



♀ ST. JOHN'S WOMEN'S CENTRE
♀ MARGUERITE'S PLACE
♀ SAFE HARBOUR OUTREACH PROJECT

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Dear Premier Furey,

We are writing to express acute concerns about the Provincial Economic Recovery Team (PERT), which are rooted in a lack of meaningful consultation, transparency, and gender-based analyses. We reflect the concerns expressed recently by Mary Shortall around her [departure](#) from the PERT. This decision and corresponding feedback has unearthed important and deeply troubling criticisms of the PERT; particularly for [women and marginalized genders](#), for workers, for people living in poverty, and for the future of our community sector.

The St. John's Status of Women Council is among many feminist and equity seeking groups and organizations across Canada calling for gender-based analyses to be employed in any and all Covid-19 social and economic recovery planning. On May 5th we publicized a [Feminist Covid-19 Recovery Plan](#) highlighting the structural inequalities of Newfoundland and Labrador's pandemic recovery work, and essential action moving forward. At the time we wrote to, shared resources with, and asked to meet with Premier Ball, without response. We have since requested to meet with you, Premier Furey, and continue to look forward to a response.

There is [robust research](#) happening [across Canada](#) to inform and centre gender-equitable outcomes in all pandemic recovery planning. All levels of government are responsible to employ a gender-based analysis in response to Covid-19. The status of women and people of marginalized genders in Newfoundland and Labrador is in fact foundational to our social and economic recovery.

At the inaugural Premier's Roundtable on Gender Equity in December 2020, you committed to an outcome-focused approach to addressing barriers in gender equity. Yet, the Office for the Status of Women has had no interactions or access to the PERT since its inception in October 2020. We wonder, how has the PERT been employing a gender-based analysis without the meaningful involvement and participation of the provincial Office for the Status of Women, without the Provincial Advisory Council for the Status of Women, and without the Provincial Action Network on the Status of Women? We are hopeful that the work happening at the

Premier's Roundtable on Gender Equity will inform decision making at the PERT, but we are concerned that no mechanism to do so has been made explicit.

The St. John's Status of Women Council echo calls that have been made in the last week for transparency, meaningful engagement, and accountability in the work happening at the PERT. Women and marginalized genders continue to bear the brunt of this pandemic, in climbing rates of gender-based violence, disproportionate unpaid caretaking, and as the majority of frontline, community sector, essential and minimum wage workers. An economic recovery plan void of gender-based analyses and transparency is not the way forward. Covid-19 is a gendered crisis, and all of our recovery plans must be feminist.

Sincerely,

Dr. Laura Winters

Executive Director

St. John's Status of Women Council