September 5, 2017

Honourable Benoît Bourque
Minister of Health
P.O. Box 6000
Fredericton, NB E3B 5H1

Dear Colleague, Benoît

New Brunswickers have entrusted our government with a mandate to move New Brunswick forward by providing clear and focused leadership. We have been listening to New Brunswickers and understand what matters most to them. We know the importance of creating jobs, growing the economy, and securing and enhancing health care and education. This renewed mandate letter communicates our government’s priorities and expectations. It contains specific short-term and long-term priorities which are fundamental to implementing our vision.

Together, we have cut the deficit in half while creating jobs and making record investments in education and health care. While implementation continues, the tough decisions are now behind us. We have achieved results by engaging New Brunswickers, being strategic with our decisions, finding savings and efficiencies where they make sense, and focusing on the priorities of New Brunswickers.

We have a strong team and by working together, we can continue to advance our ambitious agenda. By building on the foundation our government established over the first half of our mandate, we will continue to honour our commitments.

Members of the Executive Council are to adhere to the conflict of interest provisions. It is not enough to avoid conflicts of interest; you must also be diligent in avoiding the perceptions of such.
Your department has already well advanced work on:

Government Commitments

- Having worked with the other Atlantic provinces to improve regional cooperation in ...
The shared purchasing of drugs, medical equipment and supplies.

- Having helped to offset the costs of infertility treatments.

- Having expanded the *Smoke-free Places Act* to ban smoking in public places frequented by children.

- Having improved access to primary care by maximizing the use of health professionals such as nurse practitioners, advanced-care paramedics and midwives.

- Having formed a front-line medical advisory committee.

- Having reviewed the New Brunswick Drug Plan to ensure that its costs are reasonable for individuals, that its coverage is sufficient, and that small businesses are not subject to an employer mandate.

- Having funded the chronic disease prevention and management unit.

- Having explored opportunities to provide access to specialists in all regions through interactive videoconferencing.

- Having increased the focus of the health system on community-based preventive care.

- Having helped New Brunswickers quit smoking by offsetting a portion of the cost of smoking cessation products.

- Having identified all barriers to a woman’s right to choose and eliminate them.

- Having established a network of excellence in support of treatment of youth with complex mental health needs.

- Having developed a network of community health centers to give New Brunswickers better access to health professionals in non-emergency situations.

- Having used community support orders to help those suffering from mental illness.

- Having given all New Brunswickers access to a family doctor, by adding 50 new doctors by 2018.
I. PRIORITY DELIVERY UNIT

Priority Delivery Units (PDUs) have been established to drive performance improvements and increase accountability with respect to New Brunswick's priorities of Jobs, Education, Families, Federal and Aboriginal Relations and Smart Province. The Priority Delivery Units support innovation and provide a mechanism for enhanced coordination and collaboration across government departments. The units are intended to serve as a forum for advancing projects and initiatives at the highest levels.

PDUs are responsible for driving government priority objectives, initiatives and measures in support of the Government of New Brunswick's vision.

All Ministers are expected to support the work of the PDUs. As Minister of Health, you will lead the following initiatives under the Families PDU:

- Family Medicine NB Initiative – increase the number of physicians working in teams to increase access for patients.

- Primary Health Care Integration – increase access to care in the community, thus reducing/diverting hospital based care.

- Home First Strategy – increase the number of seniors receiving services in their own home versus in a nursing home or adult residential facility.

- Enhanced Addiction & Mental Health Action Plan (New Focus on Addiction Services and Care Pathway for Adults) – increase treatment facility annual rehab and detox bed utilization and reduce the provincial annual percentage of adults waiting for clinical treatment.

Education PDU:

- Improve process for 18 months assessment - improvement in the participation rate of the Healthy Toddler Assessment.

II. GOVERNMENT EXPECTATIONS

As a member of Cabinet, you are responsible to lead progress and achieve results on the corporate priority initiatives outlined below.

Jobs

- All government departments must participate in the identification and development of opportunities and growth-oriented policies. Working with the Jobs PDU, you will participate in the development of specific economic opportunities and policies and support others to achieve both your individual and our collective targets for provincial growth.
• Government is committed to identifying and eliminating red tape that arises in interactions between government bodies and our citizens, partners, and businesses. All government departments are expected to participate in the reduction of red tape and administrative burden.

• All government departments will seek out and embrace opportunities to collaborate with our Atlantic neighbours in the harmonization of our regulations and operations.

Families
• Government is committed to increasing the number of women in positions of influence by improving the gender balance in public service executive positions and on our agencies, boards and commissions with the goal of 50% representation.

• Government is working to fully implement the Pay Equity Act of 2009 across all parts of government.

• Government is committed to carrying-out gender-based analysis as part of the policy development process.

• Government is taking action on The Plan on Official Languages – Official Bilingualism: A Fundamental Value, a government-wide plan to improve respect for government’s linguistic responsibilities.

Smart province
• All government departments are expected to participate in the implementation of Strategic Program Review initiatives as required.

• All government departments will continue to work towards meeting financial targets to reduce the deficit and restore balance to the budget by 2020 without making cuts to jobs, education and health care.

• All government departments are expected to participate in the implementation of the open data initiative, whereby appropriately-prepared, government-held data are made available proactively, either through the open data portal for its reuse and consumption or for research through the New Brunswick Institute for Research, Data and Training.

• Government is committed to fostering a culture of openness and transparency in the public sector. The Lobbyist Registration Act will allow the public to know more about who is attempting to influence government while also providing more rigour around lobbyists' activities.

• All members of the Executive Council are reminded that the 10 per cent reduction to ministerial pay will remain in place until we’ve balanced the provincial budget.
• All government departments must participate in initiatives designed to respect the public service and to support them in the pursuit of excellence around three themes: pride, productivity and professionalism.

Federal and Aboriginal relations
• All government departments are expected to work with the Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat to ensure that the province's Duty to Consult with First Nations is discharged in all matters that may impact the practice of Aboriginal and treaty rights.

• All members of Executive Council and senior leaders will attend a specialized training session on the province’s Duty to Consult provided by the Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat.

• All government departments are expected to implement the calls to action identified by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada

III. DEPARTMENT SPECIFIC DELIVERABLES
In your capacity as Minister, you are responsible for ensuring that our deliverables pertaining to the organization(s) under your authority are implemented. As Minister of Health, you will be the lead spokesperson on the development of cannabis in New Brunswick. Look to your Deputy Minister as your primary source of support for the implementation of your department-specific deliverables. A list of platform commitments for which you are responsible is attached.

IV. DEPARTMENT EXPECTATIONS
The Office of the Premier and Executive Council Office play a critical role in moving the government agenda forward, monitoring performance and managing critical issues. It is important to work together and for you to coordinate with the Office of the Premier and Executive Council Office, to:

• Work collaboratively on policy and legislative proposals and legislative planning, and issues management.

• Respond in a timely manner to all requests for information and support, including those received under the Right to Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

• Coordinate public consultations and marketing campaigns with corporate communications to improve efficiency and effectiveness.

• Support the public service’s Formal Management System and regular review and reporting to ensure focused identification, prioritization, and execution of government’s strategy using SMART methodologies.
V. RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CROWN ENTITIES

In addition to your other responsibilities, you are the Minister responsible for:

- *New Brunswick Health Council - Board of Directors
- Mental Health Review Board - Zone 1, 2, 3 and 7 (South)
- Mental Health Review Board - Zone 4, 5 and 6 (North)
- Mental Health Services Advisory Committee
- Mental Health Tribunal - Zone 1, 2, 3 and 7 (South)
- Mental Health Tribunal - Zone 4, 5 and 6 (North)
- *Ambulance New Brunswick
- Midwifery Council of New Brunswick
- Vitalité Health Network
- Horizon Health Network

Under the Accountability and Continuous Improvement Act, government is responsible for the legislative, regulatory, and public policy frameworks in which Crown entities operate. In order to support the achievement of government’s performance expectations for those Crown Corporations to which the Act applies (starred), you will:

- Provide formal annual direction to crown entities through mandate letters.
- Support the corporate annual planning cycle by providing tools and resources to the crown entity, as required.
- Review and provide feedback and final approval of the entity’s annual plans and annual reports.
- Meet with the entity to review progress towards achieving results and provide direction to the entity, as required.

The above list of responsibilities is not meant to be exhaustive; we will continue to work on New Brunswick’s priorities and get things done. It is by working together and making smart decisions that we will accomplish our vision.

Yours truly,

[Signature]

Brian Gallant

Enclosure: Platform Commitments

c.c.: Clerk of the Executive Council and Secretary to Cabinet
       Deputy Minister of Health
Government is committed to the following initiatives in *Moving New Brunswick Forward*.

Government has started work with respect to the following commitments. It is your responsibility to ensure that this work is moved forward such that this commitment can be met within the mandate.

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<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Commitment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>91</td>
<td>Develop a network of community health centers to give New Brunswick better access to health professionals in non-emergency situations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>94</td>
<td>Improve access to primary care by maximizing the use of health professionals such as...pharmacists.</td>
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<td>97</td>
<td>Give all New Brunswickers access to family doctor, by adding 50 net new general practitioners by 2018.</td>
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<td>100</td>
<td>Support the current 5-year diabetes strategy and working with stakeholders to renew the plan in 2015.</td>
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<td>102</td>
<td>Complete the implementation of an electronic medical records system.</td>
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<td>103</td>
<td>Launch a prescription drug monitoring system.</td>
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<td>105</td>
<td>Establish a formal cancer patient navigation system in cooperation with the New Brunswick Cancer Network.</td>
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<tr>
<td>107</td>
<td>Provide free eye exams to four-year olds, including subsidizing the cost of eye glasses for those found to have vision problems.</td>
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<tr>
<td>114</td>
<td>Ensure the independence of the medical officers of health.</td>
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