

May 7, 2009

COPY

Dear Premier:

It is a great pleasure to write to you on an issue of significant importance to Canada – the Marine Atlantic ferry service that links Newfoundland and Labrador with our provincial and territorial cousins to the west. As the attached article, which ran in the St. John's daily Telegram on Saturday, May 2, clearly indicates, Marine Atlantic is an issue of national economic importance.

You are very much aware of the strong nature of Newfoundland and Labrador's economy and the troubles affecting much of Canada. Now is the time to ensure that Marine Atlantic directly contributes to recovery across the country. Newfoundland and Labrador is growing and buying while businesses across Canada seek out opportunities. This link is vital to us all.

Marine Atlantic directly contributes to businesses and people in your province. Help us ensure that this is recognized and that the proper investments are made to ensure that goods and people can be moved back and forth in a timely, reliable and cost-effective manner.

The next time you discuss economic recovery measures with your colleagues provincially and federally, think of Marine Atlantic and what it offers to your constituents. It offers employment and export opportunities, income and investment prospects, and travel and tourism links.

Governments at all levels are searching for ways to stimulate the economy, and I would be happy to talk to you about that. Let's start with things that already exist, but need help. Your help.

Sincerely,

Bruce Templeton

c.c. Hon. Premiers Charest, Wall, McGuinty, Graham, Doer, Campbell, Ghiz, Stelmach, Roland, Fentie, Aariak
Hon. Premiers Williams, MacDonald
Hon. Ministers MacKay, Toews, Baird, Clement, Flaherty, Verner, Ablonczy, Merrifield, Ashfield, Denine