



THE PREMIER
Halifax, Nova Scotia

September 14, 2021

Honourable Steve Craig
Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture

Dear Minister Craig,

Thank you for agreeing to serve Nova Scotians as Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture.

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 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 Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture, 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.
- Support low-impact, sustainable aquaculture by implementing a proper licensing process that places much weight on environmental considerations and includes provincial regulation for potential environmental impacts, animal welfare, fish health and/or pest control product sale and use.
- Create a classification system under which coastal areas would be rated as Green, Yellow or Red based on their suitability for fin-fish aquaculture, which was one of the core recommendations of the Doelle-Lahey Report.
- Engage with key stakeholders regarding the open pen aquaculture licensing process.

As Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture, you will also support your Ministerial colleagues as they execute their responsibilities. In particular, you will support:

- The Minister of Agriculture as they support and encourage local food consumption, with the goal of 20% of the money spent on food by Nova Scotians being spent on locally produced food by 2030.
- The Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development as they review and update curriculum related to Environmental Stewardship.
- The Minister of Environment and Climate Change as they update the environmental impact assessment process to consider the cumulative impacts of any development that would potentially affect wetlands, rivers, lakes, or other aquatic environments.
- The Minister of Economic Development as they actively encourage innovative, sustainable and green businesses to establish or relocate to the province and provide access to financing for innovative, sustainable and green business start ups.
- The Minister of Economic Development as they convene discussions with the province's major industry leaders - agriculture, fishing, forestry, etc. to determine what steps they can take to make more environmentally conscious progress.
- The Minister of Economic Development as they focus on innovation driven, green and sustainable businesses and partner with Municipalities, universities and our community college, the private sector and equity finance to enable entrepreneurs to start and scale their businesses in all parts of the province and our distinct regions based on their comparative advantages.
- The Minister of Economic Development as they implement the Nova Scotia Loyal program.
- The Minister of Economic Development as they work with small businesses across the province and in all sectors to get their feedback on all potential ways to further support them in taking actions to reduce emissions, including through rebates, targeted investments, and other supports.
- The Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs as I actively pursue federal funding programs that enhance environmental and economic sustainability and commit to working in partnership with municipalities, First Nations, businesses, community groups and non-profit organizations to continue to position Nova Scotia as a world leader in sustainable development.

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

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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 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" and "H".

Honourable, Tim Houston, M.L.A.

Premier of Nova Scotia

Copy to: April Howe, Deputy Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture