

March 25, 2009

Mr. Bruce Templeton, Chair
St. John's Board of Trade
P.O. Box 5127
St. John's, NL A1C 5V5

Dear Mr. Templeton:

Thank you for your letter of March 10th in which you outline some business-related measures for which the Board of Trade is advocating at the Provincial Government level; more specifically, the concept of "local-to-local" loans to facilitate business successions and further planning in support of increased air access to and from the province.

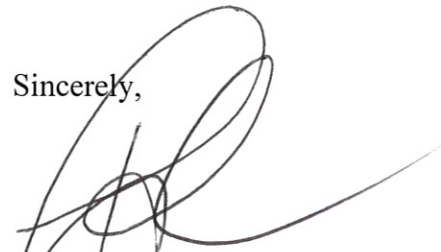
In terms of air access, with the release of the consultant's report on air transportation last month, government will now be exploring avenues, on an ongoing basis and with a province-wide perspective, through which we may be able to enhance air transportation capacity needs.

As for your proposed "local-to-local" initiative, I will take the opportunity to raise this with the Minister of Innovation, Trade and Rural Development, and I would encourage you to bring this to his attention as well.

The Department of Business continues to help foster a positive business environment in Newfoundland and Labrador. Over the last year, the department has supported business set-up and expansion activity and attracted new foreign investment to the province. Great progress is being made to enhance the regulatory regime and reduce onerous requirements, making life easier for businesses and people who rely on information and services provided by the Provincial Government. As Minister, I look forward to the department continuing that work in 2009-10.

As you know, we are scheduled to have a meeting in the near future, and I look forward to discussing these matters further with you then. Thank you again for your suggestions. I appreciate you taking the time to highlight them to me.

Sincerely,



Paul Oram
Minister