

Mr. Philippe Couillard, Leader of Quebec Liberal Party
Mr. François Legault, Leader of Coalition Avenir Québec
Mr. Jean-François Lisée, Leader of Parti Québécois
Ms. Manon Massé, Mr. Gabriel Nadeau-Dubois, Co-spokespersons of Québec solidaire

Subject: 2018 Elections: My small business is counting on you!

As a small business owner, I would like to share a few concerns with you as we approach the upcoming provincial elections.

As you know, small businesses are at the heart of the provincial economy. In fact, 73% of Quebec employers have fewer than 10 employees, and 95% have fewer than 50. It is important to remember that Quebec's small business community is already subject to the heaviest tax burden in Canada. Despite a reduction in the Small Business Tax Rate to 4% over the next four years, the burden will remain almost twice as high in Quebec than in the rest of Canada (2.7% on average). Despite a planned reduction to Health Services Fund (HSF) rates, my payroll taxes are approximately 50% higher than anywhere else in Canada. This is on top of minimum wage and planned Quebec Pension Plan increases, which will continue to climb over the next five years. Moreover, while the government has made positive efforts to reduce red tape for businesses, a great deal of work remains. Labour shortages are having a critical impact on a number of SMEs all across Quebec and must also be addressed.

I therefore ask that you to show your support of Quebec small businesses by committing to the following:

- 1- Maintain and accelerate the Small Business Tax Rate (8% to 4%) and HSF reductions (2.70% to 1.65%).
- 2- Firmly commit to a 20% reduction in business regulatory costs over the next four years and allow employers with fewer than 5,500 hours of accumulated work access to the lower rate.
- 3- Make sure that small businesses from all sectors have access to the workers they need. As a reminder, more than 50% of small businesses need less qualified workers or those with occupational (secondary school) or technical skills.
- 4- Eliminate obsolete and outdated regulations and red tape, including the *Act Respecting Collective Agreement Decrees* and others.
- 5- Do not increase the minimum wage to \$15/hour and limit increases to annual inflation rates.

Thank you for your commitment to Quebec's small business community.

Yours sincerely,

Name: _____

Email address: _____

Business name: _____

City: _____

Postal code: _____

Please fax this letter to 514-861-1711 or email it to cfib@cfib.ca