

November 4, 2019

The Honourable Sherry Gambin-Walsh
Minister of Service Newfoundland and Labrador
Minister Responsible for the Public Procurement Agency
Minister Responsible for WorkplaceNL

Dear Minister Gambin-Walsh:

I look forward to continuing to work with you in your roles as Minister of Service Newfoundland and Labrador, Minister Responsible for the Public Procurement Agency, and Minister Responsible for WorkplaceNL. As you move forward with your work, I am confident that you will support the delivery of better services for the people of our province. Your department and agencies are essential to the efficient functioning of the province's businesses and employers. The services your department delivers every day directly benefit residents, including the important legislation you oversee that helps ensure a safe environment for everyone.

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:

Procurement

- Continuing to implement the new **Public Procurement Act** to modernize the procurement framework applicable to public bodies and supporting alternative approaches to procurement where they are consistent with ensuring best value, transparency, and accountability.

Service Delivery

- Reviewing and strengthening legislation related to accessibility to public buildings to help ensure inclusion and equity for all persons in Newfoundland and Labrador; and
- Continuing to modernize the delivery of government services to transition to a government that is Digital-by-Design to harness the full potential of technology.

Enhanced Safety and Consumer Protection

- Reviewing the **Radiation Health and Safety Act** and related regulations to enhance safety for radiation workers and others;
- Supporting a review of the **Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Act** by an independent review committee and advancing amendments that will improve the workplace compensation system for workers and employers;
- Considering recommendations from the Credit Union Deposit Guarantee Corporation respecting the **Credit Union Act, 2009** and bringing forward necessary amendments;
- In consultation with stakeholders, conducting a review of the **Motorized Snow Vehicles and All-Terrain Vehicles Act** and advancing amendments that will modernize and strengthen the safety provisions of the legislation; and,
- Overseeing the implementation of a modernized automobile insurance system and continuing with structural reforms, including making our roads safer and keeping automobile insurance rates stable, by:
 - Continuing to strengthen the **Highway Traffic Act**,
 - Enabling the use of traffic cameras on our roadways to increase road safety and deter bad driving behavior,
 - Enacting regulations to allow for direct compensation for property damage to provide faster and more customer-friendly resolution of easier property damage claims for drivers,
 - Requiring insurance companies to report insurance policy expirations and cancellations to help reduce the incidence of uninsured drivers on our streets,
 - Evaluating a potential Plate-to-Owner Policy,
 - Improving the rate-setting process used by the Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities to make the process more efficient, increase rate flexibility, and more closely align the process with other jurisdictions such as Nova Scotia and Alberta,
 - Requiring insurance companies to provide mandatory insurance discounts for vehicles equipped with winter tires,
 - Amending regulations to set rules concerning the optional use of telematics in a manner that respects the privacy rights of individuals,
 - Implementing diagnostic and treatment protocols for people injured in motor vehicle accidents, and,
 - Increasing the deductible on pain and suffering damages.

Considerable advancement on automobile insurance reform occurred this summer with the implementation of a no pay, no play system so uninsured drivers are prohibited from recovering compensation from the Uninsured Automobile Fund if involved in an accident; facilitation of the use of Digital Proof of Insurance; allowing for risk sharing pools; and decreasing the insurance commission for taxi businesses to a more acceptable level. These reforms, along with those above, will benefit all consumers, including those in the taxi industry that pay some of the highest premiums. Along with the reforms noted above, proceeding to implement the removal of rate filing requirements for fleet-rated risks will encourage insurers to provide insurance to the taxi industry.

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,



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Premier