January 5, 2004

To Whom It May Concern:

Chris O'Dea is an excellent real estate agent.

Hired as new professor at Memorial University of Newfoundland, we were relocating across Canada to St. John's, a city with which we had little knowledge. With Chris's professional service, we were able to buy a house within our limited, four-day house-hunting trip during the summer 2003. Thanks to Chris, we have lived in our new house for half a year, and we love it.

Chris was effective due to his knowledge about St. John's - including, but more than, its real estate market - and his extensive preparations in advance of our house-hunting trip:

Four weeks before our trip, Chris mailed us an MLS listing showing all available houses in Newfoundland. We then emailed him our househunting criteria and about 10 ads that we were most interested in. Chris then started to arrange our visits to these 10 houses, reporting the availability of each (most of them sold or pending), and suggesting better house-hunting strategies. We then modified the list of house ads and Chris scheduled the visits during our trip. During the first day and a half of our arrival, we visited about 20 houses in St. John's, Torbay, Mount Pearl, Paradise, and Conception Bay. Chris also selected listings for 10+ more houses which were new ads or which were not included in our prior plan but that he thought we might be interested in. When we showed interest in some houses, Chris efficiently scheduled additional visits on the same day. The house we finally bought was not included in our plan but was brought to our attention by Chris in this manner. Within the next two days, Chris effectively and efficiently helped us to negotiate with the seller's broker. meet with our lawyer, and find a mortgage provider and a home insurance company.

Chris devoted his time to us during our house-hunting trip. He worked day and night. He was patient and not pushy. His professional attitude, his expertise with the St. John's real estate market, and his love for St. John's deeply impressed us.

We expect that our situation is one to be repeated by many other new faculty members at MUN. Having Chris O'Dea as their real estate agent would be extremely valuable.

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