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Fiscal Policy Division  
Department of Finance  
Government of the Northwest Territories  
PO Box 1320  
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February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**Re: NWT Sugar-Sweetened Drinks Tax**

On behalf of the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce and the 393 Yellowknife-based businesses we represent – we'd like to voice our strong opposition to the implementation of a sugar-sweetened beverage tax.

A sugar-sweetened beverage tax would increase the cost of living for residents and place additional administrative burdens on business, while research about whether or not a sugar tax will actually change behaviour is inconclusive.

In our 2018 membership survey, 66% of respondents identified the high cost of living and doing business as the most critical challenge for their business. As outlined in the GNWT's discussion paper, the potential impacts on business would be substantial – all businesses that sell or distribute sugar-sweetened beverages would "incur additional administrative costs related to tax remittances and tax return filings". In addition, businesses would be responsible for incurring the costs associated with modifying computerized cash registers to ensure they are recording the tax.

At a time when the GNWT is experiencing a number of financial pressures, we are disappointed that our elected officials are considering a tax that will not only have negative impacts on residents and businesses, but also on the GNWT itself – as the new tax would require significant resources to administer and will fail to generate any meaningful operational revenue.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "ML", is placed over a light blue rectangular background.

Mike Lalonde  
President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Deneen", is placed over a light blue rectangular background.

Deneen Everett  
Executive Director

Submitted via email: [scscomms@gov.nt.ca](mailto:scscomms@gov.nt.ca)  
CC: Members of the 18<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly