

November 4, 2019

The Honourable Tom Osborne
Minister of Finance
President of Treasury Board
Minister Responsible for the Human Resource Secretariat
Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission
Minister Responsible for the Office of the Chief Information Officer
Minister Responsible for the Newfoundland and Labrador Liquor Corporation

Dear Minister Osborne:

I look forward to continuing to work with you in your roles as Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board, Minister Responsible for the Human Resource Secretariat, Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission, Minister Responsible for the Office of the Chief Information Officer, and Minister Responsible for the Newfoundland and Labrador Liquor Corporation. As you move forward in your work, I am confident that you will deliver on our Government's plan to restore fiscal balance, and our commitment to modernize government service delivery through our Digital by Design program. Your departments are essential to the efficient working of our public service and the future sustainability of the provincial government.

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:

Making Life More Affordable in Newfoundland and Labrador

- Continuing to provide the NL Income Supplement and NL Seniors Benefit;
- Eliminating the Temporary Deficit Reduction Levy at the end of the 2019 taxation year;
- Eliminating the tax on automobile insurance; and,
- Renewing the Newfoundland and Labrador Film and Video Industry Tax Credit, which was set to expire.

Budgetary Policy

- Prudently managing government spending for Departments and Agencies, Boards and Commissions to optimize efficiencies;
- Ensuring the fraud management policy safeguard's the province's resources; and,
- Establishing a Legacy Fund as our financial position improves with the goal of compounding our oil wealth for the future.

Shared Services

- Continuing to take steps to consolidate corporate services that will provide increased efficiencies and savings; and
- Reducing manual, paper-based processes for government services by increasing the number of services delivered online by 50 per cent by 2022 through implementation of the Digital-by-Design roadmap.

Human Resources

- Ensuring the implementation of our newly strengthened and modernized Harassment-Free Workplace Policy for government employees.

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 horizontal line underneath the name.

DWIGHT BALL
Premier