

FOR ALL OF US



First Light St. John's Friendship Centre
Attn: Justin Campbell
Director of Advocacy
justin@firstlightnl.ca

Dear Justin,

Thank you for the kind invitation to First Light's Annual Rally for Reconciliation. I truly appreciate the work that First Light continues to do in bringing people together to reflect on our shared history and advance reconciliation in Newfoundland and Labrador. Unfortunately, I will be in another part of the province at that time and will be unable to attend the St. John's Rally. However, I will be taking part in events that commemorate the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is an important moment for all of us to pause, reflect, and recommit ourselves to building stronger, more respectful relationships with Indigenous Peoples. The path to reconciliation requires listening, understanding, and collaboration, and I value the role that organizations like First Light play in this work.

Truth and reconciliation means being honest about the wrongs of the past and making meaningful changes in partnership with Indigenous Peoples. Imposed solutions without true consultation only cause more harm. A PC government I lead will continue to implement the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the Inquiry into Innu Child Protection, and the Calls for Change—always in collaboration with Indigenous communities.

A Wakeham PC government will include appropriate content on Indigenous histories, cultures, stories, and languages in the K–12 curriculum. We will work with Indigenous communities to provide opportunities for Indigenous children and youth to learn and champion traditional language, craft, and skills, while also providing opportunities for them to share their heritage with non-Indigenous children and youth throughout the province. Our government will create a Police Oversight Board that is independent of police, civilian-led, politically neutral, and representative of the province's diverse communities. We will also make progress on the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Thank you once again for the invitation, and please accept my best wishes for a successful and meaningful event.

Sincerely,

Tony Wakeham

Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of Newfoundland and Labrador