



The Greater Summerside Chamber of Commerce, The Kensington and Area Chamber of Commerce, and the West Prince Chamber of Commerce Advocates for Collaborative Approach with the Business Community before Paid Sick Days Legislation

To Honorable Hal Perry,

Prince County, October 9th 2023– The Greater Summerside Chamber of Commerce, The Kensington and Area Chamber of Commerce, and the West Prince Chamber of Commerce have released a comprehensive survey report shedding light on the implications of proposed changes to paid sick days legislation within the local business community.

The survey, which engaged a diverse array of businesses, emphasizes a spectrum of perspectives on paid sick leave. Many businesses in Prince County are expressing a legitimate concern about the potential for government overreach with the proposed paid sick days policy. While recognizing the importance of providing support for employees' well-being, these businesses worry that a one-size-fits-all approach may not adequately address the unique circumstances of each enterprise. They fear that such a mandate might inadvertently impose undue financial burdens on smaller businesses, potentially stifling their ability to remain competitive and sustain operations. Striking a balance between safeguarding employee rights and allowing businesses the flexibility to tailor policies to their specific needs is a top priority for these concerned stakeholders. They advocate for a collaborative approach that takes into account the diverse economic landscape of Prince County.

Noteworthy findings from the survey include:

Diverse Policies on Paid Sick Days: Businesses in Prince County hold a range of policies regarding paid sick days, with some currently offering this benefit and others not. The number of days provided fluctuates widely, illustrating the diverse practices within the community.

Anticipated Impact of Proposed Legislation: A substantial number of surveyed businesses expressed reservations regarding the potential ramifications of proposed legislation mandating 3 paid sick days. While some anticipate challenges in covering shifts and increased costs, others believe it may not have a significant effect on their operations.

Varied Business Perspectives: The survey responses reflect a multiplicity of opinions among business owners, underscoring the complexity of this issue. Some stress the need for flexibility in defining permanent employment and autonomy in setting compensation packages, while others underscore concerns about the financial implications and operational challenges.

Financial Implications for Businesses: Several businesses voiced concerns about the potential financial impact of the proposed legislation. Some indicated that they may need to make adjustments to other benefits or perks to accommodate the additional expense.

The GSCC, KACC, and WPCC believe that careful consideration and balanced dialogue between businesses, employees, and government officials are essential in shaping policies that are fair and beneficial for all stakeholders. The Prince County Chambers advocates for an approach that takes into account the diverse needs and challenges of the local business community.

For further information, please contact:

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GSCC, KACC, WPCC