



CANADIAN FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT GROCERS · FÉDÉRATION CANADIENNE DES ÉPICIERS INDÉPENDANTS

105 GORDON BAKER ROAD, SUITE 401, TORONTO, ON M2H 3P8

May 25th , 2017

Mr. Serge Imbrogno,
Deputy Minister, Ministry of Energy,
900 Bay Street, Hearst Block,
Toronto, ON
M7A 2E1

Dear Mr. Imbrogno:

As you know, the issue of rising energy costs for independent grocers in Ontario has been of great concern to our association and members.

Rising energy costs are a challenge that exists notwithstanding that independent grocers have aggressively pursued options to reduce their costs, including facility upgrades, conservation programs and energy efficiency initiatives. Unfortunately, despite these efforts, it is difficult, if not impossible, for our small business members to realize operational savings, particularly given the 50 kWh monthly threshold for the Fair Hydro Plan and the nature of small business retail grocery operations.

We recognize, however, that in order to find a long term solution, a better understanding is needed regarding the challenges that the small business retail grocery sector faces. It may be appropriate to initiate a process of information gathering that would enable the government to consider potential options for a sector that faces unique circumstances.

Accordingly, the Canadian Federation of Independent Grocers (CFIG) is proposing that the government and/or its appropriate agencies undertake a small study of this issue. This would be conducted with participation from six to eight independent grocers in Ontario that provide a representative cross-section of the sector. Having the participating grocers provide sample bills from prior and current periods would be a starting point to begin this process, as well as examples of facility upgrades and other initiatives undertaken to improve energy efficiency. This study does not need to be an exhaustive nor costly process, but one that simply enables the province to gather basic information, helping to provide a better appreciation of the energy consumption characteristics of retail grocery in the small business context.



CANADIAN FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT GROCERS · FÉDÉRATION CANADIENNE DES ÉPICIERS INDÉPENDANTS
105 GORDON BAKER ROAD, SUITE 401, TORONTO, ON M2H 3P8

Engaging in this study, regardless of the eventual outcome, would be of significant benefit to the government and its agencies, as we continue to search for potential solutions for energy consumption in the years ahead.

Thank you for your consideration of our proposal.

Sincerely,

Gary Sands

Senior Vice President