

September 28, 2016

Ms. Alaina Lockhart, M.P.
Fundy Royal
Room 750
The Valour Building
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Ms. Lockhart:

Thank you for your letter dated September 15, 2016 in which you request support for your Private Members Motion aimed at addressing the population challenges facing Atlantic Canada.

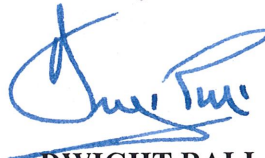
As stated in your motion, Atlantic Canada is experiencing significant demographic challenges. For example, Newfoundland and Labrador's population has undergone dramatic shifts in recent years and indicators reveal a shrinking base of working-age residents due to retirements, as well as an increase in the median age and inter-provincial migration, and lower fertility rates.

In response to these demographic changes, my Government is currently in the process of engaging with immigration stakeholders and the public to inform the development of a new provincial immigration strategy. This strategy will guide Government's immigration plan for the next number of years and identify ways to increase immigration and retention of newcomers in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Along with my colleagues from the three Atlantic Provinces, and federal Ministers from the Atlantic region, I support the recently announced Atlantic Growth Strategy, which includes an Atlantic Immigration Pilot Project that aims for a significant increase in immigration to the Atlantic region over the next three years. In this regard, I am pleased to support your motion to undertake a study on Immigration to Atlantic Canada as it complements both the Atlantic Growth Strategy and the forthcoming provincial immigration strategy.

I wish you great success in this endeavor.

Sincerely,



DWIGHT BALL

Premier
MHA, Humber-Gros Morne