

April 15, 2021

The Honourable Bernard Davis
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
Minister Responsible for Labour
Minister Responsible for WorkplaceNL

Dear Minister Davis:

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Minister Responsible for Labour, and Minister Responsible for WorkplaceNL. 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 Environment and Climate Change, and with the support of your Cabinet colleagues, the Minister of Industry, Energy and Technology, and in partnership with industry, community and Indigenous stakeholders, you will continue to lead our Government's efforts to advance climate change adaptation and mitigation, energy efficiency through the Climate Change Action Plan, and work to achieve net zero emissions by 2050.

You will also support the Minister of Industry, Energy and Technology to advance Newfoundland and Labrador's status as a Clean Energy Centre of Excellence, and to support sustainable business opportunities and a green transition. As worldwide demand for renewable energy accelerates, we must identify key green growth opportunities, and ensure our clean resources are developed in a responsible, sustainable fashion.

You will also collaborate with inter-provincial and federal colleagues in the fight against climate change.

I expect you to continue to prioritize electrification opportunities, and ongoing partnership with the Government of Canada for the low carbon economy, home energy savings, and energy efficiency. You will also support the Minister Responsible for the Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation to continue delivering the Home Energy Savings Program to help make homes more energy efficient and fight climate change.

Clean drinking water is vital for the health and prosperity of the people and communities of this province. You will work with your Cabinet colleagues to develop a drinking water quality action plan.

In addition, you will continue working in partnership with the Western, Central, and Eastern Regional Service Boards and continue to deliver and monitor the Regional Water and Wastewater Operators Pilot Program.

You will also continue to collaborate with the Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture, the Minister of Industry, Energy and Technology, and other stakeholders to advance the Natural Areas System Plan. Please work on flood risk mapping on the Humber, Exploits, and lower Churchill Rivers to help assist government, communities, and emergency management partners to better anticipate and respond to possible flooding events.

As Minister Responsible for Labour, you will be responsible for ensuring that our increases to minimum wage are in-line with the consumer price index. I ask you take into consideration the advice from the Independent Review Panel and renew discussions with the other Atlantic provinces to consider establishing a harmonized minimum wage.

Please convene a Labour Summit, bringing together our province's labour organizations to discuss issues of concern.

As Minister Responsible for WorkplaceNL, you will also support a review of the Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Act by an independent review committee and advance amendments that will improve the workplace compensation system for workers and employers.

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, environmental, 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 "Andrew Furey". The signature is stylized with a large initial "A" and a prominent "F".

DR. ANDREW FUREY
Premier