues and Policy Manager, Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction, Hayley Morgan, hayley.morgan@gov.ab.ca
Executive Assistant, Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction, Madelene Belanger, madelene.belanger@gov.ab.ca