

December 10, 2025

The Right Honourable Mark Carney, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A2

Prime Minister:

On behalf of Atlantic Premiers, I am writing to express our deep concern regarding the future of the Atlantic Fisheries Fund ("the Fund") and to seek urgent clarification on your government's commitment to its continuation and enhancement.

We appreciate the government's commitment to strengthening agriculture through the 2025 budget investments. While this support is vital, we note the absence of dedicated funding for seafood and aquaculture - sectors that are equally critical to food security, economic growth, and sustainability.

As you know, the importance of the commercial fishing, seafood processing and aquaculture industries in Atlantic Canadian communities and for livelihoods in the region cannot be overstated. As this sector grapples with the challenges of today, such as risks posed by tariffs, climate change and emerging disease threats, continuing and enhancing the Atlantic Fisheries Fund is more important than ever.

Since its inception in 2017, the Fund has significantly contributed to advancing innovation, sustainability, and science partnerships within Atlantic Canada's fish and seafood sector. With over \$400 million in shared federal-provincial investment, this well-subscribed funding has been instrumental in supporting the long-term viability of the industry and inspiring innovation. The Fund's success is tied to its flexibility to support the industry's diverse needs throughout the region.

Prior to the federal election, your party committed to enhancing the Fund and increasing its funding by 20 per cent. Currently, the Fund is scheduled to expire on March 31, 2026. The absence of an announcement regarding the Fund in Budget 2025 has created uncertainty throughout the sector. A clear funding commitment is urgently needed to enable Atlantic Canadian companies to continue to plan and invest confidently, ensuring they remain globally competitive and productive.

We were pleased to see increases in available funding to the agriculture sector across Canada through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership. The federal government needs to show its support for the fish and seafood sectors as they have done for agriculture. Both are key economic drivers and support rural, coastal and indigenous communities across Atlantic Canada.

We request that you fulfill your commitment to enhance the Fund and increase its funding by 20 per cent. We would also appreciate the opportunity to discuss how the Fund can be enhanced to further support the industry, including through continuation of the Fund's current mandate, as well

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as support for industry stakeholders to access new markets to offset impacts from existing tariffs and future tariff uncertainty.

We eagerly await your response on this matter to ensure this integral Fund continues to support Atlantic Canada's fish and seafood industries.

Sincerely,



Susan Holt
Premier of New Brunswick
Chair, Council of Atlantic Premiers

cc: Honourable Joanne Thompson, MP, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Honourable Tim Houston, Premier of Nova Scotia
Honourable Rob Lantz, Premier of Prince Edward Island
Honourable Tony Wakeham, Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador