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Speaking Notes
May 26, 2020

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Good morning everyone:

I would like to begin by thanking Premier Ball and Minister Coady for their leadership on this issue. They, and their officials, have been available any time needed.

This crisis – and I assure you this is a crisis for many individuals and companies – needs immediate intervention by the federal government.

As has been outlined, our asks are simple. While this challenge is unprecedented, the solutions are not. Incentives for exploration and development have been used in our offshore before and can be used again.

You do not have to go far to see firsthand the impacts of COVID-19 on our industry.

Where once there was a thousand people working, there is a massive chunk of concrete idle in Argentina.

A refinery that was planning substantial upgrades to be competitive and improve its environmental impact is currently shuttered.

Offices of companies are closing with no intentions to reopen.

Exploration rigs are coming ashore, and possibly heading abroad.

The Terra Nova FPSO is in limbo.

Bay du Nord is on hold.

With all of these go tens of thousands of jobs. Jobs we fear may never return.

And every job is a family impacted.
Every job is a child who may not register for activities this year.

Every job is a car or RV that will not be purchased.

Every job is someone who may leave this wonderful place, and not return.

Noia's members are deeply concerned. We all should be.

Almost 70% of our members have laid off employees with almost 60% saying they expect more layoffs to come. Noia members are concerned their business will not survive.

We have spent countless hours working with Minister O'Regan and his officials demonstrating how our proposed incentives can benefit our province and now we need the support of Prime Minister Trudeau.

The mandate letter of the Prime Minister to Minister O'Regan directs him to "work to ensure that our energy and natural resource sectors remain a source of good middle class jobs, prosperity and opportunity across the country."

That letter also refers to meeting climate change objectives "while also supporting and promoting the competitiveness of our Canadian companies in order to attract investment, open international markets and get resources to markets." Our offshore can do just that.

Prime Minister Trudeau, as long as there is demand for oil, understand that our light, sweet crude is amongst the most responsibly sourced oil in the world.

Prime Minister, understand that our skills are world class and our people are eager to work.

And Prime Minister, know that we are committed to achieving net-zero as a province.

The financial benefits of the offshore, the skills and knowledge accumulated, as well as our ambition to be the best will make us leaders of environmentally conscious energy development and renewable energy mixes. Our brilliant minds will make that happen.

We just need some help to ensure we get there.

Prime Minister Trudeau, we need it now.

Thank you.