

December 14, 2015

Honourable Steve Crocker
Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture

Dear Minister Crocker:

I am honoured to welcome you to your role as Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture. 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.

As Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture, you will be responsible for fundamental pillars of Newfoundland and Labrador's economy.

The fishery is a renewable resource with exciting opportunities for new growth that contributes to the social and economic vitality of our province's rural communities.

Strong Fisheries Policy

You are directed to establish a Fisheries Advisory Council consisting of representatives from all sectors of the industry, including harvesters, processors, research experts and the general public, to inform and influence fisheries policy and programs on an ongoing basis, including the creation of sustainable small-scale fisheries. The Fisheries Advisory Council will immediately be asked to create a strategic action plan on cod revitalization, focusing on environmental sustainability, harvesting, processing, quality, innovation, and marketing.

To continue to grow our fishing industry, in partnership with industry players, you will lead the establishment of a Seafood Marketing Council, whose mission will be to promote the Newfoundland and Labrador fishing industry, and to secure and expand market opportunities locally and globally.

Aquaculture also holds tremendous potential and fosters job creation in our rural communities. Working in collaboration with your colleagues and the aquaculture industry, I expect you to support research and development opportunities in this growing field, including environmental sustainability and waste management issues.

Working with Federal Counterparts

I expect you to strongly advocate to the federal government on issues related to the Newfoundland and Labrador fishery and oceans policy in collaboration with your colleagues, given their role in the fishery. Advocacy efforts should include the following:

- Joint fisheries management;
- A new, fair arrangement for Northern shrimp quotas;
- Full annual scientific assessments of northern shrimp resources and a plan to study the impact of climate change on the species and its ecosystems;
- An expanded recreational groundfish fishery; and,
- Opportunities to develop marine fisheries tourism.

The Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) is the most ambitious trade agreement ever negotiated by Canada or the European Union. I expect you, with the support of your colleagues, and the federal government to finalize an agreement on the CETA Fisheries Investment Fund, and develop and implement related programming when finalized.

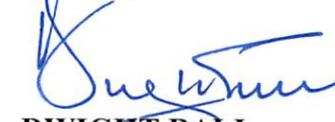
In fulfilling your responsibility as Minister you must ensure collaboration, in a positive and constructive manner, with your Cabinet colleagues. I take this opportunity to remind you that as you carry out your responsibilities, as a Member of the House of Assembly and Member of Cabinet, adhering to 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