

May 25, 2015

The Honourable Ed Fast
Minister of International Trade
111 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0G2

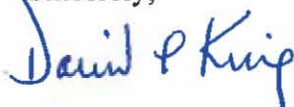
Dear Minister Fast:

Our governments have reached an obvious stalemate with regard to the establishment of a fisheries investment fund related to commitments made between the Government of Canada and Newfoundland and Labrador during the negotiation of the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA).

While the Province is very pleased with the outcomes it negotiated in partnership with the federal government in CETA, the Province cannot uphold its commitment to relinquish minimum processing requirements (MPRs) on fish destined to the European Union, given that the federal government is not prepared to honour the terms of the fisheries investment fund agreement.

I was hopeful that we could have resolved this issue; however despite sustained effort on the Province's part the federal government has not been prepared to enter into meaningful discussions to operationalize the agreement we reached. In fact, Minister Vaughn Granter wrote Minister Rob Moore on March 11, 2015 requesting such engagement and Minister Moore has not yet agreed to meet and despite being in the Province on May 20, 2015 no meeting with the Province was arranged. Instead, Minister Moore decided to publicly restate the federal government's reinterpretation of the June 2013 agreement.

This is a regrettable outcome to an otherwise productive and progressive engagement in the negotiation of the pending CETA agreement, which in its current form the Province is satisfied with, other than your commitment regarding MPRs. The Province will publicly state this position and will be advising the European Union Ambassador to Canada accordingly.

Sincerely,


DARIN T. KING, Ph.D
Minister

c: Honourable Rob Moore
Honourable Vaughn Granter
Honourable Keith Hutchings