



Newfoundland and Labrador  
Teachers' Association

August 4, 2020

Dr. Andrew Furey  
Premier Designate  
Confederation Building, East Block  
P.O. Box 8700  
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

Dear Dr. Furey:

Congratulations on your successful bid to assume the leadership of the Liberal Party of Newfoundland and Labrador and as a result the premiership of the province.

You are assuming the role of premier during a very challenging time in our province's history. One of the more immediate challenges is the return to school for our provinces' students. The NLTA is in agreement that a return to class is critically important. However, it is equally important that this occur in a safe manner for students, teachers, and everyone who enters our school buildings. The NLTA is being overwhelmed by calls from both teachers and parents questioning the inherent contradictions between the public health directives expected to ensure safe businesses and communities with the lack of similar directives for schools in the K-12 Education Re-entry Plan. I met recently with Dr. Fitzgerald concerning these obvious contradictions, and shared 42 questions. I was not provided a clear rationale to explain why there are greater safety expectations for children attending various activities for short periods of time than there are for when they attend school. I was pleased to hear in your acceptance speech a concern that schools reopen safely and I am hopeful we can make things better.

When you and I met we discussed a number of concerns that we have regarding the return to school. I was pleased that you committed to meeting with us to further discuss our concerns. I appreciate that your schedule and timetable will be full right now, however, the start of school is in less than a month and the need for a meeting to discuss these contradictions and how your government might be able to address some of the concerns is urgent. I am asking that we meet as soon as you are able.

Regards,

Dean Ingram  
NLTA President