

Presentation of the Town of Clarenville

Pre-Budget Consultations 2015 with Minister of Finance, Hon. Ross Wiseman

March 4, 2015

Mr. Wiseman;

Thank you for this opportunity to present to you and the Government in advance of the Province's 2015 Budget.

With a current population of just over 6000, Clarenville is the 13<sup>th</sup> largest municipality in NL, strategically located between St. John's and Gander, and the Burin and Bonavista Peninsulas.

This past decade has been a period of exceptional growth in the Clarenville region. In fact, Clarenville has seen one of the fastest growing populations in the province; up more than 14% since the 2007 census.

Provincial funding assistance in healthcare, education, drinking water, recreation and other municipal infrastructure have been absolutely key to supporting this growth, attracting new residents and retaining the young families that will be so important to Clarenville's continued success.

We know that these investments have worked because Clarenville continues to attract many young working families (who are often followed by their parents).

Moving forward into the next decade, our Council has identified critical future investments that need to be made in our water distribution network, our roads, our waste management and our public buildings, each of which will require the province's support. We realize that in the current economic climate, some of these projects may be very difficult for the Province to support immediately, however we are convinced that they are essential for our long-term sustainability. This current economic slowdown is temporary and we feel that it has afforded us both an opportunity to better prepare for the mid and longer term. With this in mind, we look forward to working together on these initiatives.

**Continued support for our region makes long term economic and social sense.**

Clarenville's prosperity comes not from just its own population. Our current and continued success is predicated on Clarenville continuing to be a full service centre for the surrounding population and key industries at Bull Arm, Come-By-Chance, and Long Harbour.

We recognize that our community's success affects, and is affected by, the success of the region in its ability to attract and retain the next generation of skilled talent that will be required to develop the projects from which this province now derives an increasing proportion of its revenues. We encourage the government to reinforce its services in our region and to continue to act as a catalyst to our success. Towards this end we are prepared to work with our

neighbours and the Province to fund and find cost effective solutions & opportunities were the region can benefit.

**Short Term attention – Long term Focus**

Mr. Wiseman, we recognize that things have changed suddenly and dramatically in the NL economy; however we feel that we cannot lose sight of the fact that this is a short term problem that requires long term vision. Our Towns and our Province need to stay focused on the long term. A continued investment in our people and our place will ensure our long term success.

Thank you

Town of Clarenville