



July 29th 2011

Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario
Queen's Park, Toronto, ON, M7A 1A1

Dear Premier McGuinty,

I am writing on behalf of *arrive alive DRIVE SOBER*® (founded as Ontario Community Council on Impaired Driving) to express our position with respect to calls for the sale of alcoholic beverages in corner stores that has recently resurfaced in the media.

arrive alive DRIVE SOBER has a long history of opposing the retailing of beer and wine in corner stores, as well as the privatization of the LCBO. We have consistently (since 1995) shared our concerns around this issue with the government of the day. Not surprisingly, our primary reason for opposing both privatization and corner store sales has always been public safety. As alcohol still plays a major role in the occurrence of fatal and serious injuries we continue to believe that a controlled environment for retailing alcohol products remains an absolute necessity.

Corner stores will never be able to exercise the control required to ensure responsible sales of alcohol as outlined in the Liquor Licence Act, because refusing a sale will lower their bottom line and because the costs of retailing responsibly can be onerous and even prohibitive. The very history of corner store sales with nicotine and lottery tickets has proven them to be at risk when it comes to selling responsibly and adding a privilege such as retailing alcohol would be a serious mistake in the opinion of our organization and its membership.

There is no question that Ontario's existing retail networks for spirits, beer, and wine have proven to be responsible retailers of alcohol products while also modernizing their day-to-day operations to include extended business hours, debit and credit card payment, Sunday and holiday openings and increased accessibility. These retailers have also established themselves as leaders in promoting road safety and specifically, sober driving; Ontario today boasts the safest roads in history and almost always has the safest roads in all of North America.

We have been pleased to meet with your staff in the recent past to discuss issues concerning road safety and we would be most willing to sit down with them again in order to explain why we believe that the current system governing the controlled sale of all alcohol must continue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Brian Mitchell'.

Brian Mitchell
President
BM:al

Cc: Mr. Tim Hudak, Leader, Conservative Party of Ontario
Ms. Andrea Horwath, leader, New Democratic Party of Ontario