

[Your Name]
[Your Street Address]
[Your City, Postal Code]

[Date]

The Office of the Premier
Confederation Building, East Block
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL
A1B 4J6

Dear Andrew Furey,

The St. John's Blue Door Program is set to close at the end of the month because it has not received a funding commitment from the provincial government.

The program previously received a five-year commitment of \$450,000 annually from the federal government, but that funding expires on February 28th.

In October, Director Angela Crockwell requested annual funding of \$417,000 to Premier Andrew Furey's office and the departments of Health, Social Development, Justice, and Women and Gender Equality—but she has not received any funding commitment. The money would pay for a psychotherapist, four salaries for the program's staff, office fees and flexible funds for food, transportation and other incidentals for the program's clients.

The Blue Door Program is the only exit service in the province for youth who have been sexually exploited or sex trafficked. They provide their clients, who are largely women and girls, with mental health supports, educational opportunities, and access to safe, affordable housing.

They have helped roughly 80 clients, the majority of whom are currently employed in jobs outside of the sex trade. A number of former clients are enrolled in university or college and are working hard to return to a safe and financially secure lifestyle.

Without the Blue Door Program, vulnerable youth will be left in the dark. Please commit to funding the program so that survivors of sexual exploitation in Newfoundland can rebuild their lives.

Sincerely,

[Your Signature]