

November 15, 2017

Dear Newfoundlanders and Labradorians:

It is my great honour to serve you as Premier, President of Executive Council, Minister for Intergovernmental and Indigenous Affairs and Minister of Labrador Affairs since coming to office in December 2015.

On November 9, 2016, our Government launched *The Way Forward: A vision for sustainability and growth in Newfoundland and Labrador*. Our vision focuses our work on four important areas: (1) strengthening the province's economic foundation and creating jobs; (2) delivering better services; (3) improving outcomes to promote a healthy and prosperous Newfoundland and Labrador; and (4) achieving greater public sector efficiency. To deliver on this plan, I will continue to lead the following activities:

### **Creating Conditions to Foster Private Sector Employment**

- Placing private sector job growth at the centre of all Government decisions through the Cabinet Committee on Jobs.

### **Indigenous Affairs**

- Hosting the annual Indigenous Leaders Roundtable and working collaboratively with Indigenous people throughout the province to advance issues of importance to them;
- Consulting with Indigenous governments and organizations, including Indigenous women's organizations and Friendship Centres, as I lead implementation of the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission applicable to the provincial government;
- Establishing an inquiry into the treatment, experiences and outcomes of Innu in the child protection system, engaging the federal government jointly with the Innu on that inquiry, and continuing to participate with the federal government on the Innu-led Innu Round Table;
- Advancing, finalizing, and implementing land claims, self-government, and other agreements, including:
  - Continuing to encourage the federal government to render a decision on the land claim of the NunatuKavut Community Council;
  - Advancing, along with the federal government, a final land claim agreement in respect to the land claim of the Innu Nation; and
  - Continuing to implement the Labrador Inuit Land Claim Agreement.

- Working with Indigenous governments and organizations, in concert with the federal government, to ensure development decisions are made with openness, transparency and accountability, and addressing their concerns and interests in those developments;
- Working with the Minister of Justice and Public Safety to support our Government's participation in the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and the implementation of the resulting recommendations applicable to the provincial government;
- Ongoing willingness to address the issues of the Miawpukek First Nation;
- Working with the Qalipu First Nation, the Mi'kmaq First Nations Assembly of Newfoundland and the federal government on the enrollment process for the Qalipu First Nation; and
- Supporting the federal government's efforts to repatriate the remains of Demasduit and Nonosabasut from National Museums Scotland and return them to the ancestral home of the Beothuk.

### **Better Outcomes and Services for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians**

- Working with all Ministers to adopt a Health-in-All-Policies Approach; and
- Improving service delivery and reducing red tape through the implementation of Lean process improvements.

### **Intergovernmental Affairs**

- Maximizing opportunities to leverage federal funding opportunities;
- Continuing to foster a collaborative and productive relationship with the Prime Minister of Canada and Canada's Premiers and Territorial Leaders to advance Newfoundland and Labrador's interests in a way that achieves results for the people of the province; and
- Working closely with other Ministers in advancing federal/provincial issues of priority to Newfoundland and Labrador with the Government of Canada.

### **Labrador Affairs**

- Working to support the economic and social development of Labrador and its residents, and ensuring that the unique perspectives of this region are considered when making government decisions and delivering provincial government programs and services. In pursuit of this, I will work with the relevant Ministers to ensure:
  - Paving of Phases 2 and 3 of the Trans Labrador Highway continues;
  - Our Government's work to improve food security and food self-sufficiency reflects the needs of Labrador;
  - A multi-agency emergency approach is available;
  - Expansion of the Family Violence Intervention Court to Labrador;
  - Identification of opportunities for energy distribution through wind and small-scale hydro developments for isolated communities; and
  - Completion of a study on the feasibility of a fixed link to Labrador;

- Administering Labrador-specific programs;
- Strengthening our Government's relationship with Labrador stakeholders and organizations; and
- Collaborating with other northern jurisdictions to advance diverse and common interests.

### **Public Engagement**

- Hosting regular engagement activities including town hall meetings in communities throughout the province and using technology to expand the options to participate, to ensure that government policy reflects the needs of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians; and
- Creating a global network designed to connect Newfoundlanders and Labradorians no matter how far away they live from our shores.

### **Governance**

- Establishing a Cabinet Committee for the return of the Upper Churchill resource in 2041.

Together, Cabinet is responsible for achieving the targets set out in The Way Forward. Achieving these targets is critical to attaining inclusive growth, improving employment levels and reducing poverty and realizing financial sustainability. To support reaching these targets, our Government will consider the impact of all decisions on the health of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians through our Health in All Policies approach. Our Government will also consider whether our decisions are best positioning the province for economic and private sector job growth.

Our Government is focused on service excellence. I have asked all Ministers to reduce red tape, adopt Lean continuous improvement principles and publish business standards for all major programs by March 31, 2018. I also expect all Ministers to work to support our commitment to being a government that is digital-by-design.

At the end of the day, Newfoundlanders and Labradorians want to see results. We will continue to highlight our progress in our annual Way Forward report cards and annual performance reports. Together, we will improve health, social and economic outcomes and deliver high quality services for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians.

Sincerely,



**DWIGHT BALL**

Premier

MHA, Humber-Gros Morne