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Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

July 23, 2020

Dear Rt. Hon. Prime Minister,

Thank you for taking the time to review this letter. I know that the past several months has required significant time and effort on your part, and that the pandemic has presented our Country with enormous challenges.

Your comments on June 25th wherein you discussed long-term care being a provincial responsibility, noting that the job of supporting our seniors wasn't being adequately done, really struck me. That sentiment ranges very true here in Nova Scotia.

COVID-19 exposed seven years of provincial government budgetary neglect and contributed to the anguish and concern of every Nova Scotian, but none more so that those connected to our long-term care communities. Some of the concerns raised by Canada's Armed Forces in the Ontario and Quebec COVID-19 reports, only served to raise more concerns about whether similar issues could happen in Nova Scotia.

The failure of our current provincial government to invest in long-term care cannot be undone, but we can and must do better moving forward. Nova Scotians are demanding steps be taken to ensure a compassionate system-wide redesign.

I was encouraged to hear you indicate in May that when it comes to caring for our elders, you refuse to take any idea off the table. It is in this spirit that I wish to draw your attention to the attached proposal that presents a vision for the future of seniors and long-term care in Nova Scotia and can serve as a model for the rest of Canada.

With the support of the federal government, Nova Scotia can lead the way and demonstrate what is possible, how society can truly respect and honour our seniors and show them dignity.

Specifically, my vision for the future of seniors' care in Nova Scotia includes:

- a. Addressing infrastructural deficiencies, including the renovation and development of at least 3,500 new single rooms in long-term care;

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- b. Investing in significant operational improvements, including increased staffing and embracing technology to measure outcomes; and
- c. Championing systemic advancements by developing a new option of government supported, incremental care between home care and nursing home care. This option does not currently exist in Nova Scotia but operates successfully in other jurisdictions.

We have a revolutionary vision for seniors in Nova Scotia. We are only asking that the federal government support the infrastructure as described in (a) but, as you can see, this investment will trigger incredible incremental investments. We can change the future and you can help.

Being the province with the oldest population per capita, Nova Scotia can no longer afford to ignore the obvious need. You see it. I see it. Nova Scotians see it and are insisting that their government prioritize seniors. As the Official Opposition, we are asking your government to support Nova Scotians by supporting our vision.

I mentioned the obvious infrastructure needs in building new beds. To address the current demand, there is a need to introduce an additional 3,540 single rooms into our existing long-term care system. This can be accomplished through a combination of renovations and new builds. It is a significant, necessary investment that, based on the limited information the province has made available, we estimate the cost could be in the range of \$1,044,375,000.00 as follows:

Strategy	Number of Beds	Estimated Cost Per Bed	Estimated Total Cost
Convert existing Shared rooms into Private.	1,045	\$ 25,000	\$26,125,000
Build New Private Beds within Existing Properties (from extra space re renovations)	1,045	\$350,000	\$365,750,000
Construct New Beds in New Properties	1,450	\$450,000	\$652,500,000
Total	3,540		\$1,044,375,000

We understand that the federal government is considering supporting projects of up to fifty percent of the capital expense. As such, we are asking that the federal government commit to an investment of \$522,187,500.00. This funding would be staggered over three years, with \$47,500,000 in year one; \$237,875,000 in year two; and \$236,812,500 in year three, being half of the annual totals. The allocations per bed are as follows:

Year 1		Year 2		Year 3		Total	
Beds	Cost	Beds	Cost	Beds	Cost	Beds	Cost
300	\$7,500,000	450	\$11,250,000	295	\$7,375,000	1045	\$26,125,000
250	\$87,500,000	395	\$138,250,000	400	\$140,000,000	1045	\$325,750,000
		725	\$326,250,000	725	\$326,250,000	1450	\$625,500,000

Total	\$95,000,000	157	\$475,750,000	1420	\$473,625,000	3540	\$1,044,375,000
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Our seniors deserve a long-term care system that is exceptional. My 82-year-old friend told me that there is “no way” he is ever going into a “home.” That is incredibly sad to hear. Our seniors shouldn’t fear the system that is meant to comfort them. They should feel confidence that the government will treat them with dignity in their most vulnerable times.

I understand that Minister McKenna has announced federal funding for shovel-ready projects. She has indicated a willingness for flexibility in the distribution of those funds in order to address the needs highlighted by COVID-19. I would ask that your government support our proposal to show dignity to our seniors.

Both my office and I are happy to provide you with further details that assist in your evaluation of the proposal.

Yours truly,



Tim Houston
Leader, Progressive Conservative
Party of Nova Scotia