

November 4, 2019

The Honourable Siobhan Coady
Minister of Natural Resources
Government House Leader

Dear Minister Coady:

I look forward to continuing to work with you in your roles as Minister of Natural Resources and Government House Leader. As you move forward in your work, I am confident that you will support natural resource development throughout all regions of our province. Your department is essential to ensuring the sustainable development of our energy and mining sectors, and ensuring our province benefits from those developments through appropriate royalty and benefits regimes.

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:

Energy Development and Distribution

Muskrat Falls and Rate Mitigation

- Implementing our April 2019 plan, entitled Protecting You from the Cost Impacts of Muskrat Falls, which was informed by the interim report by the Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities, to ensure ratepayers are not subjected to the massive electricity rate increases that Muskrat Falls might otherwise cause;
- Continuing to ensure effective oversight and management of the Muskrat Falls Project as it reaches final development;
- Reviewing the forthcoming report from the Commission of Inquiry Respecting the Muskrat Falls Project and taking necessary action stemming from the findings of the Inquiry; and

- Reviewing the final report from the Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities on options to mitigate Muskrat Falls costs and taking necessary action to reduce costs, find savings and generate revenue to mitigate increases to electricity rates.

Renewables

- Working with industry and stakeholders to develop and begin implementation of a renewable energy strategy that is focused on creating employment opportunities and further positioning the province as an energy hub;
- Collaborating with the Atlantic Provinces, electric utilities, and the Government of Canada in the development of a Clean Power Roadmap for Atlantic Canada, which will outline a collective vision for how jurisdictions can collaborate over the coming decades to build a clean power network across the region that will provide economic and environmental benefits; and
- Considering new export energy sector development including wind, hydrogen, and other opportunities.

Oil and Gas Development

- Ensuring Newfoundland and Labrador is a globally-preferred location for investment in oil and gas to ensure lasting benefits and employ more people directly in the industry, through the continued implementation of Advance 2030: A Plan for Growth in the Newfoundland and Labrador Oil and Gas Industry, this includes:
 - Emphasizing exploration in an environmentally sustainable manner to drive discovery and higher production,
 - Improving supply and service sector opportunities, and,
 - Improving global competitiveness;
- Working collaboratively with the new, stand-alone provincial oil and gas company to further exploration investment and supply and service opportunities in the oil and gas sector; and,
- Implementing the Innovation and Business Development Fund, which will assist in supporting innovation and enhancing supply and service capabilities, business development and infrastructure.

Mineral Exploration, Mining and Quarrying

- Continuing to implement our plan, Mining the Future 2030, to position Newfoundland and Labrador as a top tier global jurisdiction for safe, environmentally responsible exploration and mining growth, and to maximize benefits and opportunities to be competitive in global markets. This includes:
 - Following comprehensive engagement with the public and industry, and across government, modernizing departmental legislation including the **Quarry Materials Act**, the **Mineral Act** and the **Mining Act**,
 - Ensuring geoscience project selection meets the mineral industry's needs and demand for critical minerals to support marketing of Newfoundland and Labrador and enhance exploration investment, and,
 - Advancing geoscience considerations and mineral potential within government's land access and land use decision making;

- Collaborating with the Government of Canada, and other provincial and territorial governments in the implementation of the Canadian Minerals and Metals Plan actions towards solidifying Canada's position as a global mining leader and to lay the foundation for lasting success at home and abroad;
- Supporting the Minister of Fisheries and Land Resources to continue work on a Natural Areas System Plan;
- Continuing to support and fund the Junior Exploration Assistance Program and prospector grants throughout Newfoundland and Labrador; and,
- Improving administrative processes and making use of leading edge technology to enhance service delivery.

House of Assembly

As Government House Leader, I expect that you will be:

- Working to improve the climate of the legislature. We must lead this, and all members must accept nothing short of a safe and respectful workplace for all; and
- Participating as a member of the All Party Committee on Democratic Reform.

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 underneath.

DWIGHT BALL
Premier