

November 5, 2021

The Honourable Steven Guilbeault
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
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The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson
Minister of Natural Resources
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Dear Minister Guilbeault and Minister Wilkinson:

On behalf of the people of Newfoundland and Labrador, please accept my sincerest congratulations on your appointments as Minister of Environment and Climate Change and Minister of Natural Resources. I am confident that Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, and indeed all Canadians, can count on you and your fellow members of Cabinet to deliver on initiatives that reflect the needs and best interests of all our residents.

I am writing further to our recent meeting at the 26th Conference of the Parties to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP26) in Glasgow, United Kingdom. We all have a role to play in combating climate change, and COP26 was an incredible opportunity for leaders in government, business, academia, and civil society to come together to share ideas and drive action on solutions. Thank you for your leadership and collaboration on these important issues, and for engaging with me on how we can work together to face these global challenges as we continue to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic.

In keeping with the spirit of COP26, my government is committed to addressing climate change with a dual sense of responsibility and opportunity, and to achieving our shared goals of reaching net zero emissions by 2050, securing good jobs, and driving clean economic growth. To deliver on these ambitious goals, we need to triple down on investments in technology at a scope and scale that will require collaboration between all orders of government, but especially, with our federal partners. We will also need expert advice, which our government will seek from our recently-announced independent Net Zero Advisory Committee.

Harnessing Newfoundland and Labrador's vast developed and undeveloped renewable energy resources can help Canada meet its climate targets and unlock this province's incredible potential. To this end, my government is developing a Renewable Energy Plan that will outline our long-term vision for a clean energy future. With the right investments and planning, this province can become a clean energy leader within Atlantic Canada and across the country. Indeed, we are already seeing some early successes through cost-shared initiatives between our two governments that support the electrification of buildings and large industry and improve energy efficiency.

Continued intergovernmental collaboration will be key to harnessing this province's untapped renewable energy sources, including hydroelectricity and wind, which can help other jurisdictions reduce their emissions and achieve shared climate goals. Together, with our federal and regional partners, we have already made much progress on the Atlantic Clean Power Roadmap and the Atlantic Loop regional transmission project. As we move forward, it will be important for all parties to be at the table as we consider how best to connect jurisdictions with surplus clean energy, such as Newfoundland and Labrador, with those looking to transition to a clean energy future, such as the Maritime Provinces and the northeastern United States.

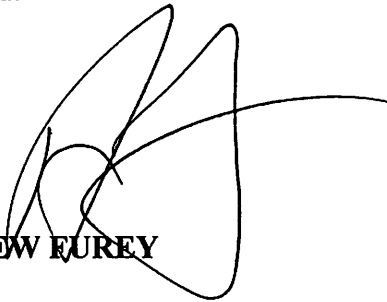
There are also many exciting opportunities that we can explore together as we continue to transition to a low carbon economy. Newfoundland and Labrador has some of the cleanest oil and gas in the world and is the only province that has implemented caps on emissions from oil and gas production. Further, Newfoundland and Labrador is well-positioned to capitalize on opportunities in green hydrogen production, supplying critical minerals needed for clean technology solutions, and advancing the blue economy through sustainable fishing and aquaculture as well as oceans research and technology.

To support this transition, it will also be crucial for our governments to collaborate to support workers and communities who rely on traditional industries through investments in economic diversification, innovation, and future skills training. Workers in Canada's energy sector, including those in Newfoundland and Labrador's offshore, have the skills and experience that Canada needs to get to net zero and thrive in a low carbon economy. Accordingly, it is important that we work together to ensure that those workers, as well as new entrants into the workforce, are well-prepared for the jobs of tomorrow.

In closing, thank you both for taking the time to connect at COP26. I firmly believe that the Canadian federation works best when we work together, and that our continued collaboration will be vital to fighting climate change and fostering a green, inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic in the years ahead.

I look forward to opportunities to connect and collaborate on these and other important issues going forward.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DR. ANDREW FUREY', written over a large, stylized, abstract shape that resembles a large 'A' or a stylized letter 'F'.

DR. ANDREW FUREY
Premier
Minister for Intergovernmental Affairs

c.c. The Honourable Bernard Davis, Minister of Environment and Climate Change and
Minister Responsible for Labour
The Honourable Andrew Parsons, Minister of Industry, Energy and Technology
The Honourable Gerry Byrne, Minister of Immigration, Population Growth and Skills
The Honourable Derrick Bragg, Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture