

April 15, 2021

The Honourable Elvis Loveless  
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure  
Minister Responsible for the Public Procurement Agency

Dear Minister Loveless:

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure and Minister Responsible for the Public Procurement Agency. 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 Transportation and Infrastructure, you will work with the Government of Canada to deliver meaningful investments that support our key industries, and provide quality infrastructure services. In particular, you will work with communities across the province to advance projects under the Investing in Canada Plan and the federal Gas Tax Fund.

With the support of your Cabinet colleagues you will continue to lead government's infrastructure planning to ensure that our education, health care, justice, roads, and municipal infrastructure supports government's ability to deliver vital programs and services across the province. In particular, you will work to:

- Issue a request for proposals for a modern correctional centre in 2021, with construction to begin in 2022, and to be completed by 2024-25;
- Continue with the new Mental Health and Addictions Facility that will be completed in 2024;
- Continue to oversee the construction of the Acute Care Hospital in Corner Brook that is on track to open in 2023; and,
- In collaboration with the Minister of Health and Community Services, partner with the private sector to design, build, finance, and maintain new health care facilities in an effort to increase access to critical health care services while maximizing value for taxpayers.

To ensure that the province fully benefits from the infrastructure investments made by Government, you will work to ensure that all contractors bidding on infrastructure projects are committed to prioritizing the hiring of qualified workers in Newfoundland and Labrador, including women, Indigenous peoples, other underrepresented local workers, and apprentices. In addition, you will work to procure goods and services for infrastructure projects from local firms, when possible.

You will lead our Government's transportation policy, featuring our approach to multi-year roads planning, including issuing tenders early in the year for roadwork. Safety must remain a priority on our highways. I encourage you to increase the use of modern technology, such as highway cameras, at well-travelled routes.

Ensure that widening and hard-surfacing of the Trans Labrador Highway continues, and upon completion, partner with the Government of Canada to explore options and feasibility of a road connecting the north coast of Labrador, in collaboration with the Minister Responsible for Labrador Affairs. Continue to work collaboratively with the Minister Responsible for Labrador Affairs and the federal government to support exploration of a fixed link between Labrador and the Island of Newfoundland through the National Infrastructure Fund.

You will oversee the continued implementation of our five-year marine infrastructure plan to provide better services at ferry ports and increase capacity, improve reliability, and invite economic opportunities through the new ferry service to the Strait of Belle Isle and the north coast of Labrador.

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 Industry, Energy and Technology 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.

As Minister Responsible for the Public Procurement Agency, you will advance the implementation of the new Public Procurement Act to modernize the procurement framework applicable to public bodies and support alternative approaches to procurement where they are consistent with ensuring best value, transparency, and accountability.

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

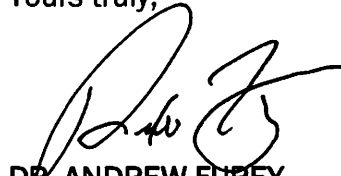
and reinvigorate our fishing and mining sectors to meet global demand for our abundant resources.

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 'Dr. Furey', written in a cursive style.

**DR. ANDREW FUREY**  
Premier