



THE PREMIER
Halifax, Nova Scotia

September 14, 2021

Honourable Colton LeBlanc
Minister of the Public Service Commission
Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Internal Services
Minister Acadian Affairs and Francophonie

Dear Minister LeBlanc,

Thank you for agreeing to serve Nova Scotians as Minister of the Public Service Commission, Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Internal Services, and Minister of Acadian Affairs and Francophonie.

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 Service Nova Scotia and Internal Services, 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 expanding telehealth/virtual care by issuing a tender for this service so those without a primary health provider will have access to virtual care while we go about the hard work of redesigning the primary health system to meet the needs and desires of the patients.
- Ensure that a component of the tender application will consider whether bidders employ and participate in apprenticeships with students.

As Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Internal Services you will also support your Ministerial colleagues as they execute their responsibilities. In particular, you will support:

- The Minister responsible for the Office of Mental Health and Addictions as they champion a three-digit mental health crisis line.
- The Minister responsible for the Office of Mental Health and Addictions as they integrate mental health services into this modern full-service telehealth program for Nova Scotians.
- The Minister of Seniors and Long-Term Care as they renovate and build over 2,500 new beds over three years.
- The Minister of Seniors and Long-Term Care as they establish a plan for the expansion and renovation of existing properties as well as the development of new accommodations.
- The Minister of Health and Wellness as they work to adjust the scope and delivery time of One Patient One Record.
- The Minister of Health and Wellness as they work to further increase virtual care to include some primary consultations with specialists.
- The Minister of Health and Wellness as they work to provide those Nova Scotians on the waitlist with immediate access to a virtual care service.

As Minister of the Public Service Commission, 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.
- Determine the human-resource management policies, programs, standards and procedures necessary for the public service.
- Provide the public service direction, advice and assistance regarding the implementation and application of human-resource management policies, programs, standards and procedures.

As Minister of Acadian Affairs and Francophonie, 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.
- Ensure that the Government is aware of the needs of the Acadian and francophone community.
- Offer advice and support to departments, offices and agencies of Government and to Crown corporations for the purpose of developing and adopting or providing programs, policies and services that reflect the needs of the Acadian and francophone community
- Provide support for other departments for French-language services within the Government.
- Develop partnerships with Acadian and francophone agencies at provincial, national and international levels.
- Ensure that Acadian and francophone needs are addressed in the development of programs, policies and services and recognize the contribution of the Acadian and francophone community.

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

- 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.
- The Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development as they review and update curriculum related to Diversity.

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 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,



Honourable Tim Houston, M.L.A.

Premier of Nova Scotia

Copy to:

- Andrea Anderson, Public Service Commissioner
- Joanne Munro, Deputy Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Internal Services
- Valerie Pottie Bunge, Associate Deputy Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Internal Services
- Natasha Clarke, Chief Digital Officer, Service Nova Scotia and Internal Services
- Justin Huston, Deputy Minister of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage
- Melissa MacKinnon, Associate Deputy Minister of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage