

December 14, 2015

Honourable Andrew Parsons
Minister of Justice and Public Safety,
Attorney General, and Government House Leader

Dear Minister Parsons:

I am honoured to welcome you to your role as Minister of Justice and Public Safety, Attorney General, and Government House Leader. We have been given an extraordinary opportunity to serve the people of our province and together we will work to create a stronger tomorrow for Newfoundland and Labrador. Over the next four years, we will fulfill our commitments, building on the trust placed in us on November 30, 2015. We shall, without fail, act with integrity in all aspects of our service, striving for excellence in discharging our responsibilities.

Embarking on this journey together, we will be guided by *A Stronger Tomorrow: Our Five Point Plan* to Restore Openness, Transparency and Accountability; Build a Stronger, Smarter Economy; Improve Health and Healthcare; Support Safe and Sustainable Communities; and Invest in Our Future Through Education.

As Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador I expect you to follow the principles of openness, transparency and accountability. It is my intention to ensure policy decisions in government are informed by research, evidence, and evaluation so that citizens can understand how and why decisions are made. It is critical that our government's decisions are also informed by engagement with stakeholders, including our Aboriginal partners, to ensure everyone's voices are heard.

Our government is committed to modernizing our province's legislative process in accordance with these principles and I call upon you to engage your fellow Members, constituents and the general public; avail of the Committee process of the House of Assembly; and seek opportunities for non-partisan cooperation.

We are also committed to creating an environment that captures the full potential of our province's many riches, through diversification, job creation and growth. We will take action to improve the health and well-being of people, empower sustainable community development, protect public safety and advance educational opportunities and outcomes.

Our province is facing significant fiscal challenges that require our collective leadership and the engagement of the public. Together, our government will lead our province towards a more sustainable, economic future.

Our government, through the Department of Justice and Public Safety, is responsible for the administration of justice, court services, the correctional system and police protection. As Minister, I expect you to work cooperatively with your colleagues across government and our many community partners to make our communities and regions safer.

Serve Justice and Protect Safety

The Family Violence Intervention Court helps break the cycle of intimate partner violence. Working with your colleagues, I expect you to expand the Family Violence Intervention Court beyond St. John's by exploring site options and models for the western and central regions and Labrador.

Improve Social Services

Supported decision-making provides for an individual with a mental health issue or intellectual disability to make decisions in collaboration with individuals they trust, such as their family and friends. It ensures persons with disabilities exercise their legal capacity on an equal basis with others. You must work with stakeholders and your colleagues to develop legislation to enable supported decision-making.

Public Inquiries

As Minister of Justice and Public Safety, I expect you to initiate public inquiries that the people of the province are expecting. This includes the Humber Valley Paving situation, search and rescue services in our province, and pending the police investigation, the death of Mr. Donald Dunphy.

As Government House Leader, one of your primary goals will be to respect the House of Assembly and encourage cooperation among all parties. In particular, I will expect you to work with your colleagues and through legislative, regulatory and Cabinet processes to deliver on the following priorities:

- Modernize the province's legislative process and engage elected representatives from all political parties;
- Make better use of existing committees and seek opportunities for further non-partisan cooperation, including establishing legislative review committees to review proposed legislation; and,
- Bring a resolution to the House of Assembly to establish an All Party Committee on Democratic Reform.

In fulfilling your responsibility as Minister you must ensure collaboration, in a positive and constructive manner, with your Cabinet colleagues. I take this opportunity to remind you that as you carry out your responsibilities, as a Member of the House of Assembly and Member of Cabinet, adhering to the Code of Conduct and the Conflict of Interest guidelines are mandatory, to ensure you discharge your duties with the highest ethical standards.

Deputy Ministers are your key source of support and will provide you with non-partisan advice in meeting your responsibilities. I expect you to develop a positive, respectful and trusting relationship with your Deputy Minister and the public service. I would also ask that you be mindful that Deputy Ministers, among their various responsibilities, are ultimately accountable to me, through the Clerk of the Executive Council.

Our government will report back to the public annually on the achievement of our commitments and make adjustments as required. As a Minister you are accountable for achieving these priorities and meeting other responsibilities within your Department.

Together, we will provide strong leadership to deliver the change we need to move beyond today's challenges and on to a stronger tomorrow.

Sincerely,



DWIGHT BALL

Premier