

November 4, 2019

The Honourable Derrick Bragg
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment
Minister Responsible for the Multi Materials Stewardship Board
Registrar General

Dear Minister Bragg:

I look forward to continuing to work with you in your roles as Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment, Minister Responsible for the Multi Materials Stewardship Board and Registrar General. As you move forward in your work, I am asking that you lead efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate and adapt to the consequences of climate change, protect our province's environment, work collaboratively with our province's municipalities and support the provision of high quality and responsive emergency services when needed in times of adverse events. Your department is essential to protecting our environment while enabling our communities to be vibrant places to live.

We received a mandate from the people of Newfoundland and Labrador to continue on the course we have set out, in collaboration and cooperation with all members of our House of Assembly. We are committed to working together to make Newfoundland and Labrador a better place to live, to work, and to raise a family. We are building on the work advanced as part of our plan for sustainability and growth, The Way Forward. Moving into the next four years, we remain focused on growing the economy while ensuring fiscal sustainability in a balanced and thoughtful manner. We envision a better economy, healthier people, better living and a bright future. To deliver on this plan, below are some of the activities I am asking you to lead:

Climate Change and Energy Efficiency

- Continuing to implement the five-year Climate Change Action Plan, which is designed to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, stimulate clean innovation and growth, and build resilience to the impacts of climate change;
- Prioritizing increasing electric car usage, including collaborating with Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro and the Government of Canada to enhance the electric vehicle charging station network in Newfoundland and Labrador;
- Committing provincial funds to leverage Government of Canada funding through the Low Carbon Economy Leadership Fund, to offer a suite of programs, including an expansion of the Home Energy Savings Program, the Energy Efficiency in Oil Heated Homes Program, the Climate Change Challenge Fund, the Freight Transportation Fuel Efficiency Program and the Energy Efficiency and Fuel Switching in Public Buildings Program; and,

- Partnering with Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro on a Heat Pump Rebate Program to assist homeowners in increasing the energy efficiency of their homes through the installation of a heat pump.

Environment

- Continuing to protect the health of Indigenous and local populations around the Muskrat Falls Reservoir, including:
 - Designating a committee, with Indigenous groups and municipalities, to provide oversight of methylmercury monitoring programs and develop health-related information, and
 - Continuing to monitor methylmercury, including collection and analysis;
- Drafting regulations to implement a ban on retail plastic bags;
- Supporting the Minister of Fisheries and Land Resources to continue work on a Natural Areas System Plan;
- Supporting the review of the Provincial Solid Waste Management Strategy to ensure waste management within Newfoundland and Labrador is providing desired outcomes in a strategic, efficient and equitable manner;
- Continuing to work with each of the Western, Central, and Eastern Regional Service Boards to implement the Regional Water and Wastewater Operators Pilot Program;
- Working with the Government of Canada to explore a flexible and cost-effective approach to implementing federal wastewater effluent regulations that is responsive to the unique needs of communities in Newfoundland and Labrador;
- Continuing with the review of the Environmental Assessment process; and,
- Continuing with the development of a drinking water quality action plan to address infrastructure, expertise and technology to ensure our water systems are safe and sustainable.

Local Government

- Continuing with the review of municipal legislation to ensure an effective and modern framework for municipal governance;
- Supporting regional collaboration in a manner that engages communities and ensures a local voice for all residents;
- Organizing our annual Premier's Forum on Local Government to provide a venue for community leaders and key municipal organizations to discuss issues of concern for municipalities; and,
- Working with municipalities to create the building blocks for communities to better deliver municipal services, protect the environment, and encourage economic activity.

Municipal Infrastructure

- Investing in new infrastructure, providing better access to clean drinking water, protecting our environment, and advancing regional collaboration through our provincial Capital Works programs; and,
- Working with the Government of Canada and communities across Newfoundland and Labrador to advance projects under the Investing in Canada Plan and the Federal Gas Tax Fund, and continuing to improve flexibilities under these programs, in collaboration with the Government of Canada.

Flood Risk Mapping, and Fire and Emergency Services

- Continuing to work on flood risk mapping on the Humber, Exploits, and Lower Churchill Rivers to help assist government, communities, and emergency management partners to better anticipate and respond to possible flooding events;
- Allocating funding to support the replacement of fire protection vehicles and firefighting equipment, which will provide more options for communities to access funding for both used and new vehicles; and,
- Allocating funding to continue to administer the Newfoundland and Labrador Disaster Financial Assistance Program.

Tremendous progress has been made in Newfoundland and Labrador because of the work we have undertaken with our industry, cultural and community partners. These partnerships have enabled us to strengthen our resource industries and knowledge-based sectors, modernize health and social supports, and focus on improving educational outcomes for our youngest residents. However, our work does not stop there; we still have much work ahead of us to create a better economy, improve the health outcomes of residents, strengthen living conditions, and ultimately give Newfoundlanders and Labradorians a brighter future.

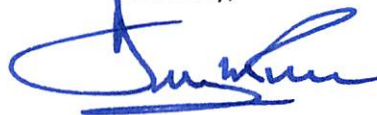
In addition to the items outlined above, our Cabinet is also collectively responsible for delivering on all of the commitments and targets set out in The Way Forward. Achieving these actions is critical to attaining inclusive growth, improving employment levels and creating the conditions necessary for job creation, reducing poverty, improving the health and wellbeing of everyone in our province, and realizing financial sustainability. It is essential that we work together to consider the health impacts of all our decisions as part of our Health in All Policies commitment.

I expect you to continue to be collaborative, open, accountable and transparent as you implement your duties. We will continue to use evidence, research, gender-based analysis plus, and engage with the public stakeholders and our Indigenous partners, to inform our decisions. We are focused on service excellence and will continue to respond to the needs of the people of this great province.

In fulfilling your responsibility as Minister, I expect you to continue to show collaboration in a positive and constructive manner with your Cabinet colleagues and our peers in the House of Assembly.

Newfoundlanders and Labradorians are counting on us to make progress. We will continue to report publicly on our activities on our Way Forward website. Together, we will improve health, social and economic outcomes, and deliver high quality services for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians. Our future is bright and together we can make our beautiful, rich and diverse province an even better place to live, work and raise a family.

Sincerely,



DWIGHT BALL
Premier