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Mary Ellen Daly Honourable Member of Parliament for Yourtown West

Dear Administrative Assistant,

Well the writing is on the wall now—we are downsized! We all knew that my defeat was possible in this election. The district has changed so much since I started here that I can accept that perhaps I am not the right representative for these constituents anymore. We did our best, and I certainly could not have asked any more of my staff than you all gave. You in particular have been a rock, and I thank you. When Paula put you in charge of local media I got better coverage than I thought was possible. Every time I look at my scrapbook I'll think of you.

I'm sorry that I couldn't give you all the satisfaction of working in a cabinet minister's office. It would have been great! We both know that you will probably not be able to find suitable work within the party, as everyone's teams are in place. Anyway, you deserve something more challenging than an assistant position. I know you would never go to the opposition, so you will have to look at the independents if you want to continue in politics. I know you're something of an idealist yourself, so it might suit you. Without a party structure they sometimes have trouble finding politically experienced staff. In any case, I feel sure you will do fine. I'm off for a rest at the cottage now. We'll stay in touch.

Your friend and mentor,

Mary Ellen Daly

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