HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
James Dinn, M.H.A.
District of St. John's Centre

Tony Wakeham
Premier
P.O. Box 8700
Confederation Building
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

January 28, 2026

Dear Mr. Wakeham,

Ahead of your conference with the premiers at the 2026 Winter Meeting of the Council of the Federation, you noted that you will be focused on providing better health care, lower taxes, and safer communities.

In particular, I ask that you also work with your provincial and territorial counterparts to get results on three specific issues. As you cite health care as an important theme, please make the national pharmacare program a priority. Given the uncertainty about future funding for other provinces to sign on, the premiers should fight to ensure that this program remains open to those who have yet to reach an agreement with Ottawa. I also ask that you and your colleagues push for more funding to go toward the Canada Housing Benefit. As your government is well aware, the current funding allocated to our province is no longer sufficient to meet demand, meaning that more and more of our people face the risk of ending up without decent and adequate shelter.

Finally, I ask that you and the other premiers collaborate to win more funding for affordable child care. Working families depend on the $10 per day spots so that parents can return to work and increase their incomes. It also helps the economy grow since more people are then willing and able to re-enter the workforce.

I am certain that these issues are common among provinces and governments of all political stripes. We face the same challenges. With collaboration from your counterparts, they will become easier to solve while saving time and resources.

Sincerely,

Jim Dinn
M.H.A., St. John's Centre
Leader, NL NDP

Confederation Building P.O. Box 8700 St. John's, NL A1B 4J6
Phone: 709.729.2638 Fax: 709.576.1443 jamesdinn@gov.nl.ca