

August 12, 2019

Hon. Jean Charest
Chair, Vision 2025
RChilmeran@AIAC.ca

Dear Mr. Charest:

I write in response to your letter of July 4, 2019 where you highlight the significance of the aerospace sector, as well as introduce your recent report - *Vision 2025: Charting a New Course*.

As Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador, I would like to congratulate Aerospace Industries Association of Canada (AIAC) on its release of the report - *Vision 2025: Charting a New Course, Canada as Global Aerospace Champion*. During the Council of the Federation meeting in Saskatoon, SK on July 9-11, 2019, Canada's Premiers agreed that ensuring workers can access needed skills and training is essential to growing Canada's economy and creating jobs, as an agile and skilled workforce is critical to a strong economy.

We agree that Canada will need all provinces and territories working together to promote education, training and skills development in this sector to take advantage of the new opportunities for the aerospace industry. Indeed, this is a sector that my government has highlighted in *The Way Forward*, as well as identified as a targeted opportunity area in the *Economic Growth Strategy for Newfoundland and Labrador* report released this past winter.

Newfoundland and Labrador is proud to have several companies working in the aerospace sector who are active members in the Atlantic Canada Aerospace and Defense Association (ACADA). Our Department of Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation has an Aerospace and Defense working team with specialists from sector development, innovation, internationalization and research. This team works closely with ACADA, providing financial support and collaborative partnership development. I will ensure this team reviews your report, along with officials from our Department of Advanced Education, Skills and Labour. In June 2017, my government created a *Cabinet Committee on Jobs* to help drive economic growth in the Province's technology sector. As part of this, we have engaged directly with ACADA and other stakeholders in the technology sector to help foster economic growth for their member firms.

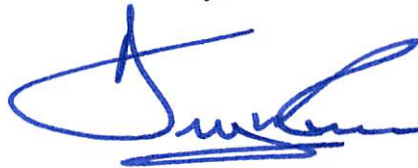
Further, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has been working to implement our guiding strategic framework, *The Way Forward*, which includes initiatives in multiple sectors designed

to build a stronger economic foundation. In fact, one of these commitments was to begin implementation of Regional Innovation Systems pilot projects including one specific to aerospace and defense in Gander and the surrounding area. This project is underway.

We agree that support to the aerospace industry is a priority for the economic development of our Province and Canada. In fact, Budget 2019 includes a commitment to complete a feasibility study to explore opportunities for additional Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul operations in Newfoundland and Labrador. We are very open to participate in a dialogue with AIAC related to methods to support this industry. I encourage you to contact Ministers Bernard Davis, Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Labour and Christopher Mitchelmore, Minister of Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation to further discuss your study and how Newfoundland and Labrador can work with its colleagues to ensure a strong and vibrant aerospace sector.

Wishing you all of the best in your future endeavours.

Sincerely,



DWIGHT BALL

Premier

cc: Hon. Bernard Davis, Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Labour
Hon. Christopher Mitchelmore, Minister of Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation