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*Matt Jeneroux*

Member of Parliament  
Edmonton Riverbend

EDMONTON  
March 1, 2023

Honourable Chrystia Freeland  
Deputy Prime Minister  
Minister of Finance  
House of Commons  
Ottawa ON, K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Freeland,

I am writing to you on behalf of many Canadians who have brought to my attention their concerns regarding the Alcohol Escalator Excise Tax and its continued implementation.

Federal tax on alcohol products automatically increases on April 1. This tax is tied to the rate of inflation, which is expected to mean an increase of 6.3 per cent this year. Many Canadians have reached out asking the government to freeze the upcoming increase for 2023.

Canada already has some of the highest alcohol taxes in the world. On average, 47 per cent of the price of beer in Canada is from federal or provincial taxes. Likewise, approximately 65 per cent of the price of wine and 80 per cent of the price of spirits on average are due to these taxes. The escalator tax further increases this tax burden every single year. The record high inflation rates have not only seriously impacted the purchasing power of everyday Canadians but have had a severe impact on the alcohol and hospitality industries in particular. Many of these businesses continue to struggle after three years of economic hardship during the pandemic.

Please consider freezing this upcoming tax increase and put a stop to the automatic escalator tax on alcohol. It is the government's responsibility to provide a plan for relief and help make life more affordable for Canadians. This does exactly the opposite.

Thank you for your swift attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Matt Jeneroux, MP  
Edmonton Riverbend