

April 15, 2021

The Honourable Tom Osborne  
Minister of Education

Dear Minister Osborne:

Congratulations on your continued appointment as Minister of Education. 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 Education, please continue work with educational institutions and stakeholders to support the delivery of educational services through the COVID-19 public health emergency.

You will continue the development of our childcare initiatives. Please work with the early learning and childcare sector to expand on affordability for families and continue to increase the number of regulated spaces. Undertake a review of regulations and, in consultation with stakeholders, shape the future of early learning throughout the province. Please also continue to collaborate with stakeholders to develop a plan toward the implementation of Junior Kindergarten.

I ask you to continue with the implementation of the Education Action Plan. This will include reviewing bus routes and the service delivery model for deaf and hard of hearing students and supporting, through the Safe and Caring Schools Policy and guidelines for 2SLGBTQIA+, inclusive practices, professional learning, open dialogue, resource development, and student-led activities.

I further ask you to review the teacher allocation model. In collaboration with the Minister Responsible for Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation and with Indigenous groups, I ask that you continue to revise and update the current curriculum and devise new curricula on the culture, history and traditions of the Indigenous peoples of our province.

Creating a healthy and health-conscious population starts with creating habits and acquiring knowledge from a young age. Please collaborate with educators, experts in the field and community organizations to rework the health curriculum and update it with the most recent findings on exercise, nutrition, substance use/abuse, relationship building, mental health and sexual health. Please ensure that health teachers are provided access to quality training and professional development to guarantee that our province's students have the best opportunity to learn how to live a healthy, rewarding life. In fostering healthy schools, please also work with education stakeholders and the Minister of Health and Community Services to implement free period products in schools.

I ask that you work with the expertise established at Memorial University to enhance teacher training in restorative justice principles and work to implement these principles into all our province's schools. These actions will help nurture healthy relationships built on foundational respect for all members of the school community and support the development of policies and practices that reinforce inclusive behavior.

In collaboration with the Minister of Immigration, Population Growth and Skills and the Minister of Industry, Energy and Technology, continue to improve educational opportunities for young Newfoundlanders and Labradorians seeking to enter the technology industry.

I ask that you work with teachers to introduce comprehensive new computer science and coding programming to allow K-12 students to access leading technology education. In addition, please provide comprehensive technology opportunities to students, including enhanced coding opportunities and introductory modules in primary school and high school courses to prepare students for a career in the Province's technology sector. We must work to ensure the provincial workforce supports the creation of an ecosystem that can attract and retain firms.

Please also work with education stakeholders to expand the entrepreneurship ecosystem throughout Memorial University and College of the North Atlantic campuses across Newfoundland and in Labrador, leading to new businesses, new jobs, and increased investment in the province. Focus on entrepreneurship in schools across the province, providing the education and inspiration for the next generation of innovators and founders.

Please continue to support an accessible and affordable public post-secondary education system. Together with the federal government, as well as leaders at Memorial University and College of the North Atlantic, I ask you to improve public post-secondary infrastructure.

As Minister of Education, you will continue your partnership with industry, post-secondary institutions and Cabinet colleagues to establish economic development hubs in the aquaculture, tourism, mining, technology and aerospace sectors for priority skills training.

I also ask you to continue implementing the Province's new Adult Literacy Plan, and provide the best public library services possible for access to reading material, internet, and related programs to children, youth, and adults in the province.

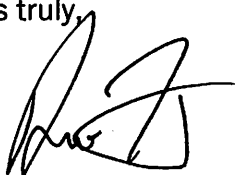
We will always remain focused on a robust economy where there is a place for all workers, an economy that embraces renewable energy while maximizing our oil and gas advantage. We will foster a business environment that supports new and growing technology and we will reimagine and reinvigorate our fishing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

**DR. ANDREW FUREY**  
Premier