

April 15, 2021

The Honourable Derrick Bragg  
Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture

Dear Minister Bragg:

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture. 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.

Our fishery is a pillar of our provincial economy and is the backbone for many of our communities. We need to seek new ways to further integrate our fishery in our future economy. To do so, I ask that you focus on growing the wild caught fishery as a key industry, one that looks for collaborative opportunities with our growing technology sector and is inclusive for Indigenous peoples, women and young people.

You will allocate funding from the Atlantic Fisheries Fund to assist fishing enterprises in the wild and farmed fisheries to adopt innovative and modern practices, and use the Canadian Fish and Seafood Opportunities Fund to advance marketing initiatives, target new markets, and leverage benefits emerging from free trade agreements with Europe and Asia. Please engage the Fisheries Advisory Council for input and guidance on growing the fishery, including the transition toward greater groundfish activities and managing change in the availability of shellfish. You will work with the Government of Canada and industry to identify and access markets for our seal fishery.

Key to our economic renewal is supporting efforts to further develop our secondary processing capabilities. I ask that you work with industry to identify opportunities for secondary or further processing of our existing exports along with supporting research and development of new approaches to manufacturing and maximizing value from waste materials and byproducts.

I ask you to make strategic investments in our thriving aquaculture industry in order to foster our competitive position in the global marketplace. I ask that you advance the development of a multi-species aquaculture strategy that meets the demands of the ever-changing global market in a responsible, environmental science based manner. You will continue efforts to double salmon and shellfish production in our province, expand public trust and confidence, and ensure continued excellence in Newfoundland and Labrador's aquaculture industry by developing robust legislation that supports the industry. Growth in the aquaculture industry must be inclusive and create economic and business opportunities for people of all genders, Indigenous people, and young entrepreneurs.

Together with industry, work to reduce the carbon footprint within the fishing industry, and fully assess logistical issues in exporting and importing fishery and agriculture related products to support access to markets and increased self-sufficiency in Newfoundland and Labrador.

You will also continue to collaborate with the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, 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.

We must continue to increase our agricultural capability in our province to address our challenges with food security. Therefore, supported by the Minister of Children, Seniors and Social Development, you will focus on supporting the growth of our agricultural sector by increasing our overall provincial food security to 20 per cent by 2022 through collaboration with farmers and producers. Furthermore, please work with industry to increase the availability of cold storage in Newfoundland and Labrador to enable local farmers to overcome barriers that constrain vegetable production, extend their market season, and ultimately expand operations.

As part of our ongoing efforts to encourage healthy eating and improve food self-sufficiency, I ask that you increase the non-repayable grant amount available from \$500 to \$750 per applicant for the 2021-22 growing season under the Community Gardens Support Program.

Continue to implement the Forestry Sector Work Plan, in collaboration with industry, to assist in diversifying the forest industry, create new business activities, and increase job opportunities in the sector, including exploring opportunities for the forest sector in Labrador. I ask you to examine the feasibility of creating a Wood Products Innovation Centre. Support silviculture and research into reforestation and forest improvement, and work to protect forests from uncontrolled forest fires under the Fire Suppression Program and monitor and evaluate forest insect and disease conditions under the Insect Control Program. You will also oversee the efforts to conserve our wildlife resources through science-based management and collaborations.

Finally, you will work together with stakeholders to enhance the animal health and protection legislation, which will include reviewing the current enforcement model.

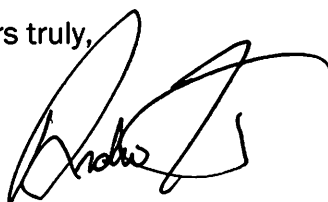
We will always remain focused on a robust economy where there is a place for all workers, an economy that embraces renewable energy while maximizing our oil and gas advantage. We will foster a business environment that supports new and growing technology and we will reimagine and reinvigorate our fishing 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', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

**DR. ANDREW FUREY**  
Premier