



Black Business Initiative

"Strength, Security, Prosperity, Togetherness"

April 1, 2015

Halifax Seaport Market
1209 Marginal Road
Halifax, NS
B3H 4P8

Attention: Market Management

It has come to our attention that the administration of the Halifax Seaport Market has decided to move several food vendors to the mezzanine floor starting in the summer of 2015. These vendors include some who are clients of the Black Business Initiative.

We understand that this decision was made in an effort to reorganize the market according to categories of merchants, e.g. primary producers versus cooked foods. We also understand that this reorganization/relocation will have a detrimental effect on the vendors who will be moved, due to issues such as varying amount of customer traffic through various floors and the limited number of elevators.

A lot of the vendors who will be relocated contribute a lot to the diversity of the goods and faces at the market. This is a tremendous asset, and part of the reason that some of them had originally been invited into the market in the first place. They contribute significantly to the appeal of the market while in their current location, intermingled as they are with local primary producers. It will be a shame to lose that appeal by relocating these vendors in order to create sections of vendors that are homogenous by category of goods.

These vendors who will be moved have been good servants to the Market over the years. They have always met their obligations and contributed to enhancing the public image and reputation of the Market. They are also great costumers for the primary producers, around whom they are currently located.

In summary, these vendors very much enjoy their central role in the market experience. This letter is in support of keeping them in their current location so that they can continue to enjoy that role, to the mutual benefit of the Halifax Seaport Market, and the public.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Emma Beukema', written over a circular scribble.

Emma Beukema,
Acting Chief Executive Officer