

June 1, 2022

Hon. Cameron Friesen
Minister of Finance
Room 103 Legislative Building
450 Broadway
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

Subject: Fuel tax relief for Manitoba businesses and residents

Dear Minister Friesen:

On behalf of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) and small business owners in Manitoba, we are writing to urge your government to provide fuel tax relief as prices at the pump continue to reach record highs.

As you know, many small businesses are struggling to recover from the impacts of the pandemic. Just 37 per cent of Manitoba small businesses have returned to making normal sales, and the majority are still facing significant debt, supply chain challenges, and the pressures of inflation. With minimum wage likely to go up more than previously anticipated this fall, cost relief is becoming increasingly urgent for Manitoba's small business owners. Many are wondering if they will ever be able to recover, or if they should simply close their doors permanently.

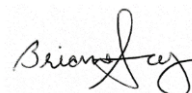
Since April 1, 2022, the Alberta government has stopped collecting provincial fuel tax, lowering the costs at the pump by 13 cents a litre for residents. Newfoundland and Ontario have also announced plans to reduce their provincial fuel taxes. In Manitoba, inflation has now reached 7.5 per cent and many Manitoba residents and business owners are feeling the impacts of rising costs. Suspending the collection of the provincial fuel tax is an opportunity for your government to help mitigate the impact of inflation and help small businesses on the road to economic recovery.

We appreciate your attention to this important matter, and we welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss ways in which your government can help Manitoba small businesses recover and thrive. Should you have any questions, or to arrange a meeting, please do not hesitate to contact us at (431) 388-2395, or e-mail kathleen.cook@cfib.ca.

Sincerely,



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