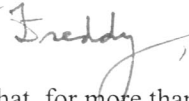


June 19, 2007

Mr. Freddy Northcott
c/o Mr. Terry Skehans
2-22 Chisholm Street
Cambridge, ON N1R 4E2

Dear Mr. Northcott:



I understand that, for more than thirty years, in between your shifts at the auto factory where you were instrumental in putting General Motors cars on our highways, you always found the time to be instrumental in another unforgettable way. For more than three decades, you have had your fingers on the buttons of one of the instruments that best defines Newfoundland and Labrador, the unmistakable button accordion. With your friends in The Bay Boys, you have been there, weekend after weekend, to captivate your adoring fans with the sounds of home. When you and your friends started playing, as if by magic, it was as if the room was suddenly transported a thousand miles eastward to the coast, with the ocean outside washing against the shore and the fog rolling over the waves. Music has the power to bridge any distance, and you have been bridging that distance for countless people for as long as anyone can remember.

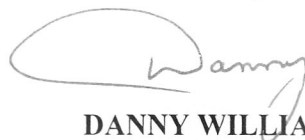
So now, your many friends and admirers want to show you their appreciation for the hundreds upon hundreds of special times that you have given them. They want you to know how much it has meant to them to have these kitchen parties weekend after weekend. You have made everyone feel right at home, and there's no way to say enough "thank-yous" for that.

For as long as we can remember, Newfoundlanders and Labradorians have traveled around the country and the world, putting our skills and our muscle to work on the projects that matter. In the car plants of Ontario, the oil sands of Alberta, the high rises of New York, the hospitals of Boston and far beyond, we have proven that our people are the best of the best – the workers you can rely on to get things done. But as they say, you can take the bay boy out of the bay, but you can't take the bay out of the bay boy. The connection to home never fades, and it is made all the stronger by those like you who have kept the spirit alive and well and powerful in people's hearts and lives. You are our greatest ambassadors, and we all owe you a great debt of gratitude for what you have been doing all these years.

So as the Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador, on behalf of all Newfoundlanders and Labradorians everywhere, let me take this opportunity to formally recognize you – Freddy Northcott – and The Bay Boys for being the truest of the true cultural ambassadors of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Your contribution has touched more lives than can ever be counted, and that contribution will never be forgotten. I wish we could all be there for this event in your honour. But I can promise you that we will certainly be there in spirit, raising a cheer and sharing another good ol' Newfoundland and Labrador time like the great big family that we all are. Best wishes from all of us.

Yours sincerely,



DANNY WILLIAMS, Q.C.
Premier