



Jack Harris

Member of Parliament / Député
St. John's East / St. John's-Est

*Tabled (by leave)
by the member for
St. John's Centre
2020-09-17
Baines*

Dr. Andrew Furey, Premier
Confederation Building
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

September 15, 2020

Dear Premier Furey:

I write today, together with my provincial colleague, Mr. James Dinn, M.H.A, concerning dental care coverage of children in the province. As you may know our party has been promoting the adoption of a national dental care program for uninsured families making less than \$90,000, to help those who do not have access to a dental insurance plan. Indeed, we moved and held a full day debate on a voteable Opposition Day Motion in the House of Commons in February to give effect to such a plan, which was unfortunately defeated.

Our communication with constituents has shown dental coverage as a significant need, and to be in great demand for many Newfoundland and Labrador families.

One issue recently brought to our attention was the fact that individual children who are beneficiaries of the Children's Dental Health Program aged out as beneficiaries of these subsidized dental services during the lock down mandated by government - children who turned 13 years of age after mid-March when dental offices closed.

The COVID-19 pandemic prevented these children from receiving dental care that they need.

This letter is to urge you and your government to extend the eligibility for this program for a period to permit them to obtain services that would otherwise be missed.

We appreciate your urgent consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Jack Harris, Q.C., M.P., St. John's East

James Dinn, MHA, St. John's Centre