

November 4, 2019

The Honourable Andrew Parsons
Minister of Justice and Public Safety
Attorney General

Dear Minister Parsons:

I look forward to continuing to work with you in your roles as Minister of Justice and Public Safety and Attorney General. As you move forward in your work, I am confident that you will uphold justice and improve public safety in our province. Your department is essential in ensuring a safe province for all our residents.

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:

Legal Services

- Having recently partnered with the University of Saskatchewan and Indigenous Governments and Organizations to support Indigenous people in their pursuit of a legal education, continuing to allocate two articling positions within the Department of Justice and Public Safety for Indigenous law students graduating from this program.

Legislation, Public Safety and Public Inquiries

- Continuing to participate in the Minister's Committee on Violence against Women and Girls;
- Instituting the **Interpersonal Violence Disclosure Protocol Act**, which is aimed at reducing domestic violence by informing people who may not know that they are in an intimate relationship with someone that has a history of violence;
- In collaboration with your colleagues, the Ministers of Transportation and Works; Finance; Municipal Affairs and Environment; and Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation, replacing existing multiple radio systems with a single, province-wide public safety radio system and working with your colleague, the Minister of Tourism,

Culture, Industry and Innovation, to leverage the resulting infrastructure from this critical public safety investment to provide cell-phone coverage across Newfoundland and Labrador;

- Proclaiming the **Correctional Services Act** into force;
- Undertaking a comprehensive statutory review of the provisions and operation of the **Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 2015**;
- Proceeding with the establishment of a public inquiry into search and rescue services in our province to examine how services as a whole are provided in this province;
- Working with your colleague, the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, to advance necessary work in response to the final report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls; and,
- In keeping with the Memorandum of Understanding signed between Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and the Innu Leadership, establishing a public inquiry with the cooperation of the Federal Government into the treatment, experiences and outcomes of Innu in the child protection system, in collaboration with the Minister of Children, Seniors and Social Development.

Courts and Correctional Services

- Working with your colleague, the Minister of Transportation and Works, to build a new Her Majesty's Penitentiary in St. John's and to undertake expansion of the Labrador Correctional Centre;
- Continuing to support the Drug Treatment Court and Family Violence Intervention Court;
- Implementing the Bail Supervision Program;
- Implementing the Fines Option Program that enables eligible people to do community service in lieu of paying their fines, when payment is not feasible;
- Implementing the Electronic Monitoring Pilot Program; and,
- Continuing the Adult Diversion Pilot 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dwight Ball', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

DWIGHT BALL
Premier