

November 4, 2019

Dear Newfoundlanders and Labradorians:

It is my great honour to continue to serve you as Premier, President of Executive Council, Minister for Intergovernmental and Indigenous Affairs and Minister Responsible for Labrador Affairs.

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 will be leading:

Indigenous Affairs

- Continuing to partner with Indigenous people in Newfoundland and Labrador to inform and monitor appropriate and relevant efforts to advance reconciliation now and into the future and, in particular, in keeping with Call 57 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Government will work with Indigenous governments and organizations to provide cultural sensitivity training to elected officials and public servants to ensure understanding of and respect for the cultures, values, and histories of Indigenous peoples;
- In keeping with the Memorandum of Understanding signed between Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and the Innu Leadership, establishing a public inquiry with the cooperation of the Federal Government into the treatment, experiences and outcomes of Innu in the child protection system, in collaboration with the Ministers of Justice and Public Safety and Children, Seniors and Social Development;
- Hosting an annual Indigenous Leaders Roundtable to advance matters of mutual importance to Indigenous communities;
- Continuing to advance work on land claims agreements and self-government agreements;
- Working with Indigenous groups to identify an appropriate time and approach to a Residential School survivors apology; and,
- Continuing to support efforts to repatriate the remains of Demasduit and Nonosabasut from National Museums Scotland to return them to the ancestral home of the Beothuk.

Labrador Affairs

- 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 partnership with the Minister of Transportation and Works;
- Continuing to provide funding for safe access from isolated communities in Labrador to the nearest service centre through the Labrador Transportation Grooming Subsidy Program, including grooming machines and equipment for Cartwright, Nain, and Hopedale;
- Continuing to deliver the Labrador Travel Subsidy program for minor sport organizations and athletes and the Labrador Aboriginal Nutritional and Artistic Program;
- Supporting construction of the Labrador Wellness Centre;
- Continuing to ensure that the Labrador Affairs Secretariat provides advice to provincial government departments and agencies on policies, programs and services affecting Labrador;
- Continuing to lead Arctic and Northern policy initiatives;
- Continuing to support the Combined Councils of Labrador by providing an annual operating grant; and,
- Continuing to explore a fixed link between Labrador and the Island of Newfoundland as a long-term endeavor requiring many partners.

Youth

- Seeking advice of young leaders in our province through regular discussions and engagement with the Premier's Youth Council.

Intergovernmental Affairs

- Fostering continued positive engagement with the federal, provincial and territorial governments of Canada, and advocating for Newfoundland and Labrador priorities during meetings of First Ministers, the Council of the Federation, and the Council of Atlantic Premiers; and
- Maintaining collaborative intergovernmental relations with other sovereign governments, and supporting the negotiation and finalization of all intergovernmental agreements entered into by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Creating Conditions to Foster Private Sector Employment

- Continuing to place private sector job growth at the centre of all Government decisions through the Cabinet Committee on Jobs.

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, my 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.

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