

April 15, 2021

The Honourable Andrew Parsons, Q.C.  
Minister of Industry, Energy and Technology

Dear Minister Parsons:

Congratulations on your reappointment as Minister of Industry, Energy and Technology. 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.

As Minister of Industry, Energy and Technology, you will focus on accelerating growth, innovation and regional development in a strong and diversified economy.

You will create InvestNL, a one-stop online portal that will provide companies and entrepreneurs access to customers and investors around the world. InvestNL will highlight the province's priority sectors and showcase Newfoundland and Labrador, both as a prime location for business expansion and a hotbed for investment in innovative high growth companies.

I ask that you prioritize the development of a thriving and prosperous startup ecosystem in Newfoundland and Labrador. Align current business attraction programs with a sustainable approach to growing an entrepreneurial environment. Please be a strategic partner to the province's innovation leaders, helping to promote and grow research and development activity. I ask you to collaborate with academia, the private sector, and the Innovation and Business

Investment Corporation in the creation of “NL 2030”, a roadmap for research and development activity in the Province.

Work with your Cabinet colleagues to adopt a Clustered Approach to Technology that will support diverse and useful hubs with focuses on key sectors such as oil and gas, fisheries and aquaculture, arts and culture, mining, and hospitality industries. A clustered approach will create partnerships, synergies, and networks that will propel the province’s technology sector forward. Industry-specific tech clusters will drive investment in new businesses, create high-paying jobs and help strengthen our existing industries and communities.

I ask that you support TechNL’s new Innovation Centre and develop shared work space, networking initiatives, investment and incubation services, research and mentorship for the tech industry with a focus on key industries in the province. Use public challenges like hackathons to incentivize the creation of new businesses and products to create specific tech solutions.

In partnership with industry and community partners, continue to advance efforts to extend cellular and broadband service in rural areas of the province. Collaborate with the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure and the Minister of Justice and Public Safety to support leveraging the province’s investment in a modern province-wide public safety radio system to provide improved mobile and broadband access across the Province.

With support from the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, advance efforts to achieve net zero by 2050 through collaborating with industry to support new innovative ideas to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and advance Newfoundland and Labrador’s status as a Clean Energy Centre of Excellence. Identify key clean growth industries, and build on existing competencies in these sectors. I ask that you engage with investors from around the world to promote Newfoundland and Labrador as the global destination of choice for green investment.

Please continue to make strategic investments in oil and gas to ensure we support the women and men working in the industry, and realize the opportunity before us to position our products during this time of transition. There is still significant demand for Newfoundland and Labrador’s oil and gas resources, which are some of the lowest carbon footprint oilfields in the world.

I ask that you ensure Newfoundland and Labrador is a globally-preferred location for investment in oil and gas, by emphasizing exploration in an environmentally sustainable manner to drive discovery and production. Please collaborate with the private sector to ensure that our province’s clean resources are developed in a responsible, sustainable fashion. This will contribute to our province’s development as a Clean Energy Centre of Excellence.

To realize the full potential of our mining sector in a productive and sustainable manner, I ask you to support exploration and innovation. You will collaborate with the Government of Canada and other provincial and territorial governments to implement the Canadian Minerals and Metals Plan; work to identify high-potential opportunities for extraction and secondary processing; and review the regulatory regime to ensure timely and responsible development.

Please continue to ensure effective oversight and management of the Muskrat Falls project as it reaches final development. Work with the federal government to finalize a strong deal for Newfoundland and Labrador and advance provincial-led opportunities to support rate mitigation. I

also ask you to implement the actions from the Commission of Inquiry Respecting the Muskrat Falls Project. This will include appointing an expert panel with a mandate to determine the best approach to be taken by the Province in its attempt to ensure maximum long-term benefits from the Churchill Falls generating station and other potential generation sites on the Churchill River in preparation for 2041.

In collaboration with the Atlantic Provinces, electric utilities, and the Government of Canada, develop a Clean Power Roadmap for Atlantic Canada. This will outline a collective vision for how Jurisdictions can collaborate over the coming decades to build a clean power network across the region, providing economic and environmental benefits. Consider new export energy sector development including wind, hydrogen, and other opportunities.

Support regional economic development initiatives led by municipalities, industry organizations, social enterprises and co-operatives, and other not-for-profit groups, and capitalize on projected growth in the global ocean economy and the opportunities presented by the Atlantic Ocean Supercluster. I also ask you to collaborate with the Minister of Environment and Climate Change and the Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture to continue work on a Natural Areas System Plan.

Working with your colleagues, the Minister of Immigration, Population Growth and Skills and the Minister of Education, please develop targeted approaches for ensuring the provincial workforce supports the creation of an ecosystem that can attract and retain firms in the technology sector, including enhanced coding opportunities in the K-12 education system.

In growing the province's economy, you will be responsible for ensuring equitable, inclusive growth. Please work with your Cabinet colleagues to ensure that the growth of our province leaves no one behind, and creates opportunities for women, Indigenous peoples, and youth.

In consultation with the community sector, stakeholders and leading incubators across Canada, support the Minister of Children, Seniors and Social Development in the creation of an incubator and accelerator to grow and enhance our thriving community sector and to maximize the sector's social and economic impacts across the Province. You will also continue the work of advancing the provincial Social Enterprise Action Plan.

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. Andrew Furey', written in a cursive style.

**DR. ANDREW FUREY**  
Premier