

# THE BLUEPRINT

The Progressive Conservative Plan  
for Jobs and Growth in Newfoundland and Labrador

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**01.**

## **It's All About Jobs**

This election is about which party has a plan to bring back jobs and get our economy growing again. Newfoundland and Labrador's future depends on it.

Progressive Conservatives have a credible plan to “bring back jobs and get to work.”

A Progressive Conservative Government, led by Premier Ches Crosbie, will get our economy back on track by doing more with what we’ve got –

- Cutting red tape and creating tax credits to help employers hire.
- Kickstarting resource projects and value-added production.
- Maximizing local benefits and partnering to grow outside markets.
- Embracing the green economy and fueling high-tech jobs with venture capital.
- Tackling corruption that scares away investors.
- Taking our fight for fairness to Ottawa and demanding a targeted jobs and growth strategy for Newfoundland and Labrador.

## **Newfoundland and Labrador is bursting at the seams with opportunity and potential.**

Few jurisdictions on Earth can boast of such a wealth of resources – energy, forests, minerals, fisheries, farmland, attractions, history, culture.

Our people are among the most resilient in the world – tenacious and smart, fighters and survivors, with a dogged determination to never give in and never give up. Others have generated great wealth with far less. Imagine what we can do with all we have! Just a decade ago, we were leading the country. Remember how that felt!

There is no reason in the world why we can’t do it again, and do it better, and sustain it longer – for generations to come.

This is the reason we stepped forward to serve – because when we travel Newfoundland and Labrador and engage in heart-to-heart conversations with our people, that is exactly what we hear people say.

We are blessed with opportunity, blessed with potential, blessed with a resolute determination to succeed, and leave our children and grandchildren better off than we have ever been.



**Our success as a province is not just possible.  
It is inevitable – if we make jobs and growth our  
overriding priority, our ultimate goal.**

**The future we get is the future we choose.  
The choice is always in our hands.**

**Let's get our economy growing again.  
Let's bring back jobs. Let's get to work.**

**And then, every good thing we need in this  
province will follow.**

## *02.*

# **Fighting for Fairness - A New Deal with Ottawa**

A PC government will fight for a better deal with Ottawa. We will take a hard line in negotiating to ensure Canada lives up to its end of the bargain and stays true to the terms and conditions on which our province entered Confederation.

A PC Government will fight for a **new fiscal arrangement** with the federal government – one that recognizes our province’s geography and the cost of servicing residents.

A PC Government will renegotiate the **equalization formula** to end the discrimination against provinces that rely on resource revenue. If Ottawa will not negotiate a fair deal, we will sue for justice.

As per section 36 of the Constitution of Canada, a PC Government will call on the federal government to come to the table with a **joint federal/provincial recovery plan** to address population decline – with an emphasis on immigration and job growth as solutions.

A PC Government will demand a **greater share** of all federal-provincial funding agreements.

A PC Government will be a tough negotiator and demand the federal government take an **equity stake in the Muskrat Falls development project**.

As part of our negotiations with Ottawa, a PC Government will fight for a **rate mitigation plan** that keeps electricity rates stable, predictable, and affordable.

The Lower Churchill project will make our electricity 98% green and make us one of the cleanest jurisdictions in the world. Therefore, consumers should not have to pay Justin Trudeau’s **carbon tax**. We’ve done our part.

A PC Government will ensure the **Atlantic Accord** and its principal beneficiary commitments are honoured, not diluted.

A PC Government will partner with Noia and CAPP to seek support from Ottawa for **oil exploration incentives** and other programs that stimulate our offshore industry.

A PC Government will seek federal support to drive development of **West White Rose and Bay du Nord**, and ensure the work on the **Terra Nova FPSO** takes place in our province.

A PC Government will demand that Ottawa’s **Canada Hibernia Holding Company** be headquartered in Newfoundland and Labrador.

A PC Government will demand **joint management of our fisheries**. The federal government should look to the Atlantic Accord to define a model for joint management by Newfoundland and Labrador and Ottawa over the fish stocks we rely on.

Unilateral allocation manipulation by the federal government has consequences for fish harvesters and plant processing in Newfoundland and Labrador communities, with surf clams and yellowtail flounder being recent examples. A PC Government will **oppose any unilateral federal action** on quotas to remove or redistribute allocations provided to Newfoundland and Labrador.



A PC Government will promote open and fair access to our fishery based on the principles of **adjacency and historic usage**, including Indigenous access. Access must only be obtained through a transparent process by the federal government in consultation with the Newfoundland and Labrador government and appropriate stakeholders, and it should only be provided through either a transfer or sale from existing quota holders or through a Total Allowable Catch increase.

Dumping the unintended by-catch while harvesting is a waste. It is also a lost economic opportunity and a threat to food security. A PC Government will seek options to **curtail fisheries resource waste**.

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# 03.

## Bringing Back Jobs

A PC Government will relentlessly pursue new jobs, so we can get our province working again. We understand that unemployment and underemployment are the root cause of every major problem facing Newfoundland and Labrador. While the Liberals have focused on creating jobs for their friends and party insiders, our top priority will be reducing red tape and fostering a business climate that enables every living, breathing resident who is willing and able to participate in the workforce to have a good paying job.

A PC Government will **lower taxes and offer new tax credits** to stimulate job growth. Business owners and operators say the greatest impediment for small business – the job-creating backbone of our economy – is the excessive burden of tax and red tape.

A PC Government will **slash red tape**, freeing businesses from any outdated rules that restrict job growth. We will implement an aggressive Red Tape Reduction Strategy to liberate business owners to spend more time generating new products, attracting customers, and creating jobs. A PC Government will adopt a **customer service culture**. We will set customer service benchmarks and report on our performance. We will put all forms online, and “pre-populate” forms that require annual filing to speed up the process.

We will launch a **business navigator service** to help employers easily find the information they need on regulations that apply to them so they can focus their attention on growing jobs.

Embracing innovation and the new economy, a PC Government will establish a **Remote Workers** pilot project to attract people to Newfoundland and Labrador who are employed elsewhere and can work remotely.

A PC Government will ensure **innovation and business supports** are available in all regions throughout the province and accessible to all entrepreneurs. A business in Northwest River will be able to access the same government support as a business on Water Street.

A PC Government will create a new **Venture Capital Fund**. The province will invest \$10 million in addition to private sector contributions obtained through a Venture Capital Tax Credit. This fund will be technology and innovation focused and will help companies expand their footprint in the province and expand exports.

A PC Government will view every government policy through a **Job Creation Lens** to ensure a whole-of-government approach to job creation in Newfoundland and Labrador.

A PC Government will regularly **meet with investors, business leaders, labour leaders and communities** for frank feedback and recommendations.

A PC Government will collaborate with communities and industries to **identify local prospects for development and growth** and work with them to seize opportunities that will enable our communities to prosper.

A PC Government will provide **secure digital access** to common government services on various devices, and introduce digital signature legislation to allow for binding digital transactions and agreements.

A PC Government will finish the job started by previous PC administrations and **ensure 98% internet connectivity to all residents by 2025**. We will strive to ensure all residents have access to high-speed and reliable Internet and cellular data service, providing an essential connection with the world economy to promote urban and especially rural job creation.

# 04.

## **Lowering Taxes Equals More Jobs**

A PC Government will unlock the job growth potential in Newfoundland and Labrador's tax policy. We will create the conditions to encourage private sector job growth by leveraging the tax system to encourage businesses to hire more Newfoundlanders and Labradorians. Lower taxes on job creators will enable our private sector to get Newfoundlanders and Labradorians back to work. A tax structure that encourages businesses to hire means more jobs for our people. It's as simple as that. It's all part of our comprehensive plan to Bring Back Jobs.

A PC Government will enact a **Hiring Tax Credit** to allow businesses to hire more people.

A PC Government will invest a portion of the income tax paid by new hires back into the business that has hired them.

To further encourage job growth, a PC Government will **reduce Payroll Tax** on full-time employees over time to encourage business owners to hire more and focus on full-time employment over precarious part-time work.

A PC Government will make it easier for people to accept work here by providing a **Relocation Tax Credit** to those who move here to accept a new job in targeted growth sectors. A Relocation Tax Credit will make it easier for local businesses to attract talent from across the country and around the world.

A PC Government will do a **cost/benefit analysis of all taxes and fees** and eliminate any that are ineffective.

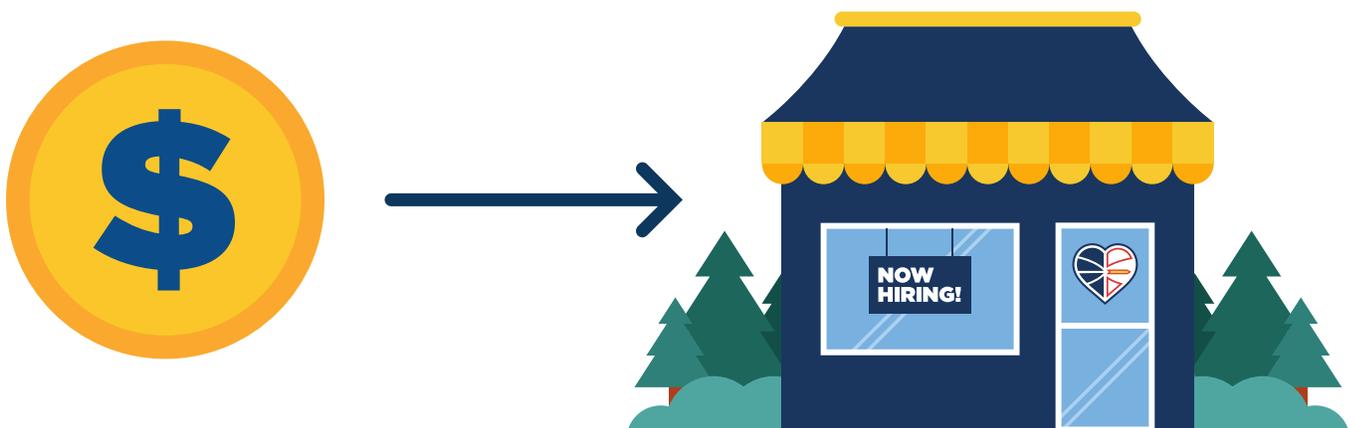
A PC Government will advocate for a review of the federal **northern residents deduction (tax exemption)** as it applies to this province.

A PC Government will develop tax credits to support the work of **artists, writers and other cultural producers**.

A PC Government will consult with the **tourism industry** on taxes, fees and levies to ensure the cost burden does not undermine the growth of our tourism economy or drive operators out of business.

To ensure our mining industry is operating to its potential, and to make sure local communities benefit from mining projects, a PC Government will review the **mining royalties and taxation regime**, a review the Liberals promised but failed to deliver.

A PC Government will provide regular, reasonable increases to the **minimum wage** by linking it to the Consumer Price Index.



# 05.

## Putting Local First

As we go about the work of bringing back jobs and putting our province back to work, a PC Government will ensure our own residents always come first – not big companies or elite special interests based outside our province!

A PC Government will require a **local benefits policy** when public funds are spent on infrastructure, to ensure Newfoundlanders and Labradorians receive maximum benefits and jobs, including underrepresented groups such as women, Indigenous persons and apprentices.

A PC Government will require a percentage of new hires on publicly funded projects to be **apprentices**. All too often, new trades workers drop out of their profession because they cannot get a job to further their training. These young workers have invested in trying to start a career here, and they need this support to continue and complete their training.

A PC Government will use our leverage to ensure **underrepresented groups such as women** get a percentage of work on public infrastructure projects.

Our new “Buy Local” initiative will **promote local products and businesses**, encouraging residents to buy local while also showcasing these businesses abroad.

The public sector under a PC Government will support local business by **purchasing goods, services and construction work from Newfoundland and Labrador suppliers** wherever possible. We will help our enterprises become bulk suppliers nationally.

A PC Government will **expand supply chains** that support all economic development so Newfoundlanders and Labradorians are the principal beneficiaries of all our province’s resources. In the offshore oil sector, for example, supply chain companies provide offshore supply boats and helicopters, health and safety equipment and training, engineering solutions and fabricators, food services and taxi services.



# 06.

## **Bringing Home More People to Fill More Jobs**

A PC Government will prioritize growing our population, so more people come to call our beautiful province home. More people contributing to our tax base, creating jobs, and enriching our local communities will lead to a more prosperous Newfoundland and Labrador.

A PC Government will develop a **strategy for population growth** spanning 2021-2025, focused on workforce development, families, communities and immigration.

A PC Government will work to **attract and retain more immigrants** as a province.

To make it easier to retain immigrants, a PC Government will expand **settlement assistance**.

To ensure our immigration system is in line with our economic needs, a PC Government will tailor specific **regional immigration strategies** to pair them with labour market needs.

A PC Government will review and enhance programs promoting the **immigration of entrepreneurs**, and proactively market these programs internationally, highlighting the comparative advantages of living and doing business in our province.

A PC Government will keep more young people here by establishing a **Graduate Retention Program** that provides a tax credit, to a maximum of \$20,000, when post-secondary graduates choose to work in this province.

A PC Government will help students stay in our province by extending **MCP coverage for international students** for 12 months after graduation, while they are actively looking for employment, so those who are not currently covered by MCP can safely establish careers in our province.

A PC Government will review and address the **financial barriers discouraging families from growing**.

A PC Government will develop cost-effective options to increase access to **in-vitro fertilization** with the objective of establishing an **in-vitro fertilization clinic** right here in Newfoundland and Labrador.

In cooperation with ACOA, a PC Government will tap the **Immigrant Investor Program (IIP)** to secure our share of up to \$1 billion available annually for the Atlantic region for priority sectors such as tourism and information technology. IIP is designed to drive economic growth by attracting new investment capital and by working with Newfoundland and Labrador businesses on a partnership basis. New Brunswick has already stepped up to seek its share of IIP. The investors are eager to invest, and the companies looking for those investments are eager to create jobs. Implementation only awaits a PC Government committed to jobs and growth.

# **07.**

## **Educating to Compete**

A PC Government will ensure Newfoundland and Labrador students have everything it takes to help our region compete – and win – on the world stage. We will ensure our school system maximizes the potential for all children, so we can, together, take our province to the next level with a supportive, inclusive society and a modern, dynamic economy that supports job creation.

A PC Government will retain and attract students by supporting among the most competitive post-secondary **tuition fees and student aid** programs in the country.

A PC Government will break down barriers to education by ensuring post-secondary programming is available to **students of all regions** of the province in a manner that is cost effective, because no one's academic success should depend on their postal code.

A PC Government will help students stay in our province by extending **MCP coverage for international students** for 12 months after graduation, while they are actively looking for employment, so those who are not currently covered by MCP can safely establish careers in our province.

A PC Government will review training, legislation and regulations for public and private training institutions to ensure **labour market-driven programming** with consistent guidelines that maintain high standards.

A PC Government will work with Memorial University, College of the North Atlantic and all private training institutions to **promote opportunities for those underrepresented in various fields of study, training and work.**

A PC Government will ensure Newfoundland and Labrador **graduates and attracts sufficient computer science professionals** to meet the growing need, something the Liberals did not do.

A PC Government will make it a priority to ensure our public education system is **adequately funded and resourced**, and treated as an investment rather than an expense, regardless of the current budgetary pressures.

A PC Government will guarantee quality public education for students by **improving class sizes** and ensuring an immediate and independent review of the Teacher Allocation Model.

A PC Government will be committed to providing adequate human resources to improve educational opportunities for **children with special needs.**

A PC Government will improve students' access to assistance and support from **school counsellors**, mental health professionals, and related personnel.

A PC Government will ensure our teaching personnel are **hired earlier** in the school year rather than after other provinces' job fairs.

A PC Government will ensure our school system **maximizes the potential of all children.**

A PC Government will review the **senior high school curriculum** to ensure courses are relevant and promote creative thinking, problem solving, financial literacy, programming skills, civic participation and decision-making skills essential to success.

A PC Government will develop the necessary programs to ensure students master **reading, writing, mathematics, and mental health curriculum**. Interventions would follow as needed.

A PC Government will enhance **blended learning**, using technology and experiential learning to enrich students.

A PC Government will work to ensure all students have **reliable internet access** for online learning.

A PC Government will strive to enhance the **wellness** of our province's youth through a modernization of health teachers' resources, and work towards ensuring quality daily physical education. Improving wellness leads to better health outcomes, which ultimately leads to lower health care costs.

A PC Government will provide training in **American Sign Language (ASL)** to teachers and classmates of students who are deaf and hard of hearing, to ensure more inclusive learning.

A PC Government will ensure parents and students can count on our province to build a modern education system for the 2020s by releasing a five-year education **infrastructure plan**.

A PC Government will ensure that Conseil scolaire francophone provincial de Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador has the infrastructure resources it needs to deliver **Francophone education** in the province.

A PC Government will revisit the **specifications for new schools** in light of COVID-19 and in preparation for future virus outbreaks.

A PC Government will revisit the specifications for new schools to provide space for **early childhood education**.

In consultation with stakeholders, a PC Government will explore utilizing our schools, where possible, as **year-round community centres**, making them available for early childhood education, non-profits, and other social supportive programming.

A PC Government will develop Newfoundland and Labrador **Public Libraries** to act as lifelong learning centres.

A PC Government will develop a new policy on **school busing within 1.6 kilometres of school**.

**08.**

## **Helping Parents Get Ahead**

To match a growing economy, give our kids the head start they deserve, make life more affordable, and make it easier for parents to participate in the workforce, a PC Government will introduce new, family-friendly measures to boost access to early childhood education. We will also support much-needed federal investments in early childhood education.

Affordable access to early childhood education is vital. The Liberal approach lacks any long-term, holistic planning. A PC Government will act immediately to establish a **panel of early childhood education operators and care providers** and meet regularly to ensure proper consultation informs all decisions. We will adapt policies based on advice we receive.

A PC Government will follow through on its 2019 commitment to **\$25-a-day early childhood education** while working with the federal government to introduce a universal publicly funded early childhood education program that adequately addresses quality, affordability, capacity and fair wages, commencing with a three-year bilateral agreement.

The PC plan will include an **improved rate for home-based early childhood education**, not only improved rates at child care centres.

A PC Government will ensure early childhood education **subsidies are provided to operators** in a more streamlined and timely manner.

A PC Government will **reduce wait lists at College of the North Atlantic** to train early childhood education providers.

A PC Government will explore opportunities to enable early childhood educators to attain Levels I to III **certification** more easily.

A PC Government will ensure **student parents** continue to receive child care benefits between academic semesters.

In consultation with stakeholders, a PC Government will explore utilizing our schools, where possible, as **year-round community centres**, making them available for early childhood education, non-profits, and other social supportive programming.

A PC Government will revisit the specifications for new schools to provide space for **early childhood education**.

In an effort to **increase the number of affordable infant and early childhood education spaces**, a PC Government will help to offset the cost of undertaking necessary home modifications to upgrade providers' status from non-regulated to regulated.

# 09.

## **Standing Up for Our Energy Industry and Jobs**

A PC Government will fight for our energy industry – and the jobs that go with it – so we can make our province strong! Our offshore industry needs dramatic support to preserve jobs and create new jobs – support of the magnitude delivered by PC Governments to ensure the development of Hibernia. Instead, our industry was met with hostility from the Trudeau Liberals who want to see the industry wither and die, and appeasement by the provincial Liberals eager to receive scraps from the federal table.

A PC Government will demand federal action to facilitate work on **West White Rose, Terra Nova and Bay du Nord, and new exploration**. We will champion the case for dramatic support for our offshore industry, now and in the future, not just in Ottawa but in opinion centres around Canada. Failure is not an option.

And where support from Trudeau is not forthcoming, we will demonstrate confidence in the offshore by making needed **provincial equity investments** ourselves.

A PC Government will follow through on the **PC Action Plan: Jobs and Growth for Our Offshore** published in 2020. [\[LINK\]](#) We can enjoy enormous prosperity with well-paying offshore jobs, and help the world to lower greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and meet climate change goals. But to achieve this potential, we need visionary leadership.

A PC Government will drive **growth in the oil and gas sector**. Oil and gas will supply much of the world's energy needs until well beyond 2040. Proven developed supply from onstream fields can meet about half of this demand, leaving a huge amount of oil and gas yet to be found and developed to satisfy global demand. Our province has staggering resource potential, and the economics of our large fields, together with their low carbon emissions at point of extraction and relatively low carbon intensity as fuels, puts them in the advantaged category for exploration and development.

A PC Government will make **natural gas development** a priority by investing in a joint feasibility study, funded by the province and industry. We know natural gas has an even lower carbon footprint than our low-emission oil, and would create more local jobs.

A PC Government will take a **"life of field" perspective** with respect to all oil and gas development, identifying and maximizing local benefits from the outset. This perspective will ensure there are local economic benefits and local jobs at every stage of the process, from land tenure to exploration, to production, to decommissioning.

A PC Government will require sustainable development of the province's energy reserves. We will publish a **new energy plan** to guide renewable and nonrenewable energy development for the next 10 years. The plan will integrate wind power, tidal energy and natural gas into future development. We will integrate Nalcor and Hydro, and provide appropriate and effective oversight.

A PC Government will maximize the use of valuable **infrastructure such as the Bull Arm fabrication site** and sites in Marystown, Bay Bulls and Port aux Basques to support job creation in the province.

A PC Government will support the continuing operation of the **Come by Chance oil refinery**. This support starts with the Premier taking a close personal interest in the talks to understand the issues and facilitate a deal for the sale.



A PC Government will work with remote communities and associated stakeholders to develop and leverage **sustainable energy solutions**, such as wind energy, to reduce the reliance on diesel fuel.

A PC Government will work with academic and community stakeholders to develop renewable energy **education and training programs**.

A PC Government will appoint a committee of experts to plan and find urgent solutions to replace the lopsided **Churchill Falls contract**.

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# *10.* **Making Muskrat Work**

After years of Liberal mismanagement, a PC Government will get the Muskrat Falls development project back on track. As part of our negotiations with Ottawa, a PC Government will fight for a rate mitigation plan that keeps electricity rates stable, predictable, and affordable.

A PC Government will be a tough negotiator and demand the federal government take an **equity stake** in the Muskrat Falls development project.

We will be aggressive and positive in **marketing surplus energy**, and use the revenue to mitigate rates.

We will use all options available, including electrification, conservation and demand management, to ensure the people of the province get the **best value from the electricity** we produce.

The Lower Churchill project will make our electricity 98% green and make us one of the cleanest jurisdictions in the world. Therefore, consumers should not have to pay Justin Trudeau's **carbon tax**. We've done our part.

A PC Government will fight to **ensure Quebec does not benefit at Newfoundland and Labrador's expense** from the Atlantic Loop or any other energy program.

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# ***11.***

## **Creating Clean Green Jobs, Protecting Our Environment**

As Progressive Conservatives, we don't accept that we must choose between a healthy economy and a healthy environment. Rather, we understand the two go hand in hand. A PC Government will take a sustainable development approach. We will manage our renewable resources with the long-term future in mind to ensure the renewable industries we inherit are passed to future generations in a better, stronger, and more resilient condition.

A PC Government will promote the development of enterprises throughout Newfoundland and Labrador that capitalize on **green employment and business start-up opportunities**.

A PC Government will continue working towards **remediation of orphaned and abandoned mines**.

A PC Government will develop opportunities to better use our own recyclables and waste here in our province.

A PC Government will double the investment in **Conservation Corps Green Teams to clean up waste**, and provide a post-secondary tax credit for team members. We will promote their work to raise awareness of litter and pollution.

A PC Government will work with the federal government and the fishing sector to develop a policy that will **remove ghost nets** and other plastic debris from Newfoundland and Labrador waters.

A PC Government will reduce emissions in Newfoundland and Labrador. We will establish targets with public reporting annually. We will ensure Newfoundland and Labrador does its fair share to meet Canada's **net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emission targets**. This year, we will be the greenest province in Canada for electricity, with **98%** of our power coming from clean Hydro.

A PC Government will **promote the benefits of hydroelectricity** in making our province **98%** green in electricity generation, and market our electricity nationally and internationally as a green alternative to coal.

The offshore industry is already dramatically reducing its GHG emissions, and we can help Canada and the world meet climate change goals by working with the industry to further reduce GHG emissions and help the province meet its emissions targets. A PC Government will work with the oil sector to **power offshore rigs with hydroelectricity** or wind power where feasible.

A PC Government will work with stakeholders to make clean **hydro power available to supply vessels** and other ships in port, which now keep their diesel engines running to maintain power.

Newfoundland and Labrador's offshore oil is a light sweet crude and as such has less of an environmental impact than oil produced elsewhere in the world. Additionally, our industry partners have committed to reaching net zero emissions. A PC Government will **promote our petroleum products** as a greener alternative to oil produced elsewhere in the global community.

A PC Government will make natural gas development a priority with a goal of **marketing our natural gas** to replace coal in some jurisdictions and to replace costlier natural gas in other jurisdictions.

A PC Government will work with remote communities and associated stakeholders to develop and leverage **sustainable energy solutions**, such as wind energy, to fuel sustainable natural resource activities.

A PC Government will consider how **biofuels** can be used to reduce the province's GHG emissions while growing green economic opportunities.

A PC Government will enable **research and development** of green technologies, initiatives and private sector projects that help reduce emissions.

A PC Government will promote the use of **electric vehicles** and help to increase access to charging stations.

In conjunction with municipalities and industry, a PC Government will review best practices to ensure that **new builds** are efficient in terms of cost of heating the building and the environmental impact of emissions.

A PC Government will support job-creating **improvements to the buildings, roads and other infrastructure that are most susceptible to the effects of climate change**, such as erosion.

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# *12.*

## **More Mining Jobs**

We will unlock the potential in our province's mining industry, increase resource revenues, and create good-paying jobs by incentivizing exploration and equipping a new generation of mining workers with the modernized tools they need to build a career.

A PC Government will apply lessons learned from oil and gas exploration to drive growth in our mining industry. We will actively **promote the province's wealth of undeveloped mineral resources**, include rare earth elements that are of great importance in newly advanced technologies. We will work with the mining industry to increase mining activity in all regions, including the Labrador Trough and Eastern Labrador.

We will make exploration easier, not only by publishing maps and mineral geoscience data to help prospectors, but also by **incentivizing mining exploration** in Newfoundland and Labrador through measures such as tax credits that will accelerate activity and provide jobs.

A PC Government will review the **Mining Act and the Minerals Act and the regulatory regime** to expedite development.

To ensure our industry is operating to its potential, and to make sure local communities benefit from mining projects, a PC Government will **review the mining royalties and taxation regime**, a review the Liberals promised but failed to deliver.

A PC Government will meet with mining proponents in our province to discuss any obstacles to launching or growing their operations, and work collaboratively with them to overcome the challenges and get jobs growing. To **accelerate growth and job creation in the Newfoundland and Labrador mining industry**, we will proactively assist shovel-ready mining projects to progress from planning to operation.

A PC Government will work with industry and academic stakeholders to prepare and promote careers in the mining industry, as well as develop **training opportunities** for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians.

A PC Government will work with industry, communities and businesses to **expand the supply and service industry** that can compete for local, national and international mining opportunities.



# **13.**

## **Growing Our Fisheries Sustainably**

We understand that growing and sustainable fisheries are key to the Newfoundland and Labrador economy. That's why we've brought forward a responsible, sustainable plan for the continued expansion of our fisheries. We will help fish harvesters and coastal communities rejuvenate their economies by working directly with those in the industry – not government bureaucrats – to develop policies that work for them. Plus, we will challenge Ottawa to grant our province more local control over our fisheries.

A PC Government will bring decision-making closer to home by demanding **joint management** of our fisheries.

A PC Government will work with stakeholders across the fishing industry to expand **value-added secondary processing** of the fishing resource. New trade agreements like CETA open a path to increased market access for Newfoundland and Labrador's fish and cold ocean products.

A PC Government will promote open and fair access to our fishery based on the principles of **adjacency and historic usage**, including Indigenous access.

A PC Government will empower the Fish Processing Licensing Board to inquire into **foreign ownership of fish processing** operations and make recommendations.

A PC Government will oppose any **unilateral federal action on quotas** to remove or redistribute allocations provided to Newfoundland and Labrador.

A PC Government will seek options to curtail the waste of **unintended by-catch**.

Global demand for fish protein continues to increase. A PC Government will work with fish resource stakeholders to explore options for sustainable market access for all **underutilized species**.

A PC Government will seek further review with stakeholders on **Marine Protection Areas** to ensure that communities adjacent to these areas must be able to conduct sustainable fishing activities.

Our humane **seal harvest**, with full utilization of seal products from oil to leather to protein, can sustain jobs and communities while helping cod stocks recover. A PC Government will ensure the resources exist to support and market our industry properly.

A PC Government will **protect our fish resources from seals**. If a cull is required to reduce predation to save fish stocks, we will find a way to make that happen.

Given the growing global demand for fish protein, an expanded aquaculture industry has the potential to further bolster rural Newfoundland and Labrador. A PC Government will champion an environmentally sustainable industry that is not working to the detriment of our existing wild stocks, and one that leverages science and innovation to provide long-term opportunities. We will also work to streamline the existing regulatory framework while increasing transparency in reporting and monitoring of our aquaculture industry.

# ***14.***

## **Healthy Forests, Sustainable Ecosystems, More Jobs**

We will make our forests a source of wealth for Newfoundland and Labrador, providing economic, social and environmental benefits – while growing and protecting jobs in the sector.

A PC Government will work with forest industry stakeholders to seize new opportunities, including new product development and value-added **secondary processing** opportunities.

A PC Government will engage the forestry industry and the adjacent communities to implement an **ecosystem management strategy**.

A PC Government will ensure sustainable forest development, which means we must be more intensive in **replenishing our forests** and continue to be vigilant in protecting our forests from infestations and fires.

A PC Government will continue to stand by **Corner Brook Pulp and Paper**, and the direct and indirect jobs it sustains.

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# *15.* **Cultivating Agriculture Jobs**

We are not producing enough of the food we eat. That's a food security issue. It's also a jobs issue. If our store shelves are not stocked with enough Newfoundland and Labrador goods, imagine how little of the food on national shelves is from Newfoundland and Labrador. We will make more land available for farming and help those who want to grow their operations or get into farming.

A PC Government will work with farmers and farm associations to understand and **remove barriers to growth in food production** and sale for local consumption.

A PC Government will develop a **farm loan guarantee program**.

A PC Government will restructure granting programs to enable leveraging of **private sector venture capital investment**.

A PC Government will support new initiatives to **expand the industry**, including indoor farming, to capitalize on our unique production capacity for the export of products such as blueberries.

A PC Government will work to secure a greater share of the growing market for **organic foods**, and liaise with organic farmers to identify incentives and other assistance that may facilitate growth.

A PC Government will **support resource sharing** among farmers in Newfoundland and Labrador, recognizing the province has historically failed at resource sharing.

A PC government will work with the agriculture industry to explore opportunities to **increase access to land for agriculture**. Currently, over 60,000 hectares of land is located in areas of agricultural interest. This land can be utilized to expand the industry, creating local jobs and providing local, healthy food for our residents.

A PC Government will partner with agricultural producers, academia, and the research community on research projects with the goal of **improving farm efficiency, product quality, and innovation**. A PC government will use its resources to leverage private industry investment. A PC Government will support research that can be applied to our local industry.

A PC Government will develop a suite of initiatives to attract and **support new entrants** in various sectors of the agricultural industry. We will facilitate mentoring, mutual support networks, and training opportunities for farmers, farm workers and farm families. We will ensure young people have the support they need to enter this industry. To support new-entrant success, we will also identify markets currently not being served by existing producers to expand opportunities.

A PC Government will work with producers to meet the ever-increasing consumer expectations for **food safety and high quality** in food products to ensure our Newfoundland and Labrador produce and product brand is recognized as safe and high quality.

A PC Government will work to increase the value and marketability, locally and globally, of **local agricultural products**.

A PC Government will **promote the local purchase** of Newfoundland and Labrador-produced foods.

# 16.

## Revitalizing Tourism

A PC Government will take action immediately, in collaboration with the tourism industry, to capture a greater share of the post-pandemic global tourism market. We will do it by developing a new tourism strategy and by prioritizing action on Hospitality NL's prime areas of focus:

- Ensuring a critical mass of authentic attractions and experiences with supporting infrastructure and service in the right locations, to respond to market demands and expectations;
- Developing multi-season tourism demand to help achieve sustainable, viable tourism products; and
- Balancing people's desire to travel with the need to protect our natural environment.

Newfoundland and Labrador is paying the price for the Liberals' decision not to have an air access strategy. One air route after another was canceled in the pre-pandemic period, and more are being lost. A PC Government will put into action an assertive **air access strategy** designed to expand routes serving airports throughout Newfoundland and Labrador.

A PC Government will complement the air access strategy with **sea and land access** components that focus on Marine Atlantic access and affordability, provincial ferry access, road quality, "wayfinding" signage quality, tourist information availability and quality, and other matters identified in collaboration with the tourism industry.

A PC Government will ensure Newfoundland and Labrador remains a world leader and standard setter in **marketing in digital, social, broadcast and print media**.

A PC Government will take action immediately, in collaboration with the tourism industry, to capture a **greater share of the post-pandemic global tourism market** in high-value markets such as Europe and East Asia, which (in the pre-pandemic period) generated enormous amounts of tourism spending.

A PC Government will encourage Newfoundlanders and Labradorians to **explore our own province** by targeting local consumers with "vacation at home" marketing and working with the industry to develop more vacation packages for Newfoundland and Labrador residents.

A PC Government will conduct an in-depth **review of existing regulations** (such as the Tourist Establishments Act) to identify solutions that will ensure a fair and equitable business environment for tourism service providers.

A PC Government will consult with the tourism industry on **taxes, fees and levies** to ensure the cost burden does not undermine the growth of our tourism economy or drive operators out of business.

A PC Government will expedite the process for **registering, listing and accessing attractions** in the province's tourism book (Traveller's Guide & Map) and on tourism websites and digital listings.

A PC Government will partner to develop a provincial network of world-class **digital supports for tourists and operators**. We will work with Hospitality NL to identify needs among tourism operators for support to enhance online booking and e-commerce.

A PC Government will collaborate with tourism stakeholders to achieve **world-class standards and consistent quality** in accommodations, food service and visitor information; reward excellence; and support standards-based certification.

A PC Government will develop tax credits to support the work of **artists, writers and other cultural producers**.

A PC Government will work with those who are **investing to grow authentic attractions** in our province, such as the Ecclesiastical Precinct of St. John's (the Basilica, the Anglican Cathedral, the Kirk and Gower Street United Church), and assist them in securing funding from ACOA and other sources.

Significant public funding has been invested in the **Colonial Building**, an important asset the province owns. When fiscal circumstances permit, a PC Government will look at opening this cultural property as a showpiece of Newfoundland and Labrador's political, constitutional and cultural history and a beacon signaling our commitment to democracy, inclusiveness and openness.

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# ***17.*** **Unlocking Labrador's Potential**

The people of Labrador deserve access to the same services as people in the rest of the province. At the same time, Labrador needs a government with a long-term vision for its economic future. Achieving both of those objectives will guide our government's new Northern Strategic Plan for Labrador.

Labrador is a distinctive region of the province with unique challenges and opportunities. All our policies include Labradorians, but there are specific approaches we need to take to respect the particular circumstances and opportunities in Labrador.

A PC Government will collaborate with Labradorians to develop a new **Northern Strategic Plan for Labrador**.

Labrador residents often have to stay in hospital in Happy Valley-Goose Bay and Labrador West for weeks or months while waiting to be flown to St. John's for a diagnostic test or procedure, negatively impacting patient health. A PC Government will **review services and bed availability in Happy Valley-Goose Bay and Labrador West** to explore ways to reduce the need to travel, reduce wait times and improve patient care.

A PC Government will take action to increase the **availability and affordability of food in Labrador**, giving special attention to fresh products and produce.

A PC Government will **ensure Nain has a safe airstrip** that can be used 24 hours a day.

A PC Government will work with local stakeholders to explore options to **reduce reliance on diesel energy generation**.

A PC Government will pursue every opportunity to see Labrador recognized nationally and internationally as a **Gateway to the North**, with proper road routes and sea routes extending beyond Labrador. This recognition will position Labrador to take a lead role in providing goods, services and a base of expertise for all other regions of Canada's North.

A PC Government will press the Government of Canada to acknowledge the importance of raising the quality of the **Trans-Labrador Highway** to Canadian national highway standards.

A PC Government will undertake a feasibility study on a **North Coast Highway** which is the next step in connecting communities, creating opportunities for mineral exploration, supplementing medical air travel with road travel, serving as a route for food and other goods, and providing a corridor for electrical transmission lines that could reduce diesel reliance. Construction of the highway will be undertaken in full consultation with affected communities.

A PC Government will create a **Labrador Culture Fund** to help remove barriers to developing and sharing Labrador's cultural richness.

A PC Government will commission an independent review of the stability of the **North Spur** at Muskrat Falls.

A PC Government will direct Nalcor to settle the property damage case arising out of the 2017 **flooding of Mud Lake and area**.

# **18.**

## **Acknowledging Truth. Achieving Reconciliation.**

Indigenous communities in Newfoundland and Labrador include the Inuit of Nunatsiavut, the Innu of Nitassinan, the Southern Inuit of NunatuKavut, the Miawpukek Mi'kamaway Mawi'omi First Nation of Conne River, and the Qalipu First Nation. We will establish respectful and understanding working relationships and true partnerships with Indigenous communities and organizations, in order to resolve longstanding issues in the spirit of reconciliation and address a wide range of issues that concern Indigenous people and may overlap various areas of jurisdiction: transportation infrastructure and services; health care; safety; education; post-secondary education and training; children and youth; access to healthy and affordable food; access to housing; search and rescue; justice and policing; environmental protection; development and employment; the preservation and promotion of heritage and culture; and other matters.

A PC Government will honour those whose stories have been told through the **Truth and Reconciliation** process and respect the recommendations that this process has brought forward.

A PC Government will honour those whose stories have been told through the **National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls**. We will work with the federal government to implement the recommendations and empower Indigenous women and girls to reach their full potential and become leaders in our province. The inquiry reported a high level of violence against women in Indigenous communities. We will work with Indigenous leaders to support women and girls.

A PC Government will adopt a policy of **zero tolerance for racism**. We will work with Indigenous communities to address institutionalized racism in our province.

A PC Government will apologize to Indigenous communities, families and individuals whose lives were severely impacted during the years of the **residential school system**.

A PC Government will **respect agreements** and work cooperatively with Indigenous communities as they pursue their goals.

A PC Government will work with the federal government, Indigenous organizations and governments, and Memorial University to create effective **support for Indigenous languages** in Newfoundland and Labrador.

A PC Government will explore opportunities to engage Indigenous communities, educators, the Centre for Distance Learning and Innovation, and others in promoting education on **Indigenous cultures, languages and history** to students in schools throughout Newfoundland and Labrador.

A PC Government will work with Memorial University to develop specialized undergraduate and graduate courses and programming for **Indigenous leadership, business and entrepreneurship development**.

A PC Government will work with the Nunatsiavut Government to **transfer Inuit child protection services**.

A PC Government will work with the Innu Nation to provide a greater level of **cultural supports to children in care**.

A PC Government will call a **public inquiry into the treatment of Innu children in care** and take action to implement the recommendations of the inquiry.

A PC Government will work with Indigenous leaders to ensure values, knowledge and cultural practices are **integrated in all policies** as well as planning and services for Indigenous children and youth.

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**A PC Government will reinstate the Indigenous Liaison Position that was cut by the Liberal government. The goal of this office will be to help residents receive government services in the language of their choice.**

**A PC Government will work with Indigenous communities to establish a healing strategy focused on Intergenerational Trauma.**

# **19.**

## **Achieving Equality for Women**

Any society in which women are not treated equitably is not just, healthy or sustainable. In Newfoundland and Labrador today, women are not treated equitably. Women are not fairly represented in decision-making roles. Women are paid less. Women are disproportionately vulnerable to poverty and violence. Women's issues are often marginalized, discounted or ignored. This must change, and it will change under a PC Government.

A PC Government will demonstrate our commitment to the importance of achieving women's equality by returning the **Status of Women portfolio** to a standalone ministry with a full-time, dedicated minister of the Crown. The minister in this portfolio will play a powerful role in government by taking the lead in cabinet on such initiatives as "gender-based analysis plus" (GBA+), pay equity legislation, gender parity initiatives, violence prevention, the task force on intimate partner and family violence, collaboration with community advocates, liaising with Indigenous governments, and other matters.

A PC Government will affirm that **advancing women's equality** in all aspects of life will advance our entire society by bringing women's perspectives to governance, diversifying the workforce, boosting our economy, improving business performance, contributing to higher levels of life satisfaction, reducing levels of violence and conflict, and more.

A PC Government will immediately work to improve the economic status of women in our province by developing **pay equity legislation**.

A PC Government will enhance the representation of women in public service leadership positions by supporting **gender parity** in all appointments to Boards, Agencies, and Commissions, as well as all Executive positions. We will set targets and report on our performance in achieving them on an annual basis.

A PC Government will ensure that "**gender-based analysis plus**" (GBA+) policy tools are applied in all government decision-making. Gender-based analyses will be required in all research, recommendations, decisions and performance reporting.

A PC Government will collaborate with women's equality-seeking advocates to **strengthen relationships and increase their role** in public policy development.

A PC Government will collaborate with the Provincial Action Network on the Status of Women and other equality-seeking and anti-violence advocates to implement a feminist, **gender-based response to COVID-19**, and ensure our review of the province's pandemic response has a gender lens.

A PC Government will require a **local benefits policy** when public funds are spent on infrastructure, to ensure Newfoundlanders and Labradorians receive maximum benefits and jobs, including underrepresented groups such as women, Indigenous persons and apprentices.

A PC Government will use our leverage to ensure **underrepresented groups such as women** get a percentage of work on public infrastructure projects.

A PC Government will explore options to promote **better representation** of women, Indigenous communities and minorities among members elected to the House of Assembly.

# 20.

## Protecting the Vulnerable

A shrinking economy leaves many people vulnerable to poverty and violence. Violence is devastating, causing profound and lasting impacts on individuals, families and communities. The social and cultural roots of violence are based on inequality. Violence is reinforced by expressions of sexism, ageism, classism, heterosexism, ableism and other biased attitudes. Levels of interpersonal violence remain high in our province, particularly affecting women; Indigenous women and children; children and youth; persons with disabilities; older persons; lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons; persons of varying race or ethnicity; and persons of varying economic status. A PC Government will work to prevent violence, support survivors, reduce poverty and help people achieve personal self-reliance.

A PC Government will develop a new, long-term **violence prevention strategy** based on evidence and best practices to help prevent violence from occurring.

A PC Government will increase **support for community-based organizations** that assist survivors of violence.

A PC Government will collaborate with Indigenous organizations and governments to support the development and implementation of long-term, culturally appropriate **solutions to violence against Indigenous women and children.**

A PC Government will collaborate with the Provincial Action Network on the Status of Women, Indigenous women's organizations, survivors of violence and other partners to establish a **task force to examine the issues of intimate partner and family violence** and develop an action plan. The task force will have representation from all parties in the House of Assembly and various community stakeholders.

We will advance **Family Violence Intervention Courts** based on the recommendations of the task force.

A PC Government will work with **Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners** to explore opportunities to improve public access to this service.

A PC Government will work with the Seniors' Advocate on **strategies to protect vulnerable seniors** by addressing violence, abuse, exploitation and consumer protection, particularly in relation to marketing fraud.

Poverty is a complex social and economic issue that negatively affects individuals, families and Newfoundland and Labrador society as a whole. A PC Government will develop a new **Poverty Reduction Strategy** to help improve the well-being and quality of life of those who are now living in poverty. Our strategy will enable many to escape the grip of poverty, pursue opportunities and achieve personal self-reliance. Our strategy will benefit not just those living in poverty but our entire province, ensuring all Newfoundlanders and Labradorians can reap the rewards of a strong, prosperous and sustainable economy.

A PC Government will provide regular, reasonable increases to the **minimum wage** by linking it to the Consumer Price Index.

A PC Government will create a new **strategy for the inclusion of persons with disabilities** in collaboration with non-profit and community organizations to remove systemic barriers and help achieve the full inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of Newfoundland and Labrador society, including education and employment.

A PC Government will work with organizations whose mandate focuses on the issue of **housing and homelessness** to implement and support their plans. A PC Government will strive to ensure all organizations and individuals have the supports they require.



**A PC Government will provide multiyear grants to the community service organizations and non-profits it supports so these groups have certainty in their budgeting process.**

# **21.**

## **Learning from COVID-19**

We sincerely thank the people of Newfoundland and Labrador for the sacrifices you have been making to keep one another safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. We understand this crisis is unprecedented, and it is not over. A PC Government will remain vigilant and rely on Public Health to provide guidance as we advance toward a conclusion of the pandemic. We will work collaboratively to help address the needs of the many who are impacted by this pandemic – some severely. And we will learn important lessons so our province is better prepared for future crises.

In early 2020, as the pandemic took hold in Newfoundland and Labrador, PC leader Ches Crosbie was instrumental in establishing the **all-party committee on our province's COVID-19 response** – a regular forum where parties could bring people's concerns to the table where decisions are made and work together on effective solutions. The committee worked very effectively until the new premier diminished its role. A PC Government will reinstate the all-party committee, continue its regular meetings throughout the pandemic, and treat participants with respect so the committee serves as a useful, functional mechanism for information to be shared and acted on.

A PC Government will do **point-of-entry testing** at our border access points to alleviate the burden on rotational workers and allow our economy to safely reopen sooner. We have been calling for point-of-entry testing from the start, based on science and best practices. We will audit this approach to determine its effectiveness.

A PC Government will ensure people **get vaccinations in as timely a manner as possible**, recognizing that we can alleviate the most suffering by prioritizing delivery to those who are most vulnerable.

A PC Government will not lose sight of the **importance of remaining vigilant**, even as people are being vaccinated, so the infection does not take hold again in our communities.

A PC Government will **address the mental health needs** of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians who have been severely impacted by the pandemic and the measures to combat it.

A PC Government will **minimize disruptions to non-Covid health care** so patients can access the care they require in a timely manner.

The Liberals destroyed the province's stockpile of personal protective equipment (PPE) before the pandemic, leaving the province unprepared. Thanks to Newfoundland and Labrador's geography and the caring nature of our people, we avoided the worst outcomes of other jurisdictions. A PC Government will work to **increase access to personal protective equipment**. We will ensure there is an adequate warehouse stockpile of PPE available and ready to use for future outbreaks.

A PC Government will **review the response to the COVID-19 crisis** to learn lessons.

A PC Government will work with the Government of Canada and others to help address the needs of **individuals, families, employers and communities impacted** by the pandemic and by the measures the federal and provincial governments and others have taken to deal with COVID-19 and its consequences.

# 22.

## **Better Health Access for Better Health Outcomes**

There's something fundamentally wrong with the way health care is delivered in Newfoundland and Labrador right now. 90,000 people do not have access to a family doctor. Without access, people are not getting timely care. Problems that could be caught early are turning into major health issues that lead to worse outcomes and tragic suffering for people. They also lead to higher costs. We need to be seeing and treating people sooner. And just as importantly, we need to be doing more to keep people from getting sick in the first place. Instead of a 'sick' care system, we need a 'health' care system that focuses on prevention and early intervention. That's how our government will improve outcomes while reducing costs. That approach is a win-win for everyone. It's time to get it done.

We commit to take the advice of the Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association to create a province-wide program of **primary health care teams**:

Teams where patients receive **comprehensive care**;

Teams where family physicians can transition away from solo practice to **team practice**;

Teams where nurse practitioners, registered nurses and other providers can be connected and integrated with family doctors in team structures;

Teams where patients can have a **continuous relationship** with their own “most responsible provider”;

Teams where the progress we have made in electronic medical records and virtual care can be harvested for **integrated team care**;

Teams where the focus can shift to **wellness and disease prevention**.

As well, we will heed the NLMA’s advice to set two specific goals:

We will **reduce the proportion of unattached patients** in the province to 5 per cent.

We will **retain 75 per cent of Memorial medical graduates** who pursue family medicine.

It is imperative that we take this approach because there is something fundamentally wrong when 90,000 people do not have **access to a family doctor**. Every resident of the province should have access to a family doctor, because that will lead to earlier diagnosis, earlier treatment, fewer complications, better outcomes – and lower costs.

Our new health care team model will provide residents with access to family doctors, nurse practitioners, nurses, physiotherapists, pharmacists, occupational therapists and dieticians.

We will work collaboratively with the Newfoundland and Labrador Nurse Practitioner Association to create new full-time permanent positions for **nurse practitioners** in communities needing them.

We will ensure all health care professionals are able to practice at their **full scope of professional practice**.

Health care teams will offer **after-hour and weekend clinics** as well as virtual care.

We will **modernize the medical fee structures** so they are flexible enough to cover innovative arrangements for service delivery by multidisciplinary health care teams.

We will work with communities, doctors, and the NLMA to focus on the **recruitment of family doctors**. We will develop a more robust retention structure for graduating physicians of the Memorial University Medical School and provide attractive reimbursement/taxation packages for those who choose to practice in the province, particularly in rural Newfoundland and Labrador.

We will ensure these teams will be able to use the **Electronic Medical Record** to improve the flow of information among health care providers.

We will ensure patients have better **access to their own medical record** by working with the Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Health Information (NLCHI).

We will maximize the implementation of **electronic tools to remind patients of appointments**, thereby reducing the large volume of missed appointments.

We will further expand the use of **virtual care technologies** that allow patients to access appropriate care in any region of the province. Your postal code will not determine your access to care or your quality of care.

We will ensure supports are in place to help those who do not use technology to continue to access appropriate **care in-person**.

We will change the **Medical Transportation Assistance Plan (MTAP)** to allow 100 per cent reimbursement of travel for people who must travel for medical reasons outside their region.

We will investigate opportunities to create a **routine air ambulance** service designed to increase the quality of patient care. Patients will be able to take advantage of air transportation instead of traveling long distances via road.

We will work with the Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Midwives to increase **access to midwifery** in our province.

We will develop a public registry of all **Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)** in the province so that in the case of an emergency, 911 dispatch operators and the public can locate the closest AED. We will also establish a maintenance program to keep AEDs in the province up to date, serviced and ready to use when needed.

We will remove the age cap and ensure Medicare covers the cost of **insulin pumps for all** persons with Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus. We are aware of new technology now being tested and will cover this device once it is proven.

We will optimize **access to dialysis** with a focus on home dialysis throughout the province.

We will deliver a **PET Scanner to the Corner Brook Regional Hospital** when it opens.

We will reinstate 24-hour emergency room coverage at the **Dr. Hugh Twomey Health Centre in Botwood**.

We will cancel any planned reduction in laboratory services at the **Central Newfoundland Hospital in Grand Falls-Windsor**.

We will develop a **Cardiac Centre of Excellence** to make our province a leader in cardiac care.

A PC Government will develop cost-effective options to increase access to **in-vitro fertilization** with the objective of establishing an **in-vitro fertilization clinic** right here in Newfoundland and Labrador.

In 2016, the Liberal government reduced access to dental care for low-income adults. A PC Government will right this wrong by increasing the **availability of dental coverage** for seniors and other low-income adults.

A PC Government will adopt the approach of **Choosing Wisely NL** to educate health care providers and patients about the appropriateness of various tests, procedures and treatments to minimize waste and harm in the health care system.

A PC Government will follow through on its 2019 commitment to a **Premier's Task Force on Health Care**, borrowed by the Liberals.

We agree with Dr. Pat Parfrey and Sr. Elizabeth Davis when they publicly challenged the Liberal government statements about hospital closures being on the table. We will **not accept a single recommendation of the Liberal government** without having an outcomes analysis, not just a cost-savings analysis.

On all health care reforms, a PC Government will **consult with the public sector unions, frontline workers and health care advocates**.

Prevention is paramount. Instead of a 'sick' care system, we need a 'health' care system. A PC Government will appoint a **Chief Wellness Officer (CWO)** to find ways to make Newfoundlanders and Labradorians healthier so they need less care, have healthier lives and incur less cost. The CWO will provide strategic vision, planning and direction to the development, implementation and evaluation of initiatives to improve health and well-being outcomes for people; regularly monitor and report outcomes; raise awareness and provide education; and create a culture of wellness.

We will promote **healthy living starting in school**, with curriculum focusing on smoking and drug use, healthy eating, exercise and mental wellness.

In consultation with stakeholders, a PC Government will explore utilizing our schools, where possible, as **year-round community centres**, making them available for early childhood education, non-profits, and other social supportive programming.

We will focus on the **Social Determinants of Health**, recognizing that one of the reasons for the poor outcomes of so many Newfoundlanders and Labradorians is the impoverished conditions in which they live. Poverty reduction is a wellness strategy.

A PC Government will improve the delivery of **safe, potable drinking water**. We will conduct a systemic review of water boil-order advisories across the province, with a goal of developing workable small-town solutions and a timeline to address them.

A PC Government will improve access to mental health care and addictions treatment as per the recommendations of the report of the **all-party committee on mental health and addictions**.

A PC Government will ensure the **mental health and addictions care of inmates** of our correctional centres reflects the recommendations of the Jesso report on inmate deaths.

Youth and young adults are not immune to mental health and addictions challenges. A PC Government will work with all stakeholders to implement a **youth mental health and addictions strategy**. We will focus particular attention on the issue of youth suicide.

A PC Government will ensure **seniors can stay in their own homes** and own communities as long as possible, providing home and community supports in every region.

A PC Government will conduct a review of the current **availability of long-term care homes** to ensure there are adequate facilities in place to meet the needs of the residents of the province. In light of the findings, we will create a 10-year long-term care plan ensuring that needs are met into the future.

A PC Government will review **long-term care access** in the Stephenville-Port au Port region.

A PC Government will conduct a **staffing level review of all nursing homes** to ensure the appropriate number of health professionals is available to care for residents. This review will be informed by our COVID-19 review and the findings of other jurisdictions.

A PC Government will develop a community **residential hospice/end-of-life care model**, and finally complete the Lionel Kelland Hospice in Grand Falls-Windsor.

A PC Government will reverse the decision of the Liberals that restricts **seniors' access to personal care homes**. We will ensure the physical and mental health of seniors is considered when assessing applications.



A PC Government will be committed to ensuring that the seniors of our province are cared for with dignity and respect and that their right to choose their care in their senior years is adhered to. **Personal Care Homes** provide quality care to the seniors of our province, are the most cost-efficient option for seniors' care and result in excellent health care outcomes for our ageing population. We therefore pledge the following.

We will ensure seniors their **right to choose** the care they want.

We will ensure that Personal Care Homes are rightfully highlighted and promoted in the **Home First Initiative** as an equal option to Home Support.

We will consider an increase to the **Personal Care Home Subsidy rate**.

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# 23.

## **Reinvigorating Municipalities**

The road to recovery for our province must include the valued input from residents and communities across the province, and a PC Government will ensure that municipalities have a seat and a voice at the decision-making table. We will consult with municipalities on ways to strengthen local decision-making and engagement.

In providing infrastructure and services, municipalities and the provincial government draw on the same taxpayer. Provincial and local **taxes must be affordable**. Governments must collaborate to ensure the burden is reasonable so consumers and employers have money in their pockets to spend, invest and circulate in our economy. A PC Government will work with Municipalities NL to develop a new progressive tax regime for our communities. We will build on the groundbreaking Municipal Fiscal Framework introduced in 2015 to ensure that communities throughout the province can thrive as the province's economy grows in the years ahead.

A PC Government will pursue a **multiyear planning approach for infrastructure** – roads, water and sewer, recreational facilities, and so forth. Our multiyear infrastructure strategy will include an assessment of existing infrastructure throughout the province and a plan to maintain it and replace it as necessary. Decisions will be based on evidence. Roadwork rankings will be published to show where approved and unapproved projects rank based on the criteria the government is applying. Transparency improves accountability.

In conjunction with municipalities and industry, a PC Government will review best practices to ensure **new builds** are efficient in terms of cost of heating the building and the environmental impact of emissions.

A PC Government will **invigorate municipal governance** through a stronger and more productive partnership with Municipalities NL. We support Municipalities NL in recognizing the importance of enhancing diversity on councils.

A PC Government will develop a **broader accountability framework** to ensure new funding for municipalities supports investments in priority service areas. We will develop a provincial municipal asset management framework.

A PC Government will facilitate and support the **regional sharing of services** among municipalities that choose to collaborate. We will advance regional governance and service sharing. We will follow through on the community sustainability partnership we have negotiated with municipalities to enhance supports to communities and strengthen the social and economic fabric of our regions.

A PC Government will improve the delivery of **safe, potable drinking water**. We will conduct a systemic review of water boil-order advisories across the province, with a goal of developing workable small-town solutions and a timeline to address them.

A PC Government will work with municipalities and the Government of Canada to find **wastewater** solutions that are innovative and right-sized for the communities they serve. Over-building wastewater treatment plants is not the solution. Threatening communities is the wrong approach.



A PC Government will **cut red tape and streamline regulations** that are making it difficult for municipalities to operate in the best interests of the people they serve. Provincial regulations should not slow down the flow of federal money to communities and deprive residents of those benefits.

A PC Government will use the Lands Act to create reserves that will **assist municipalities in acquiring Crown lands** at market value in a phased approach for development.

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# 24.

## Cleaning Up Corruption

People deserve honest government that treats them with respect and upholds the basic principles of democracy – accountability, transparency, openness and incorruptible ethics. Our government will drive real reform by bringing forward the strictest anti-corruption legislation in Canada. We will impose tough penalties on those who violate the public trust and require ministers to step aside when such matters put their actions under review. We will require the disclosure of key shareholders in numbered companies that benefit from public funding. We will hire based on merit, not politics or family connections. We will disburse public money based on the best value for taxpayers. And we will show people our plans before we ask for their support. That's how a democracy is supposed to work.

A PC Government will bring forward the **strictest anti-corruption legislation in Canada**, imposing tough penalties on those who violate the public trust and requiring ministers to step aside when such matters put their actions under review.

A PC Government will require the disclosure of key **shareholders in numbered companies** that benefit from public funding.

A PC Government will lead by example by creating a **safe and respectful workplace** for all public service workers. A PC Government will uphold the recent legislation passed by the House of Assembly.

A PC Government will introduce **cultural sensitivity training** for all members of the public service.

A PC Government will advance **electoral and legislature reform** through an all-party process that includes advocates and experts in democratic reform. Matters to be addressed include campaign financing, fixed election dates including fixed dates following a change of Premier, party leadership campaigns and donor disclosure rules, question period responses, digital petition signatures, recall of members, MHA code of conduct review, honesty in politics legislation, public consultation, legislation review, conflict of interest, personal privacy protection and other matters.

A PC Government will explore options to promote **better representation** of women, Indigenous communities and minorities among members elected to the House of Assembly.



# 25.

## Our Commitment to Fiscal Responsibility

These are the three pillars of our commitment to fiscal responsibility.

One, we must generate more revenue, not by raising taxes, but by getting our economy growing and generating more jobs. Our primary objective must be to get Newfoundland and Labrador moving again. And that means we need to bring back jobs and get to work.

Two, we must demand our fair share of revenue transfers from the Government of Canada. Our province has been deprived of billions of dollars that should have been flowing to us.

Three, we must spend smarter the money we have. Do we need to go line-by-line and find efficiencies, so we can reduce wasteful spending and make our government run smarter? Yes, of course we do – and we will, by appointing an external auditor to conduct a review in cooperation with frontline workers and public sector unions.

Our plan to generate growth and jobs is laid out in the preceding pages. What follows is information about our commitments to demand fairness in federal funding and to spend smarter the money we take in. Fiscal responsibility is our obligation to future generations. Everything in our plan is subject to the principle of fiscal responsibility.

# Equalization

In 2015, Justin Trudeau promised to reform equalization and transfer payments to the provinces to make them fair.

SOURCE: [www.cbc.ca/1.3200542](http://www.cbc.ca/1.3200542)

But the Trudeau government reneged on that promise, and instead entrenched the current unfair formula until 2024.

SOURCE: [ipolitics.ca/2018/12/10/finance-minister-rules-out-any-changes-to-equalization-formula](http://ipolitics.ca/2018/12/10/finance-minister-rules-out-any-changes-to-equalization-formula)

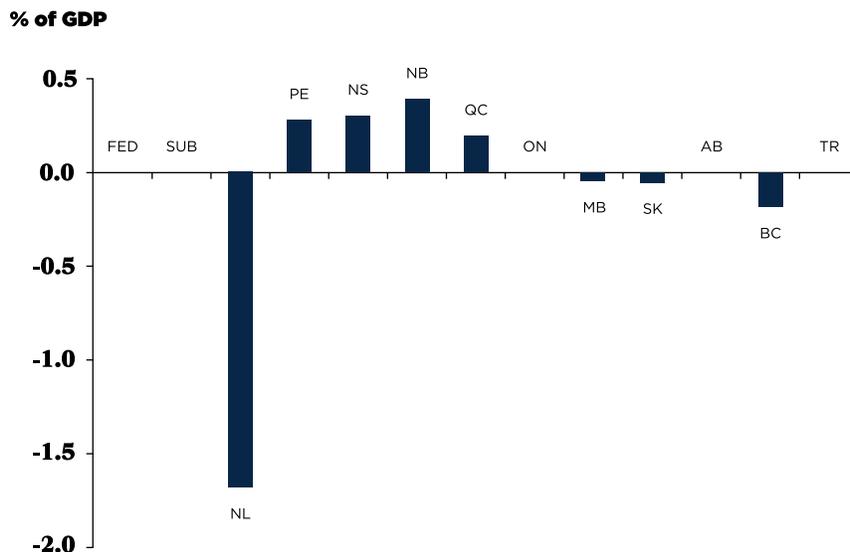
SOURCE: [www.theglobeandmail.com/politics/article-ottawa-renews-equalization-formula-to-remain-in-current-form-to-2024](http://www.theglobeandmail.com/politics/article-ottawa-renews-equalization-formula-to-remain-in-current-form-to-2024)

In 2018, the federal Parliamentary Budget Office calculated the impact that equalization reform would have on provinces. The PBO described a reform scenario that would mean “Newfoundland and Labrador would receive Equalization payments throughout the entire long term projection horizon, improving the province’s fiscal gap by 1.7 per cent of GDP”.

SOURCE: [www.pbo-dpb.gc.ca/web/default/files/Documents/Reports/2018/Fed%20Transfers/Fed\\_Transfers\\_Prov\\_Territories\\_EN.pdf](http://www.pbo-dpb.gc.ca/web/default/files/Documents/Reports/2018/Fed%20Transfers/Fed_Transfers_Prov_Territories_EN.pdf)

The following graph in their report shows how much some provinces are losing without equalization reform. No province is losing more than Newfoundland and Labrador.

## Impacts on fiscal gap estimates under the Equalization with no Fiscal Capacity Cap



**The following table shows how much funding five of the provinces have received in equalization over the six-year period that equalization has not been reformed.**

<b>PROVINCE (\$billions)</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>SIX-YEAR TOTAL</b>
Quebec	10.030	11.081	11.732	13.124	13.253	13.119	72.339
Manitoba	1.736	1.820	2.037	2.255	2.510	2.719	13.077
New Brunswick	1.708	1.760	1.874	2.023	2.210	2.274	11.849
Nova Scotia	1.722	1.779	1.933	2.015	2.146	2.315	11.910
Newfoundland and Labrador	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

SOURCE: [www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/programs/federal-transfers/major-federal-transfers.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/programs/federal-transfers/major-federal-transfers.html)

Buoyed by equalization, some of the provinces generated headlines far different from Newfoundland and Labrador's. Here are examples:

### **For equalization-receiving provinces:**

- Quebec, swimming in cash, plans \$850 million in new spending aimed at families (National Post)
- Quebec government uses big surplus to deliver electoral promises more costly than advertised (CBC)
- Quebec government had \$4.5-billion surplus at end of November (Montreal Gazette)
- Quebec unlocks \$2.5 billion to help companies weather COVID-19 storm (Montreal Gazette)
- Manitoba: Province's Rainy Day Fund could last into June (CHVN)
- Manitoba: Province announces largest-ever Rainy Day Fund investment and deficit reduction (News Release)
- New Brunswick government tables \$10.2 billion budget with a surplus (Global News)
- Nova Scotia's 2019-20 budget on track for \$30M surplus: finance minister (Global News)
- Nova Scotia unveils higher-than-expected budget surplus (Chronicle Herald)
- P.E.I. government posts multi-million dollar surplus for second year in a row in 2018-19 (Guardian)
- P.E.I. government surplus balloons again (CBC)

## For Newfoundland and Labrador:

- Ball warns Trudeau of ‘urgent fiscal crisis’ for Newfoundland and Labrador (Telegram)
- ‘Our province has run out of time’: Nfld premier makes plea to Trudeau amid coronavirus and budget crisis (Global News)
- The Rock in a hard place: Newfoundland and Labrador is on the brink of bankruptcy (Financial Post)
- Newfoundland and Labrador needs Ottawa’s help, soon (Globe and Mail)

Newfoundland and Labrador’s annual GDP has recently been in the vicinity of \$30 billion. The PBO says equalization reform could mean a boost of 1.7 per cent of GDP. That would have equaled approximately \$500 million a year, or \$3 billion over the past six years when equalization reform was not delivered. Newfoundland and Labrador has been denied an enormous sum of funding because of the failure of the Government of Canada to follow through on its promise of equalization reform. We must fight for fairness and justice.

# Health and Social Transfers

The Government of Canada provides the Canada Health Transfer and the Canada Social Transfer to the provinces. Some years ago, the allocation formula for the health transfer program was changed. The funding is now allocated on the basis of population, not need. Newfoundland and Labrador’s population has been falling while our need has been growing.

An academic study, published in the journal Canadian Public Policy, stated: “We found the new CHT formula, recently redesigned by the federal government, fails to address the differing capacity of provinces to provide Medicare coverage due to the unavoidably higher costs imposed by the population’s age structure and geographical dispersion.”

SOURCE: [www.jstor.org/stable/24365125?seq=1](http://www.jstor.org/stable/24365125?seq=1)

Another academic study, published in Health Tomorrow, stated: “Unless a needs-based model such as the one that Marchildon and Mou developed is implemented, provinces will be plunged further into debt partly due to increasing demands on the health care system, with a government that does not have the political will or capacity to mitigate it.”

SOURCE: [ht.journals.yorku.ca/index.php/ht/article/view/40194](http://ht.journals.yorku.ca/index.php/ht/article/view/40194)

Newfoundland and Labrador has been denied its fair share of federal transfers and must fight for reform.

# Fisheries Funding

Newfoundland and Labrador was the only province to give up Minimum Processing Requirements (MPRs) as part of the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). We negotiated a \$400 million fisheries investment fund, exclusive to Newfoundland and Labrador, as part of the agreement to relinquish MPRs.

Justin Trudeau – campaigning as Liberal leader in 2015 – wrote to the province promising to honour it. His letter specifically referenced “the \$400 million fund” and stated: “The abolition of minimum processing requirements is clearly of great concern to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador and your government’s support of the CETA was earned, in part, by a promise from the Government of Canada to help the industry adjust to the new reality. That promise should be honoured.”

However, the Trudeau government reneged on its commitment. While it created an Atlantic provinces fisheries fund, Newfoundland and Labrador would have had a share of such a fund in any event. But the Trudeau Liberals refused to follow through on their commitment to a fund specifically for Newfoundland and Labrador in recognition of the abolition in this province of MPRs.

SOURCE: [www.pcnl.ca/node/668](http://www.pcnl.ca/node/668)

SOURCE: [www.thetelegram.com/news/local/foote-kills-ceta-fund-offers-100m-to-nl-instead-24839/](http://www.thetelegram.com/news/local/foote-kills-ceta-fund-offers-100m-to-nl-instead-24839/)

SOURCE: [www.cbc.ca/1.4019403](http://www.cbc.ca/1.4019403)

These are just three examples of injustices Newfoundland and Labrador suffered because the Government of Canada has reneged on its commitments to treat us fairly. We are short billions of dollars that should have flowed to Newfoundland and Labrador – funding that would have changed our fiscal circumstances profoundly. This does not even factor in the government’s failure to deliver on the “principal beneficiary” promise of the Atlantic Accord.

# Spending Smarter

A PC Government will take a measured and responsible approach to ensure all policy decisions encourage a strong economy and an effective and efficient public service.

A PC Government will appoint an external auditor to conduct a line-by-line expenditure review in collaboration with public sector unions and frontline workers.

BRINGING ACCOUNTABILITY TO GOVERNMENT	INVESTMENT \$
External auditor	1.00 M

To provide greater accountability and to guide future decision making, a PC Government will develop fiscal reporting benchmarks. These targets will allow the public to track the province’s progress. Targets will be set based on debt expenses as a percentage of gross revenue, net debt as a percentage of nominal gross domestic product, annual deficit, and new borrowings.

We believe the billions of dollars currently invested year after year by the government can be spent wiser. Reports by the Auditor General and others demonstrate this is true. Investments can be targeted at different priorities to achieve better outcomes.

# Smart Human Resource Planning

To ensure that our public service assists the province in achieving improved outcomes that reflect the needs of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, a PC Government will develop a Human Resource Plan, which will identify, by Department and Agency, the right number of positions, and the right skillsets, not just for today, but for years into the future.

This effort will be collaborative, giving public sector unions and frontline workers a seat and a voice at the table.

As a part of this Human Resource Plan, a PC Government will allow employees to retire early if they choose. Employees who wish to retire early will be given a retirement incentive and will not have their pension penalized. No one will be forced to retire.

There will be a cost associated with this, but the cost will be dependent on the number of people availing of it.

It is anticipated that early retirement will accelerate attrition and help to re-align the public service to deliver the programs most needed by the province.

Attrition can reasonably be expected to generate savings and cover the costs of certain new or temporary positions that will deliver priority services. For example:

<b>ACKNOWLEDGING TRUTH. ACHIEVING RECONCILIATION.</b>	<b>INVESTMENT \$</b>
Indigenous liaison position	0.20 M

To give one example of delivering services smarter, a PC Government will improve the administration of Crown lands by taking a customer service approach to Crown lands. We will publish service standards and report how well the government does in meeting these standards. There should be two streams of applications in Crown lands – one for economic activity and the second for recreational activity. Each should have its timelines and service standards.

## Generating Revenue

In its 2016 budget, the provincial Liberal government attempted to address the province's fiscal challenges by raising revenue through tax increases. The budget imposed or raised 350 taxes and fees, including a sales tax on insurance, a higher tax on gas (which has since become our carbon tax), and a levy.

A year after imposing the taxes, the government commissioned an independent review of the province's tax system. The tax review reported in 2018 that the government's tax policy was "regressive". The report also described it as "poor tax policy". Regressive policy means it is doing more harm than good.

SOURCE: [www.gov.nl.ca/taxreview/files/Summary-Report-Final.pdf](http://www.gov.nl.ca/taxreview/files/Summary-Report-Final.pdf)

In 2020, the government received the Mills report on the COVID-19 economic response initiative. The report found: "Regulatory burden continues to be an issue for many industries and reduction in red tape was raised by various industry groups." The report said the "complexity/uncertainty" of the province's regulatory regime and the "bureaucratic overburden" was "raised in almost every interview" during their consultations. The report recommended "using procurement and tax incentives to stimulate business activity," but noted: "Some of the existing tax credits are too complicated and processes need to be simplified." The report found that many employers are overburdened by debt and are recommending debt and tax relief.

SOURCE: [www.assembly.nl.ca/business/electronicdocuments/COVID-19EconomicResponseInitiative-SummaryReport-EngagementProcessThemesAndResponsesJuly2020.pdf](http://www.assembly.nl.ca/business/electronicdocuments/COVID-19EconomicResponseInitiative-SummaryReport-EngagementProcessThemesAndResponsesJuly2020.pdf)

In 2018-19, the government paid \$1 million to McKinsey & Company for an economic growth strategy. The report advised that tax incentives can be very effective in generating growth, and pointed to other jurisdictions that have proven this.

SOURCE: [www.gov.nl.ca/fin/files/publications-pdf-mck-final-report.pdf](http://www.gov.nl.ca/fin/files/publications-pdf-mck-final-report.pdf)

In short, government tax policy can stimulate growth or it can hinder growth. As McKinsey also pointed out, opportunity and growth can generate new tax revenue. It is therefore reasonable to expect that the tax incentives and red tape reduction strategy laid out in this Blue Book will generate growth and revenue. The incentives are not a "cost", but an "investment" that will reap revenue dividends for the province.

A PC Government will do a cost/benefit analysis of all taxes and fees charged to residents and business. Any taxes or fees that are ineffective will be eliminated.

Here are some of the examples of the investments we will make during the course of our mandate to generate new jobs and revenues.

<b>BRINGING BACK JOBS, LOWERING TAXES, BRINGING HOME MORE PEOPLE</b>	<b>INVESTMENT \$</b>
Tax credits	16.00 M
Venture capital fund	10.00 M
Province-wide cellular and data coverage	2.50 M
Population growth strategy	10.00 M

Strategies will be developed to identify optimal ways to drive growth and ensure people can tap into those opportunities. Some of these projects will require investments, while others can be initiated within the “existing budget envelope” (EBE) by reprioritizing spending and the activities of existing personnel. For example:

<b>EDUCATING TO COMPETE</b>	<b>INVESTMENT \$</b>
Review of the teacher allocation model	EBE
<b>STANDING UP FOR OUR ENERGY INDUSTRY AND JOBS</b>	
Feasibility study on natural gas	1.00 M
<b>GROWING OUR FISHERIES SUSTAINABLY</b>	
Review of fisheries marine protection areas	EBE
<b>HEALTHY FORESTS, SUSTAINABLE ECOSYSTEM</b>	
Development of a forest ecosystem management strategy	EBE
Development of an air access strategy	0.25 M
<b>UNLOCKING LABRADOR'S POTENTIAL</b>	
Development of a northern strategic plan	EBE
North coast highway feasibility study	0.50 M
<b>PROTECTING THE VULNERABLE</b>	
Development of a poverty reduction strategy	EBE

In some sectors, we will make direct investments during the course of our mandate to drive growth, but these investments will also generate activity that will return revenues to the province. These returns will help to offset the dollar value of the following investments:

<b>CREATING CLEAN GREEN JOBS, PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT</b>	<b>INVESTMENT \$</b>
Green Team doubling for waste cleanup	0.75 M
<b>MORE MINING JOBS</b>	
Mining investments	10.00 M
<b>GROWING OUR FISHERIES SUSTAINABLY</b>	
Wild and farmed fisheries	2.50 M
<b>CULTIVATING AGRICULTURE JOBS</b>	
Farming new entrant attraction	1.50 M
<b>GROWING TOURISM</b>	
Supporting tourism	2.50 M

We already know that certain revenues will rise in 2021-22 over 2020-21 levels. For example, our share of the Canada Health Transfer will rise from \$576 million to \$585 million, and our share of the Canada Social Transfer will rise from \$207 million to \$210 million. It is also anticipated that the province may be afforded funding under Fiscal Stabilization or some related initiatives. These increases are nowhere near the increases Newfoundland and Labrador should be receiving, but the additional revenue will offset some of the investments the government will make to generate growth and jobs and to better serve people in need.

## Secure Health Spending

A 2017 report of the Canadian Institute for Health Information, in partnership with Choosing Wisely Canada, found there are at least one million unnecessary tests, treatments and procedures done in Canadian health-care settings. The report said unnecessary medical tests are potentially harmful, and the outcomes for patients could be improved by ending unnecessary tests.

SOURCE: [www.cbc.ca/1.4076466](http://www.cbc.ca/1.4076466)

As we announced in our Blue Book of 2019, a PC Government will adopt the approach of Choosing Wisely NL to educate health care providers and patients about the appropriateness of various tests, procedures and treatments to minimize waste and harm in the health care system.

Recently, the government took this advice and appointed Dr. Pat Parfrey and Sr. Elizabeth Davis to head the task force our party called for. We will follow through to see their recommendations brought forward. While the primary focus of Choosing Wisely is not to save money, it would result in cost savings that could be reinvested to improve health care outcomes.

A C.D. Howe Institute report in 2019 focused on unnecessary testing. Its co-author said, of the almost \$6 billion spent annually on lab testing by provincial and territorial governments, about 10 per cent of that is unnecessary.

SOURCE: [www.cdhowe.org/sites/default/files/attachments/research\\_papers/mixed/Commentary\\_533.pdf](http://www.cdhowe.org/sites/default/files/attachments/research_papers/mixed/Commentary_533.pdf)

SOURCE: [www.thestar.com/news/gta/2019/02/13/billions-wasted-annually-on-inappropriate-lab-tests-report.html](http://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2019/02/13/billions-wasted-annually-on-inappropriate-lab-tests-report.html)

Dr. Parfrey was quoted as saying about 20 per cent of this province's health care budget was being misused. That would amount to the unwise spending of some \$600 million.

SOURCE: [www.cbc.ca/1.5792063](http://www.cbc.ca/1.5792063)

SOURCE: [www.cbc.ca/1.3914592](http://www.cbc.ca/1.3914592)

The goal of Choosing Wisely is not to cut that spending, but to spend it more wisely to improve patient outcomes. Initiatives laid out in this Blue Book for action during the course of our mandate can be financed, in part or in whole, through the reprioritization of funding within the health funding envelope. Examples of such initiatives are these, all of which would lead to better patient outcomes:

<b>BRINGING ACCOUNTABILITY TO GOVERNMENT</b>	<b>INVESTMENT \$</b>
Chief wellness officer	0.20 M
100% MTAP medical transportation	4.00 M
Insulin pump coverage and other new technology	2.00 M
Dialysis access	0.50 M
Cardiac centre of excellence	2.00 M
Adult dental coverage	3.00 M

Other elements of our health policy – such as the PET Scanner for the new Corner Brook Hospital, the Lionel Kelland Hospice in Grand Falls-Windsor, laboratory services at the hospital in Grand Falls-Windsor, 24-hour emergency room coverage at the Dr. Hugh Twomey Health Centre in Botwood and a review of long-term care access in the Stephenville-Port au Port region – already have funding provided or will be funded through the existing budget envelope.

# Priority Investments

The investments a PC Government makes to grow our economy, generate jobs and better serve the people will be undertaken over the course of our mandate. The timing of these investments will be determined on the basis of need. Some of these investments may be financed by reprioritizing public resources. Here are examples of investments that require attention on a priority basis:

<b>EDUCATING TO COMPETE</b>	<b>INVESTMENT \$</b>
School busing within 1.6 km	3.50 M
<b>UNLOCKING LABRADOR'S POTENTIAL</b>	
Nain airstrip and lighting	1.20 M
<b>PROTECTING THE VULNERABLE</b>	
Violence survivor organizations	0.75 M
Housing and homelessness support	1.00 M
Implementation of an inclusion of persons with disabilities strategy	5.00 M

Our investments in education will help prepare people for opportunities to improve their lives. While we are providing a value estimate of these investments, they may be financed by reprioritizing public resources. Here are examples of such investments:

<b>EDUCATING TO COMPETE</b>	<b>INVESTMENT \$</b>
ASL training	0.50 M
<b>STANDING UP FOR OUR ENERGY INDUSTRY AND JOBS</b>	
Renewable energy education and training	1.00 M
<b>UNLOCKING LABRADOR'S POTENTIAL</b>	
Labrador culture fund	0.20 M
<b>ACKNOWLEDGING TRUTH. ACHIEVING RECONCILIATION.</b>	
Indigenous culture courses and language support	0.25 M

In our 2019 Blue Book, we committed to invest in affordable early childhood education. A PC Government will follow through on its 2019 commitment to \$25-a-day early childhood education while working with the federal government to introduce a universal publicly funded early childhood education program that adequately addresses quality, affordability, capacity and fair wages, commencing with a three-year bilateral agreement. This is the estimated value of that investment:

<b>HELPING PARENTS GET AHEAD</b>	<b>INVESTMENT \$</b>
Early childhood education	10.00 M

Recently, the government provided funding to implement such a program, so investments have already been accounted for in the province's fiscal framework. However, the Liberal approach lacks any long-term, holistic planning. The way it is structured must be reformed. A PC Government will act immediately to establish a panel of early childhood education operators and care providers and meet regularly to ensure proper consultation informs all decisions. We will adapt policies based on advice we receive.

## The Path to Balance

A PC Government will first turn its attention to getting Newfoundlanders and Labradorians back to work, as our province needs more people paying less tax, not less people paying more tax.

As Newfoundlanders and Labradorians return to the workforce, a PC Government will then take actions to deal with the provincial debt and restore balance to the provincial budget.

In the first 120 days of a PC Government, the Premier will convene a Summit of Business Leaders, Labour Leaders, Financial Advisors, Academics, and National Leaders on Public Policy. The objective will be to seek advice on a responsible and balanced plan to achieve long-term fiscal stability with sustainable levels of public expenditures and to return to a balanced budget.

**During our first term, a PC Government will start the journey of putting our province on the path toward balance so we can achieve fiscal balance in our second term.**

**After achieving a balanced budget, a PC Government will direct funds towards debt reduction.**



**TOGETHER**



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