

THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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GREFFIER DE L'ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE

Assemblée législative du Nouveau-Brunswick  
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May 5, 2015

Mr. David Coon, MLA  
Leader of the Third Party  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, West Block, Departmental Building  
Legislative Assembly Complex  
96 St. John Street  
Fredericton, New Brunswick

Dear Mr. Coon:

Enclosed is a copy of the response to your Petition 71 tabled in the Legislature on April 22, 2015.

Sincerely,

*Am* Donald J. Forestell  
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

DJF/jet

Enclosure

c. Léopold Mallet  
Nick Ouellette  
✓ Merredith Brewer

May 5, 2015

**CLERK'S OFFICE /  
BUREAU DU GREFFIER**

Mr. Donald J. Forestell  
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly  
Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick  
P.O. Box 6000  
Fredericton, NB E3B 5H1

Dear Mr. Forestell:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of Petition No. 71 tabled in the Legislature on April 22, 2015 by Mr. Coon in support of Bill 11, *Local Food Security Act*.

The Department of Agriculture, Agriculture and Fisheries (DAAF) and the government on New Brunswick recognize the importance of promoting local food products with the ultimate objective of developing New Brunswick's food sector. In fact, one of the government's platform commitments the department is responsible for is to develop a local food and beverages strategy to assist local growers and producers in developing their products and getting them to market.

The government's work to promote local food and beverage products extends beyond a single ministry. An interdepartmental working group is in place and has undertaken a number of initiatives. A few examples include assistance for local market and value-added food development through cost shared financial programs; support provided to the Community Food Action Program and the Community Food Mentors program; and support to provide local, healthy foods in schools. In addition, this summer DAAF will continue the Buy Local Campaign aiming to maximize exposure for local food and beverage producers while creating awareness of the benefits of eating local.


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Although there are a number of positive initiatives contained in Bill 11, we need to develop a strategy prior to considering legislation. A broad range of perspectives can be valuable in shaping the strategy and DAAF looks forward to working with stakeholders, including those in the agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries sectors, in development of the strategy in the best interest of all New Brunswickers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Doucet". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "D".

Rick Doucet  
Minister

cc. Denis Caron, Deputy Minister