

April 15, 2021

The Honourable Krista Lynn Howell  
Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs  
Registrar General

Dear Minister Howell:

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs and Registrar General. As part of this Cabinet, you are working on behalf of, and alongside, the people of Newfoundland and Labrador to face the challenges confronting our province while preparing for the great opportunities ahead. I have confidence in our Government and in this province. This is the right team at the right time.

Together, we will deliver on our promises to the people of this province. Together, we will promote a healthy Newfoundland and Labrador, drive meaningful economic opportunities, foster inclusive population growth, modernize education and childcare, and build strong partnerships. We will realize our vision of a prosperous and fiscally responsible province that is inclusive and welcoming to people from all over the world.

As Minister, you will take a lead in building a prosperous future for this province. You will foster strong relationships with Indigenous governments and organizations and with relevant stakeholder groups. Each relationship must be founded upon respect and mutual understanding.

Now is the time to take meaningful steps on the path to prosperity, and decisive action to build a solid foundation for future generations. I am asking you to work with your Cabinet colleagues and with all Members of the House of Assembly to advance the following priorities.

Sustainable communities are the building block of our province, and local governments provide the services closest to home for Newfoundland and Labrador. To empower councils and ensure accountable leadership, you will build on the extensive consultations with stakeholders, and introduce modern municipal legislation that will enable a reimagined approach to local governance.

As Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs, you will also work with stakeholders, including Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador, and Professional Municipal Administrators, to explore regionalization and shared services. Where opportunities for regional collaboration exist, you will explore incentivizing cooperation with a goal of reducing costs and improving outcomes in a manner that engages communities and ensures a local voice for all residents. This work will include receiving the report of the regionalization working group and provide recommendations

on effective implementation as appropriate.

Together, we will continue the annual Premier's Forum on Local Government to provide a venue for community leaders and key municipal organizations to discuss issues of concern for municipalities, and work with municipalities to create the building blocks for communities to better deliver municipal services, protect the environment, and encourage economic activity.

Working with the Minister of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation and the Minister Responsible for Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation, I ask that you prioritize the efforts of the interdepartmental working group focusing on provincial monuments and observances. Through public engagement and close consultation with Indigenous peoples, the group will provide recommendations on how best to recognize and commemorate our history, namely through the designation or re-naming of historical and commemorative sites, statutory holidays, and other areas of cultural significance.

This work shall include working with Indigenous leaders to update the description of the provincial Coat of Arms to more accurately describe the peoples and cultures of this Province. In consultation with Indigenous leaders, please continue advancements to create and install a statue to commemorate the Beothuk people.

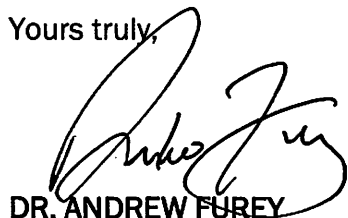
We will always remain focused on a robust economy where there is a place for all workers, an economy that embraces renewable energy while maximizing our oil and gas advantage. We will foster a business environment that supports new and growing technology and we will reimagine and reinvigorate our fishing and mining sectors to meet global demand for our abundant resources.

As we work to build a strong economy, we must also work to create a prosperous society. We envision a province with healthy, active residents who not only have access to the means to treat illness but also to achieve wellness. We envision a province with vibrant, engaged communities in which nobody is left behind. We must ensure that in our quest to build economic wealth we also build social and cultural wealth.

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.

I call on you and every other Newfoundlander and Labradorian to join me in my commitment to make a difference for our province. Together, we will harness our collective strengths and build a better and brighter future for this province.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr. Furey', written over a horizontal line.

**DR. ANDREW FUREY**  
Premier