



HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
Newfoundland and Labrador

Sheilagh O’Leary, M.H.A.
District of St. John’s East-Quidi Vidi

January 21, 2026

Dear Minister Conway-Ottenheimer,

I would like to begin by congratulating you on your election and appointment to Cabinet. I look forward to working closely with you in my roles as Critic for Justice and Public Safety, as well as Women and Gender Equality, to advance solutions to the critical issues facing our province.

I am writing to you today regarding an issue of deep personal importance to me and my family, and one that is of urgent concern to many of my constituents: Intimate Partner Violence (IPV). Our province continues to experience unacceptably high rates of IPV, and survivors are looking to government for meaningful action and increased supports when fleeing violence.

Yesterday, I was pleased to meet with ActNow, an organization focused on addressing systemic gaps faced by survivors of IPV in our province. I was also encouraged to hear that, during the election campaign, your leader committed in ActNow’s election survey sent to leaders to implement all of ActNow’s recommendations within the first two years of your government. The NDP will be closely monitoring progress on these commitments, given the significant impact they would have in addressing longstanding failures within our justice system for survivors.

One of these recommendations – the use of pre-conviction ankle monitoring – was previously promised by the former Liberal government, with announcements indicating preliminary work had already been undertaken. I know you have raised questions on this issue in the House of Assembly in the past, and I welcome your party’s renewed commitment to its implementation. I would appreciate confirmation of what work has already been completed, as well as your anticipated timeline for implementation, so that I may share this information with constituents who have long advocated for this measure.

I would also be interested to know whether your government intends to formally declare Intimate Partner Violence an epidemic in this province. Such a declaration would acknowledge the scale and severity of the crisis and recognize IPV as the community-wide issue that it is, requiring a coordinated and urgent response.

Ending Intimate Partner Violence is a priority for me, and I look forward to continued dialogue on how we can work collaboratively to better protect survivors and prevent violence in our province.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sheilagh O'Leary". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end of the name.

Sheilagh O'Leary
M.H.A. St. John's East-Quidi Vidi