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**

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.