

November 4, 2019

The Honourable Steve Crocker
Minister of Transportation and Works
Deputy Government House Leader

Dear Minister Crocker:

I look forward to continuing to work with you in your role as Minister of Transportation and Works and Deputy Government House Leader. As you move forward with your work, I am confident that you will effectively administer and manage all matters related to transportation and public works in our province. Your department is essential to the movement of people, goods and services in our province and to the operations of our most vital public services.

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:

Infrastructure Development

- Continuing to implement the five-year infrastructure plan that outlines infrastructure commitments to education, health care, justice, roads, and municipal infrastructure;
- Partnering with the private sector to design, build, finance, and maintain new health care facilities in an effort to increase access to critical health care services while maximizing value for taxpayers, in partnership with the Minister of Health and Community Services, including:
 - Replacing the Waterford Hospital with a new facility that is an extension of the Health Sciences Centre in St. John's;
 - Constructing a new acute care regional hospital in Corner Brook;
 - Continuing to build the new Corner Brook long-term care home;
 - Constructing two new 60 bed long-term care homes in Grand Falls-Windsor and Gander; and,

- Building a new correctional facility to replace Her Majesty's Penitentiary in St. John's, in collaboration with the Minister of Justice and Public Safety, with construction targeted to start in 2022; and,
- In collaboration with your colleagues, the Ministers of Justice and Public Safety; 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.

Transportation Network

- Continuing our approach to multi-year roads planning, including issuing tenders early in the year for road work;
- Ensuring that widening and hard-surfacing of the Trans Labrador Highway continues, and upon completion, partnering with the Government of Canada to explore options and feasibility of a road connecting the North Coast of Labrador, in collaboration with the undersigned as Minister of Labrador Affairs; and,
- Continuing to make safety a priority on our highways through actions such as increasing the use of modern technology that may include highway cameras at well-travelled routes such as the Argentia Access Road and Heart's Content Barrens, to ensure the travelling public can make informed decisions before driving.
- Continuing to explore a fixed link between Labrador and the Island of Newfoundland as a long-term endeavor requiring many partners.

Marine Services

- Continuing to implement our five-year marine infrastructure plan to provide better services at ferry ports, and,
- Increasing capacity, improved reliability and inviting economic opportunities through the new ferry service to the Strait of Belle Isle and the North Coast of Labrador.

House of Assembly

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

- Working with your colleagues and the Government House Leader to improve the climate of the legislature; and,
- Working with members from all parties as Chair of the All Party Committee on Democratic Reform. The Committee has a mandate to review democratic processes in Newfoundland and Labrador with the goal of improving democracy to better serve residents of the province. This Committee will examine, study and consult with the public as it reviews:
 - Campaign finance laws,
 - Changes to financial reporting by political parties and district associations, and,
 - Other matters of importance identified by the public, such as methods for public engagement and participation in democracy, changing or broadening methods to

vote, reducing barriers for participation in the democratic process, and methods to increase public access and input in the House of Assembly.

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,



DWIGHT BALL
Premier