

March 3, 2022

hector.guy.adegbidi@umoncton.ca

Dear Mr. Adégbidi:

Thank you for your letter in which you provide input into Budget 2022-2023 and highlight education as an important driver of economic growth and improved health outcomes.

Many of our economic indicators are at, or above, their pre-pandemic levels and we are seeing stronger-than-expected financial results. Moreover, our population growth recently hit a 45-year high and we are on the cusp of seeing it surpass 800,000.

This momentum means that we must prepare for the future growth of our province by considering the demands for government services that comes from a growing population.

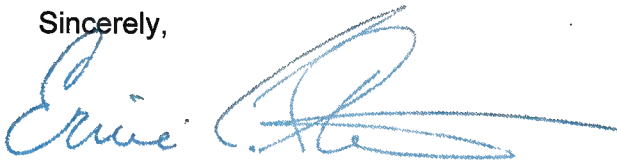
The decisions we take during Budget 2022-2023 must consider future needs that come from a growing population and on how we move forward on the issues that are important to New Brunswickers. I can assure you that education will be an important consideration in our budget deliberations.

We must also consider how to live in a world where COVID-19 is part of our everyday lives. We must build resilience to ensure that New Brunswickers can continue to access services in the face of future waves of the pandemic. We must continue to grow a stronger, more resilient economy. Continued investments in our education systems will be an important strategy in achieving our goals.

We all have a role to play in building a lasting, sustainable, and resilient recovery, and I welcome your thoughts.

Thank you for your interest and contribution to this discussion.

Sincerely,



Hon. Ernie L. Steeves
Minister of Finance and Treasury Board

cc Blaine M. Higgs