

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

506-457-6842

June 8, 2016

Hon. Stephen Horsman  
Minister of Families and Children  
P.O. Box 6000  
Fredericton, NB  
E3B 5H1

Dear Minister Horsman:

Congratulations on your recent appointment as Minister of Families and Children.

I have a high percentage of constituents who access the services of your department. Based on conversations with countless men and women in my riding it has become clear to me that we need to transform our social assistance and social housing systems so as to help people escape poverty.

Our social assistance rates are inadequate. We are in fact, perpetuating cycles of poverty, when those living on assistance are incapable of providing healthy meals, warm clothing and adequate housing for themselves and their families. I hope that you will be a champion for enhancing social assistance rates.

I also encourage you to consider resuscitating NB Housing. Currently, public housing is managed along with income assistance. Playing the role of landlord requires much more hands-on service than the department has been able to provide. The Department also lacks a comprehensive strategy to increase the amount of affordable housing in New Brunswick, a mandate that could be better handled by a revived NB Housing.

I would be happy to speak with you in more detail on these issues and any others if you so desire.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Coon".

David Coon,  
MLA, Fredericton South  
Leader, Green Party of New Brunswick