

MAR 20 2015

The Honourable Jason Kenney
Minister of National Defence
National Defence Headquarters
Major-General George R. Pearkes Building
Ottawa, ON K1A 0K2

Dear Minister Kenney:

I would like to extend my congratulations to you on your recent appointment as Minister of National Defence and Minister for Multiculturalism. I am certain you will find these significant Cabinet responsibilities to be both an interesting and challenging roles.

I am writing to you to engage on matters of importance to the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador from a national defence perspective and to highlight the importance of 5 Wing Goose Bay.

The long-term viability of 5 Wing remains a priority to the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. The base continues to possess significant capacity and infrastructure to support training requirements for Canadian military and allied forces, and remains a strategic forward operating centre for the North American Aerospace Defence Command (NORAD). 5 Wing has the potential to play an ongoing vital role in the support of coastal monitoring, territorial defence, and to strengthen Canada's longer-term objectives relating to Arctic sovereignty. The Government of Canada has made numerous promises to support a viable and productive future for 5 Wing and we see many opportunities for progress to occur in the areas of military flight and ground-based training, drone activity, as well as support for northern search and rescue.

My colleague, the Honourable Keith Russell, Minister of Labrador Affairs and Provincial MHA for Lake Melville, has written to you previously to stress how vital 5 Wing Goose Bay is to that region and to our province in general. I understand, as well, then-Minister Responsible for Fire and Emergency Services-NL Judy Manning recently reached out to you to outline provincial views on issues related to search and rescue.

The Province has repeatedly asked for the Government of Canada to act upon its promises and to support a stronger future for 5 Wing. It would be my pleasure to meet with you to discuss this and other mutual priorities. For your information, I am enclosing the Province's recent submission to the Standing Committee on National Defence which reiterates our position relating to 5 Wing.

Sincerely,



KEITH HUTCHINGS, MHA
District of Ferryland
Minister of Municipal and Intergovernmental Affairs

Enclosure

cc. The Honourable Darin King
The Honourable Keith Russell
The Honourable Rob Moore