

April 15, 2021

The Honourable John Hogan, Q.C.
Minister of Justice and Public Safety
Attorney General

Dear Minister Hogan:

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Justice and Public Safety and Attorney General. As part of this Cabinet, you are joining a team on the front lines, working on behalf of, and alongside, the people of Newfoundland and Labrador to boldly 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 Justice and Public Safety, you will lead a review of the Elections Act, 1991 in order to develop modern legislation that ensures accessible voting for the people of our province. You will also collaborate with the Government House Leader to lead our Government's democratic reform efforts.

I ask you to support your colleague, the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, to move towards building a new correctional facility to replace Her Majesty's Penitentiary in St. John's. This facility shall embrace modern approaches to corrections, including better use of technology to increase safety, and offer increased programming, recreation, and better mental health and addictions services. I also ask that you continue work to undertake expansion of the Labrador Correctional Centre. As well, please continue to support the Drug Treatment Court, the Family Violence Intervention Court, and the Bail Supervision Program and continue the implementation of the Fines Option Program, the Electronic Monitoring Pilot Program, and the implementation of

the Adult Diversion Pilot Program. I also ask that you continue to advance the Interpersonal Violence Disclosure Protocol Act and Correctional Services Act toward proclamation.

Along with your colleagues, the Minister Responsible for Women and Gender Equality and the Minister Responsible for Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation, I ask you to continue to advance the necessary work in response to the final report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

In keeping with the memorandum of understanding signed between Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and the Innu leadership, participate in the forthcoming inquiry into the treatment, experiences and outcomes of Innu in the child protection system. This work will be done in collaboration with the Minister of Children, Seniors and Social Development, the Minister Responsible for Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation, and the Government of Canada. I ask that you support the work of Judge James Igloliorte in the Inquiry Respecting Ground Search and Rescue for Lost and Missing Persons and carefully consider the recommendations once he has submitted the final report.

Along with the Minister of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation, please also support the Minister of Immigration, Population Growth and Skills on the Ministerial Committee on Anti-Racism.

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 Industry, Energy and Technology 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.

Continue to allocate two articling positions within the Department of Justice and Public Safety for Indigenous law students graduating from the University of Saskatchewan Law program, further to the partnership established with the University of Saskatchewan and Indigenous Governments and Organizations.

Finally, you will oversee the provision of funding to communities to support the replacement of fire protection vehicles and firefighting equipment and the funding to administer the Newfoundland and Labrador Disaster Financial Assistance Program.

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 work 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', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

DR. ANDREW FUREY
Premier