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| **PETITION** | | | |
| **Whereas**, the Professional Fish Harvesters Certification Board (PFHCB) is the  governing body for fish harvester certification and inshore enterprise ownership in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador;  **Whereas**, the Professional Fish Harvesters Act (1997) was crafted and designed to  address circumstances in fish harvesting that have drastically changed in today’s  fishing industry environment;  **Whereas**, exceptionally stringent certification criteria are seriously impeding intergenerational succession of commercial fishing licenses and enterprises, contributing to a crisis of workforce entrance into the inshore harvesting sector;  **Whereas,** the cost of commercial fishing licenses is financially out of reach for most accredited harvesters through traditional lenders such as banks;  **Whereas,** the most accessible lenders are often the very same fish processing companies and buyers who purchase a harvester’s catch, and alternate lending institutions would be more favourable;  **Whereas**, fish harvester succession and enterprise ownership are intrinsically linked to coastal and rural sustainability, and any break in that chain threatens the rural way of life; | | | |
| **We, the undersigned,** call upon the House of Assembly to urge the Government of  Newfoundland and Labrador to undertake province-wide public consultations on the impediments to becoming an inshore enterprise owner, meetings to coincide with a review of the Professional Fish Harvesters Act (1997). | | | |
| **DATE** | **NAME** (please print) | **ADDRESS** | **SIGNATURE** |
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| **This petition may be tabled in the House of Assembly. If tabled, the petition will be a document**  **of the House of Assembly and the name and address of every person who signs it will be**  **available to the public.** | | | |