

- 1 **Q. (Reference Application, 2022 Capital Expenditure Status Report, Appendix A)**
2 **What led to the increase in the number of new customer connections? How has**
3 **this impacted NP's forecast of new customer connections?**
4
- 5 A. The increase in the forecast number of new customer connections resulted from the
6 Conference Board of Canada's latest forecast of housing starts and completions
7 compared to its previous forecast. The outlook changed significantly from March 2021
8 to March 2022 as the projected demand for housing increased sharply. This was
9 attributed to low mortgage rates and the need among the growing number of remote
10 workers for more space.¹ Newfoundland Power's forecast of new customer connections
11 is based on housing starts/completions and consequently increased as a result of
12 increased demand for housing.

¹ Conference Board of Canada, *Newfoundland and Labrador's Two-Year Outlook* published March 25, 2022.