

29 April, 2016

The Honorable Christy Clark
Premier of British Columbia
Box 9041
Station PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

Dear Premier Clark:

As representatives of Argentina, Australia, Chile, Mexico, New Zealand, the United States, and the European Union, we would like to bring the following matter to your attention.

Access to the Canadian market for wine is a shared concern of the signatories of this letter. Canada is a top export market for wine. Canadian imports of wine are at or near \$2 billion annually.

Last year, British Columbia implemented new wine sale regulations that only allow sales of British Columbia wine on grocery store shelves. In contrast, non-British Columbia wine, including imported wine, cannot be sold on regular store shelves, but only in a “store-within-a-store” with controlled access and with separate cash registers. The “store-within-a-store” is also limited by a one-kilometer rule which severely restricts the number of grocery stores that could qualify.

In that the regulations appear on their face to accord less favourable treatment to imported wine than they do to British Columbia wine, we question whether they are consistent with Canada’s commitments as a member of the World Trade Organization – specifically the national treatment obligations under Article III:4 of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994. Accordingly, we request that British Columbia amend the relevant regulations in order to ensure that the sale of wine in grocery stores is permitted on a non-discriminatory basis.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

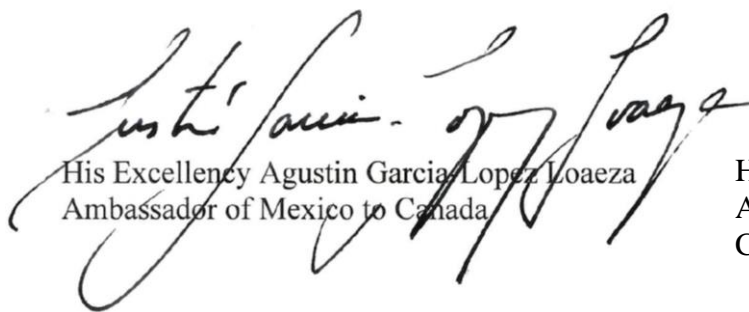
Sincerely,



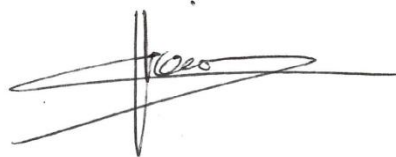
His Excellency Bruce A. Heyman
Ambassador of the United States of America
to Canada




His Excellency Dan Mellsop
High Commissioner of New Zealand to
Canada



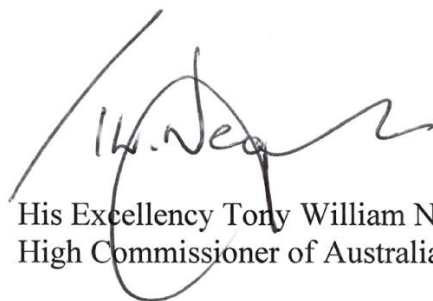
His Excellency Agustin Garcia Lopez Loaeza
Ambassador of Mexico to Canada



Her Excellency Marie-Anne Coninx
Ambassador of the European Union to
Canada



His Excellency Alfonso Silva
Ambassador of Chile to Canada



His Excellency Tony William Negus
High Commissioner of Australia to Canada



Her Excellency Norma Nascimbene de Dumont
Ambassador of Argentina to Canada

Cc: The Honorable Chrystia Freeland, Minister of International Trade