

April 15, 2021

The Honourable Sarah Stoodley
Minister of Digital Government and Service Newfoundland and Labrador
Minister Responsible for the Office of the Chief Information Officer
Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs

Dear Minister Stoodley:

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Digital Government and Service Newfoundland and Labrador, Minister Responsible for the Office of the Chief Information Officer, and Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs. 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 Digital Government and Service Newfoundland and Labrador, you will continue to lead the modernization of the delivery of government services to transition to a government that is digital-by-design to harness the full potential of technology. Please work with the Minister Responsible for the Status of Persons with Disabilities to review and strengthen legislation related to accessibility to public buildings to help ensure inclusion and equity for all persons in Newfoundland and Labrador. By leading shared services, continue to take steps to consolidate corporate services that will provide increased efficiencies and savings. I ask you to reduce manual, paper-based processes for government services by increasing the number of services delivered online by 75 per cent by 2022 through implementation of the digital-by-design roadmap.

Please also finalize the ongoing review of the Motorized Snow Vehicles and All-Terrain Vehicles Act and advance amendments to modernize and strengthen the safety provisions. In addition, you will oversee the introduction and implementation of a new Radiation Health and Safety Act to enhance safety for radiation workers and others. You will continue the ongoing work to implement measures to keep our roads safer and stabilize insurance rates. Please continue work to enable the use of traffic cameras and evaluate a plate-to-owner policy.

As we work to position Newfoundland and Labrador as a national leader in eHealth/telemedicine, please work with the Minister of Health and Community Services to explore the digitization of government health services to reduce expenditures and improve outcomes.

As Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs, you will continue to work across government to build capacity to deliver services in French, and to contribute to the development and vitality of the province's Francophone community.

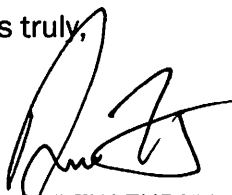
We will always remain focused on a robust economy where there is a place for all workers, an economy that embraces renewable energy while maximizing our oil and gas advantage. We will foster a business environment that supports new and growing technology and we will reimagine and reinvigorate our fishing 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. Andrew Furey', written over a white background.

DR. ANDREW FUREY
Premier