

November 4, 2019

The Honourable Brian Warr
Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development

Dear Minister Warr:

I look forward to continuing to work with you in your role as Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development. As you move forward in your work, I am confident that you will enable a high quality early learning and K-12 educational system for the children and youth of our province. Your department is vital to ensuring that young people in our province have a bright start.

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:

K-12 Education

- Prioritizing the implementation of our Education Action Plan on improving educational outcomes, including:
 - Implementing a new student services policy for the K-12 school system,
 - Introducing social and emotional learning into the school curriculum,
 - Providing additional reading specialists, teacher librarians, and teaching learning assistants,
 - Ensuring teachers have the learning resources needed to support reading in the primary and elementary grades and that school libraries have the resources needed to support literacy development, and,
 - Offering a mathematics bursary program to support teachers wishing to enhance their qualifications in mathematics;
- Continuing to review bus routes and areas of concern and working with school districts to ensure the continued safety of our children;
- Reviewing the service delivery model for deaf and hard of hearing students to ensure programs and services meet the needs of these students; and,

- Continuing to support, through the Safe and Caring Schools Policy and guidelines for 2SLGBTQQIA+ inclusive practices, professional learning, open dialogue, resource development, and student-led activities.

Early Learning and Child Care

- Continuing to improve access to affordable, quality child care and enhancing early learning opportunities for children throughout our province, through initiatives such as the Child Care Services Subsidy Program, the Voluntary Operating Grant Program and income enhancement to qualified Early Childhood Educators; and
- Developing a guiding document and phased-in implementation plan for Junior Kindergarten, based on consultations recently conducted.

Libraries

- Providing the best public library services possible to provide access to reading material, internet, and related programs to children, youth, and adults in the Province.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dwight Ball", with a stylized flourish at the end.

DWIGHT BALL
Premier