

June 8, 2020

Members of the House of Assembly  
P.O. Box 8700  
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

Dear elected representatives of Newfoundland and Labrador:

Watching the people of our province pull together to battle COVID-19 has been remarkable. Together, we have not flattened the curve; we have obliterated it. Everyone understands we must remain vigilant and follow the advice of our health and political leaders, but certainly, we can be proud of what we have accomplished.

COVID-19 and our response to it is a defining event in our history. Just as the great depression and the world wars were for previous generations. History has shown that, during such times of distress, our democracy works. We have and can achieve remarkable things under our system of government. The opening of the House of Assembly tomorrow provides you with another opportunity for success. It is an occasion to rally the province to overcome the devastation caused to our economy and provincial treasury by this disease. With utmost respect, I offer the following advice.

First, in a democracy, citizens are entitled to know how challenging the situation is. You must present a full fiscal and economic projection to the people. We all recognize that this projection may change due to uncertainty. But to solve a problem, we must have some estimate of its size.

Second, a plan to resolve the fiscal crisis must be developed and presented to the people immediately. The consequences of not acting quickly to mitigate the fiscal impact of COVID- will have implications for generations of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians to come.

Third, as it was for COVID-19, partisan politics must be put aside for the good of the province. A credible fiscal plan must be created and supported by all parties and implemented without hesitation. I encourage you to set short term political interests aside to develop a plan that is in the best long term interest of our province. A credible plan will give the people of the province what they need most – hope.

There will be some who will present reasons why we cannot be immediate and decisive. Some may say, we need to wait for a new premier, for the federal government to save us, or we must first lobby for a change to equalization. We cannot afford to wait. Hesitation would not have helped us contain COVID-19, and delay will not help us survive the financial crisis now.

I can think of no other piece of business that could take priority for you at this time. I implore you to capture the momentum of success and use it to propel us to a brighter fiscal future. I ask you to trust that our democracy will continue to work in this time of crisis. We will support you.

Sincerely,



Richard Alexander  
Executive Director