



THE PREMIER
Halifax, Nova Scotia

September 14, 2021

Honourable Brad Johns
Attorney General
Minister of Justice

Dear Minister Johns,

Thank you for agreeing to serve Nova Scotians as Attorney General and Minister of Justice.

Governing is about people. On August 17th, 2021, we were given a mandate by Nova Scotians to activate solutions. They responded to our platform, *Solutions for Nova Scotians*, and its vision for our Province. Nova Scotians share the hope you and I have for our beautiful province and its potential.

A brighter future starts with a shared belief in what our province can do. A belief in each other. A belief in our communities. A belief in fellow Nova Scotians. We can put Nova Scotians on the path to financial sustainability and fix healthcare. We can support our traditional industries and build an environment plan that fights climate change. We can make our province a magnet for doctors, students, new residents, investors and tourists alike, and remain proud of our traditions and our heritage.

Fixing healthcare and rebuilding our economy is not for the faint of heart. It will require strong leadership and a willingness to take bold action. Working together, we can get the job done.

The success of all Nova Scotians and improvement of their health, access to health care and quality of life will be our collective success.

We have committed to listen to and respect all Nova Scotians. We have also committed to lead a government which represents all Nova Scotians and is reflective of the modern societal makeup of Nova Scotia, inclusive and respectful of all demographic, cultural and ethnic diversities to advance our collective growth and prosperity.

You have been chosen for Cabinet because of your track record and capabilities as a problem solver, as a “solutionist,” as someone who gets things done and is not deterred by complexity. You are a known collaborator who will work with your colleagues on solutions that need all the capabilities of the Government and the public service pulling in the same direction.

As Minister, your leadership and your team will play a critical role in contributing to the commitments we have

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made and to providing solutions. You are responsible for the conduct of the department(s) you oversee and must be aware of and adhere to the public service's *Code of Conduct and Respectful Workplace Policy* in your interactions with the public service. Most importantly, you are part of a team of solutionists who share a common vision and commitment to *Solutions for Nova Scotians*.

As Attorney General and Minister of Justice you will:

- Within the first 90 days of your mandate, prepare a timeline for completion of all tasks below over the next four years. The initial timelines are to be updated quarterly thereafter.
- Amend the Elections Act to establish fixed election dates.
- Amend the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act to give order-making ability to the Privacy Commissioner.
- Support the implementation of the Wortley Report and ensure that street checks end.
- Amend the Victims' Rights and Services Act to entitle a victim of sexual violence to be treated with respect when testifying about the sexual violence and enshrine the right of a victim of sexual violence to legal representation.
- Create a Human Trafficking Prosecution Team within the Public Prosecution office to provide legal advice to police officers and to deliver enhanced education and training to justice sector employees.

As Attorney General and Minister of Justice, you will also support your Ministerial colleagues as they execute their responsibilities. In particular, you will support the:

- The Minister responsible for the Office of Mental Health and Addictions as they introduce legislation that guarantees every Nova Scotian access to allied mental health professionals.
- The Minister responsible for the Office of Mental Health and Addictions as they prioritize and collaborate across Education and Early Childhood Development, Justice, and Community Services, and other departments as required.
- The Minister of Environment and Climate Change as they enact the Litterbug Act.
- The Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development as they consult with a variety of groups, including parents from across the province, teachers, administrators, program assistants, representatives from the African Nova Scotian, First Nations, and disability communities, to determine a governance model for P-12 education that allows for increased local voice in Education policy and decision-making.

As we progress through our mandate, we will work together to identify further refinement and priorities of focus.

Within the first six months, and as part of your Department's mandate, you will work with me and other

Departments in reviewing the role and effectiveness of Agencies, Offices and Crown Corporations with a goal of ensuring the most efficient and accountable methodology for the undertaking of their respective tasks.

We have a clear mandate and the vision and the determination to take decisive action to solve problems for people by giving them hope for health, universal mental health care, dignity for our seniors and a new

Honourable Brad Johns

Page 3

opportunity for aging well. We will invest in our future. We will build a Nova Scotia with more people, more jobs, better jobs and more housing and infrastructure for people. We will do this with an overriding commitment to sustainable prosperity, establishing Nova Scotia as a world leader.

We will overcome the obstacles that stand in the way of achieving the incredible opportunities within our reach to improve the well-being and quality of life every Nova Scotian deserves.

I look forward to working with you to improve the lives of all the people of Nova Scotia and change the course of our Province now and for generations to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tim Houston". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T".

Honourable Tim Houston, M.L.A.

Premier of Nova Scotia

Copy to: Candace L. Thomas, QC, Deputy Minister of Justice
Lora MacEachern, QC, Associate Deputy Minister of Justice