



**CANADIAN FEDERATION
OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS.**

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July 21, 2008

Hon. Jim Bradley
Minister of Transportation
Ferguson Block, 3rd Floor
77 Wellesley St W
Toronto ON M7A1Z8

Hon. Peter Fonseca
Minister of Tourism
Hearst Block, 9th Floor
900 Bay St
Toronto ON M7A2E1

Dear Ministers:

We have heard from a number of CFIB members who operate tourism businesses in the vicinity of Algonquin Park, who are being hurt by the reconstruction of Highway 60 and the Oxtongue River Bridge.

You will both know that the prime attraction for the area is its serenity and beautiful scenery. Many of the businesses affected by the project fear the prospect of seeing their clientele go elsewhere to escape the construction noise, which they are told may last for TWO years.

Our members understand that infrastructure improvements are integral to ensuring the prosperity of the region and that there is a need to bring unsafe bridges into good and safe repair.

However, just in the last couple of weeks, CFIB has heard of bridge repairs in several spots in the province, so we tend to think that the timing of these projects has more to do with the flow of funds for construction than it does with any imminent danger of bridge collapse.

In the present case, we understand that there were seven proposals put forth publicly as to the direction of the project. Hopefully, some or all of these canvassed possible steps to lessen economic hardships to local businesses.

We ask that you, as Ministers, direct your staff to do their utmost to work with the local accommodation and retail businesses to help prevent a serious decline in tourism and the destruction of the livelihoods of small- and medium-sized businesses.

Sincerely,

Judith Andrew
Vice President, Ontario