



## **FBC-ABC Members:**

### **Food and Beverage Canada (FBC-ABC) appears before the House Agriculture and Agri-Food Committee**

On December 4, FBC-ABC's CEO, Kristina Farrell, appeared before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food, to speak to its study on "Efforts to Stabilize Food Prices". Her remarks touched on supply chain disruptions, inflationary pressures, the Rogers Sugar strike, the Code of Conduct, the escalator tax on wine, beer, and spirits, and more. A recording of her appearance can be found [here](#).

### **Introduction of flexibility to eligibility criteria for the Recognized Employer Pilot under the Temporary Foreign Worker Program**

This week, Employment and Social Development Canada announced new flexibility that introduces an alternate reach-back period of five non-consecutive years for employers who did not receive a positive decision on an LMIA position in 2020 and/or 2021, given the impact of COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. The alternative reach-back period will be automatically considered when employers apply under the pilot.

### **Minister of Transport announces launch of the National Supply Chain Office to strengthen Canada's supply chains and increase the economy's competitiveness**

On December 1, the Minister of Transport [announced](#) the establishment of the National Supply Chain Office, led by Assistant Deputy Minister Robert

Dick. The Office will be tasked with developing and implementing a National Supply Chain Strategy; supporting the federal government's efforts in responding to significant supply chain disruptions; supporting data sharing so that goods can move more efficiently; and providing overarching leadership and coordination with regard to interprovincial/territorial and global supply chain issues. FBC-ABC has reached out to the newly formed office.

### **Grocers continue to appear before the House Agriculture and Agri-Food Committee**

As part of its study on "Efforts to Stabilize Food Prices", the House of Commons Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food has continued to welcome the CEO's of each of the large grocers before Committee.

[Yesterday](#), Gonzalo Gebara, President and CEO, Wal-Mart Canada Corp., and Galen Weston, Chairman, Loblaw Companies Limited appeared. On [December 11](#), Eric La Fleche, President and CEO, Metro Inc. is scheduled to appear.

### **Bill C-252, An Act to amend the Food and Drugs Act (prohibition of food and beverage marketing directed at children) begins debate at Second Reading**

On November 30, [Bill C-252](#), Prohibition of food and beverage marketing directed at children, began debate at Second Reading in the Senate. The Bill was first introduced in the Chamber on October 26, 2023. The Bill is likely to begin study at Committee only after the holiday recess.

### **Government extends the waiver on the 20-hour-per-week limit on the number of hours international students can work**

On December 7, the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship announced [revised requirements](#) to protect international students. As part of this announcement, the Minister announced that the waiver of the 20-hour-per-week limit on the number of hours international students are allowed to work off campus while class is in session will be extended to April 30, 2024. The government continues to examine options for this policy in the future, such as expanding off-campus work hours for international students to 30 hours per week while class is in session.

