September 15, 2020

The Honourable Siobhan Coady  
Deputy Premier  
Minister of Finance  
Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission  
Minister Responsible for the Newfoundland and Labrador Liquor Corporation

Dear Minister Coady:

Congratulations on your appointment as Deputy Premier, Minister of Finance, Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission, and Minister Responsible for the Newfoundland and Labrador Liquor Corporation. As you advance activities in the interests of the people of Newfoundland and Labrador, I am confident that you will work to ensure that the financial resources of our province are managed prudently in the best interests of the people of our province. Your department is essential in ensuring that Newfoundland and Labrador has the solid financial footing to ensure we can deliver the services that people in our province expect and deserve in a manner that is sustainable.

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 Deputy Premier, you will work closely with me in both setting and accomplishing the Government’s agenda. This will require collaborating with all ministers of the Cabinet across many provincial priorities.

Specifically, I ask you to work with me to oversee and implement recommendations of the Premier’s Economic Recovery Team. We will bring together expertise from a variety of sectors and sources to identify opportunities to advance the development and diversification of the provincial economy.

As Minister of Finance, you will also set the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador’s fiscal and economic policy. You will deliver the Province’s budget and lead our Government’s strides towards solid financial footing. Specifically, I ask you to ensure that corporate and personal taxes in Newfoundland and Labrador are competitive and that we can attract new business to the province, continue to provide the Newfoundland and Labrador Income Supplement and Newfoundland and Labrador Seniors Benefit, and renew the Newfoundland and Labrador Film and Video Industry Tax Credit.

In collaboration with the President of Treasury Board, you will examine departments and agencies, boards and commissions to optimize efficiencies, and ensure that the size of government reflects the appropriate levels required. You will also work with the Minister of Industry, Energy and Technology to finalize electricity rate mitigation agreements.

In your role as Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission, you will oversee Government’s policy for merit-based appointments and promotions within the public service. This will also include supporting departments and individuals in achieving individual and workplace health and productivity, and the additional functions of strategic staffing, Opening Doors, and training, safety and wellness functions. The Public Service Commission will also include a Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner that helps elected and executive level officials prevent and avoid conflicts between their public duties and their private interests.

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 our future. It is our job to build the bright future that our province and its people deserve.

Yours truly,

DR. ANDREW FUREY
Premier