September 15, 2020

The Honourable Sarah Stoodley
Minister of Digital Government and Service NL,
Minister Responsible for the Office of the Chief Information Officer
Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs

Dear Minister Stoodley:

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Digital Government and Service NL, Minister Responsible for the Office of the Chief Information Officer and Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs. As you advance activities in the interests of the people of Newfoundland and Labrador, I am confident that you will support the delivery of better services for the people of our province and expand the digital service offerings of government. 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.

This year has been marked by economic and social turmoil not only in Newfoundland and Labrador but around the world. But with great challenges come great opportunities. Through focused efforts I know that we will overcome these challenges and emerge as a stronger, more caring, more compassionate, and more diverse province. Future generations will judge us not based on the size of the challenges we faced but on how we have solidified the financial, social, and economic foundation of our province. Our Government has a responsibility to respond swiftly, decisively, and effectively. The time for action is now.

The economic status quo is no longer acceptable. We need to move away from the well-worn economic cycles of boom and bust and foster an economy that is diversified and sustainable. We need to reinvigorate our economy to harness the great potential that lies in our technology sector, our world-class arts sector, and every other sector from oil and gas to tourism, from fisheries and aquaculture to forestry and agrifoods. I know that the people of our province work hard in these and other sectors and the Government must work equally as hard for the people.

Our work to create a robust, stable economy will provide a firm foundation to ensure the delivery of vital social and other services to residents of the province. Our Government
must always be mindful of the needs of the most vulnerable in our society and must ensure that quality social services are available and accessible to Newfoundlanders and Labradorians. To ensure our Government is meeting this need, a Gender-Based Plus Analysis must be integrated into all policies and proposals.

The business of government must also advance from the status quo. We need to reimagine how government works so that it works for the people. This change is long overdue and it will be transformational.

In particular, I am tasking you to work with your colleagues in Cabinet, with all members of the House of Assembly, and with your departmental officials to advance the following priorities.

As Minister of Digital Government and Service Newfoundland and Labrador, you will lead the modernization of the delivery of government services to transition to a government that is digital-by-design to harness the full potential of technology. Please review and strengthen legislation related to accessibility to public buildings to help ensure inclusion and equity for all persons in Newfoundland and Labrador. By leading shared services, continue to take steps to consolidate corporate services that will provide increased efficiencies and savings. I ask you to reduce manual, paper-based processes for government services by increasing the number of services delivered online by 75 per cent by 2022 through implementation of the digital-by-design roadmap.

I also ask that you consider recommendations from the Credit Union Deposit Guarantee Corporation respecting the Credit Union Act, 2009 and bring forward necessary amendments. Conduct a review of the Motorized Snow Vehicles and All-Terrain Vehicles Act in consultation with stakeholders, and advance amendments that will modernize and strengthen the safety provisions of the legislation. Further, you will oversee the introduction of amendments to the Radiation Health and Safety Act and related regulations to enhance safety for radiation workers and others.

Oversee the continued implementation of a modernized automobile insurance system and continue with structural reforms, improvements to make our roads safer and keep automobile insurance rates stable. Work towards enabling the use of traffic cameras and evaluating a plate-to-owner policy.

You will also strive to build the capacity of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to deliver services in French, and contribute to the development and vitality of the province’s Francophone community.

I trust that you will be collaborative, honest, respectful, and transparent in your role as a minister. I also expect that you will hold yourself to the highest standards of ethical conduct and act at all times with integrity. Individually and collectively, we have a responsibility to seek out the best advice and the best ideas and to implement actions only in the interests of the people of our great province. We must be guided by evidence and research and take into account diverse perspectives as we make our decisions.
We cannot change our past but we can shape the bright future that our province and its people deserve.

Yours truly,

DR. ANDREW FUREY
Premier