OFFICE OF THE GREEN PARTY LEADER

Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick P.O.Box 6000 Fredericton, New Brunswick E3B5H1

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BUREAU DU CHEF DU PARTI VERT

Assemblée législative du Nouveau-Brunswick C.P. 6000 Fredericton, Nouveau-Brunswick E3B5H1

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March 8, 2016 Hon. Francine Landry Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Labour P.O. Box 6000 Fredericton, NB E3B 5H1

Dear Minister Landry:

I am writing to request that you appoint a special independent mediator to resolve the impasse between the owner of Covered Bridge Chips and the unionized employees. The strike began January 5th, following the failed mediation attempts dating back to June of last year. As you know, following the strike action, the union decided to initiate a boycott in an effort to bring management back to the table.

The employees want to go back to work with their first negotiated contract. Everyone wants to see this New Brunswick company succeed. The longer the strike, the broader the boycott may become. Everyone loses in this stand-off. That is why I am asking you to appoint an independent mediator with the professional skills needed to resolve this situation.

First contract legislation may have avoided the strike, so I encourage you to introduce a bill at the earliest opportunity to avoid similar situations in the future.

I am looking forward to a positive reply to my request for an independent mediator to be appointed to resolve the impasse between the employees and management of Covered Bridge Chips.

Yours truly,

David Coon

Leader, Green Party

MLA Fredericton-South