

# 2019 Golden Scissors Award Finalists



Here are the finalists for the 2019 Golden Scissors Award!

The winners and honorable mentions will be announced January 24. Visit [cfib.ca/redtape](http://cfib.ca/redtape) for more news during **Red Tape Awareness Week**.

## Tag-teaming to wrestle red tape

### Nominees:

- *Hon. Stephen McNeil, Premier of Nova Scotia*
- *Mike Savage, Mayor of Halifax*

In 2016, Halifax received a Paperweight from CFIB for its terribly bureaucratic restaurant patio rules. As a result, Halifax teamed up with the provincial regulatory affairs office to create the *Joint Project for Regulatory Modernization*. With input from the business community and key leaders from the province, small business red tape pain points are being identified and resolved. The one-year pilot has been extended for two more years to deliver more results to small business.

Some successes so far include fixing problems with sidewalk café applications and simplifying the language and permit process for commercial signs. Halifax has also adopted a Charter of Governing Principles on Regulation, to entrench regulatory reform culture into the city's administration. Nova Scotia Premier Stephen McNeil and Halifax Mayor Mike Savage are nominated for their leadership and cooperation on red tape reduction.

## Speeding up start-ups

### Nominees:

- *Service Nova Scotia*
- *Hon. Geoff MacLellan, Business Minister*

Service Nova Scotia and Business Minister Geoff MacLellan introduced impressive improvements to the province's business registration process. The time to register a new, incorporated business has been cut from five-to-ten days down to three days. The fee to register has also been lowered from \$336 to \$200, making it the lowest in Canada. The annual \$118.35 registration fee will stay the same but it will be waived in the first year of incorporation making the total cost of new business registration \$200 in the first year, down from \$454.35. With approximately 3,000 new businesses registering in Nova Scotia each year, owners are saving a total of \$762,000. Additionally, in 2019, Nova Scotia will waive business registration and renewal fees for businesses already registered in another province or territory. By doing so, Nova Scotia joins Ontario in ending the practice of charging businesses out-of-province fees.

### Liberating libations with uncommon sense

**Nominee:** *Hon. Heath MacDonald, PEI Finance Minister*

In January 2018, a foolish crackdown on locally made kombucha made the news in PEI. An Island restaurant was issued a warning by a liquor inspector and told it couldn't sell kombucha, a fermented drink with 0.5% alcohol, in their licensed establishment unless they bought it from PEI Liquor. The catch? PEI Liquor doesn't sell kombucha because it's not an alcoholic beverage.

PEI Finance Minister Heath MacDonald stepped in and provided much-needed leadership by withdrawing the warning and asking inspectors to use more common sense. PEI is now in the process of a full review, over-hauling its outdated liquor laws.

### Gatineau mayor driving the reform omni-bus

**Nominee:** *Maxime Pedneaud-Jobin, Mayor of Gatineau*

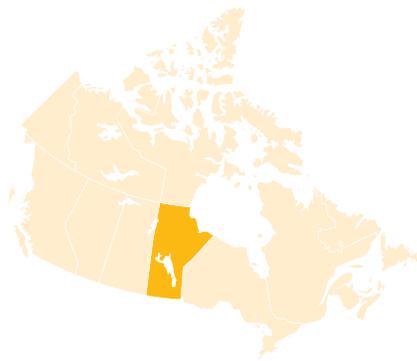
Gatineau's Mayor Maxime Pedneaud-Jobin had seen enough and decided to tackle some regulatory irritants identified through city assessments and a stakeholders' consultation. The mayor is nominated for streamlining hundreds of incoherent or outdated rules using omnibus regulation packages.

By rolling many changes into single orders and using these innovative fixes, Mayor Pedneaud-Jobin championed administrative efficiency by streamlining council's practice of examining every item needing regulatory change one by one. Gatineau adopted four omnibus regulation packages from 2015 to 2018. Some examples of fixes include the introduction of conditional business permits, elimination of fees for construction permits needed after flooding, authorizing physiotherapy, acupuncture, chiropractic and mental health services to be delivered at personal homes and loosening of restriction on advertising displays.

### Quebec's retail detail

**Nominee:** *Yves Blouin, Director of Regulatory Cooperation*

In just six months, the Quebec government has delivered on its promise to create its first sector-specific red tape initiative! Yves Blouin, Director of Regulatory Cooperation at the Economy and Innovation Ministry, championed the initiative, coordinating 11 business associations and around 20 government agencies and ministries to create specific targets to reduce red tape in the retail sector. Some 60 regulatory or administrative irritants were identified by stakeholders around labour, food safety, alcohol and amusement, environment, municipalities and fiscal burden.



### Scheduling some time off for red tape

**Nominee:** *Hon. Blaine Pedersen, Manitoba Minister of Growth, Enterprise & Trade*

Under Manitoba's old rules, changes in hours someone works (or "averaging agreements") needed to be approved by a government director, a frustrating waste of time and money for both the government and business. Blaine Pedersen, Manitoba's Minister of Growth, Enterprise & Trade is making it easier for employers and employees to put together flexible work schedules.

The new rules allow employers and non-union employees to come to agreements on their standard hours of work in order to create schedules better suited for both businesses and employees. For example, they can decide to change the employee's hours from the standard eight hours per day, five days per week, to 10 hours per day, four days per week. This common-sense initiative allows businesses and employees to better react to the needs of their business and industry.



### SaskBuilds better bidding

**Nominees:**

- *Greg Lusk, Assistant Vice President, Priority Saskatchewan/SaskBuilds*
- *Glenn Deck, Director of Procurement, Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure*
- *Al Duchscher, Director of Purchasing, Saskatchewan Government Insurance*
- *Chris Weitzel, Senior Counsel, Corporate Legal, Saskatchewan Government Insurance*
- *Rob Isbister, Director of Purchasing, Ministry of Central Services*
- *Ron Dedman, former Vice President, Priority Saskatchewan/SaskBuilds*

Before Priority Sask, the province's procurement improvement body, began its work, businesses had no idea what to expect from procurement contracts as ministries' processes could differ wildly from each other. Priority Sask consulted with procurement staff across government and the business community to develop a common procurement toolkit and guide.

Ron Dedman, former Vice President, Priority Saskatchewan/SaskBuilds; Greg Lusk, Assistant Vice President, Priority Saskatchewan/SaskBuilds; Glenn Deck, Director of Procurement, Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure; Al Duchscher, Director of Purchasing, SGI; Chris Weitzel, Senior Counsel, Corporate Legal, SGI; and Rob Isbister, Director of Purchasing, Ministry of Central Services are nominated for their work resulting in considerable red tape savings estimated at more than \$16.3 million annually for business and \$1.75 million for government. SaskBuilds is reducing the number of templates for bidding on work from over 100 to only eight.

### Reducing electrical (red) tape

**Nominee:** *Gary Gehring, Saskatchewan's Director of Licensing and Standards*

In Saskatchewan, electricians used to have to wade through three separate documents to understand the regulations that govern their licensing: The Electrical Licensing Exemption Regulations, The Electrical Licensing Fees Regulations and the Electrical Contractor's Guarantee Bond Regulations. Gary Gehring, Saskatchewan Director of Licensing and Standards, Gas & Electrical Licensing Branch, Ministry of Government Relations, is responsible for streamlining regulations into a single document. The new Electrical Licensing Regulations will result in administrative savings to more than 11,000 affected businesses.

### Fixing death and taxes

**Nominees:**

- *Ministry of Citizen Services, Service BC*
- *Ministry of Jobs, Technology and Trade, Small Business, Jobs and Workforce Division*

British Columbia has made dealing with the loss of a loved one a little less stressful. Previously, when dealing with a death, citizens needed to follow a "Bereavement Checklist." Over a six-week period, officials mapped the mind-boggling process of completing the checklist from start to finish - a tall order, because it wasn't ordered chronologically. They discovered a merry-go-round of government departments that weren't communicating with each other and a clumsy, red tape-ridden process.

Service BC and the Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology created a new document that uses plain language. "What to Do When Someone Dies" is an easy-to-Google, chronological document aligned with what grieving individuals are going through. Importantly, the review also increased cooperation between government agencies and now documents such as Death Certificates only have to be submitted once and don't require original copies.



### Fall statement announces spring clean-up

**Nominee:** *Hon. Scott Brison, former President of the Treasury Board and Minister of Digital Government*

In its fall economic statement, the federal government committed to carrying out a yearly house-cleaning exercise to remove outdated, and duplicative legislative requirements and update regulations to reflect modern realities. Government is also making competitiveness a more important criteria to look at before regulating, and getting more advice from those outside of government on how to keep the burden or regulation in check.

Under former Treasury Board President Scott Brison's leadership, a number of red tape issues have already been addressed such as restrictions on aquaculture organic labeling and unnecessary grade inspection requirements for apples and blueberries. Twenty-three additional "early action items" have been identified such as allowing brewers more flexibility in the ingredients and processes they can use, and allowing the use of personal electronic devices on board aircraft.

Brison was clearly committed to making announced reforms a reality as he recently said, "Regulatory reform is not sexy. There is little political upside but it's the right thing to do." He also noted, "Regulatory competitiveness is just as important as tax competitiveness."

### Ontario premier finds hire ground

**Nominee:** *Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario*

Business owners were able to celebrate the New Year rather than dread it thanks to Premier Doug Ford's Bill 47, the *Making Ontario Open for Business Act*.

The Act will phase out the College of Trades, an entire bureaucracy responsible for unnecessary regulatory requirements and duplicate inspections and certifications. Additionally, the bill cuts red tape on hiring and training in the skilled trades as business owners now only need one journeyman on staff to be able to hire an apprentice, eliminating significant, unnecessary human resource paperwork. The Act also stopped the planned implementation of rules requiring businesses to track every movement of their scheduled employees into and out of the office, down to the minute, or face stiff penalties.

