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| **PETITION** |
| **Whereas**, the Professional Fish Harvesters Certification Board (PFHCB) is thegoverning 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 toaddress circumstances in fish harvesting that have drastically changed in today’sfishing 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 ofNewfoundland 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.** |