



*Bring Back Jobs!*

## **Growing Our Fisheries Sustainably Backgrounder**

We understand that growing, 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.

Decisions on the fishery should be made in Newfoundland and Labrador, working together by those most impacted by such decisions. 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.

- The Progressive Conservative caucus has shown leadership in promoting joint management. In May 17, 2017, a PC Private Members Resolution calling for joint membership was given unanimous support in the House of Assembly (see <https://www.pcnl.ca/node/327>).
- Despite agreeing to this resolution, the Liberals continue to stall.
- The time for talking about joint management is over. Action is needed to demand that our province has an equal say in our fishery.

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

- In September 2020, the Fish Processing Licensing Board reviewed an application by Royal Greenland. This posed the question of foreign influence in our local fishery (see <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/processing-business-crab-shrimp-foreign-1.5735951>).
- The Fish Processing Licensing Board does not currently have the ability to review foreign investment and influence into the Newfoundland and Labrador fishery. The Fish Processing Licensing Board wrote:

*“The Board has a lengthy discussion on the issue of foreign investment in the fishing industry, in particular, foreign investment by companies in the fishing business who are normally our competitors in the world markets. It raises the possibilities of key decisions affecting our industry and fishing communities here in Newfoundland and Labrador being made in another country. This matter is outside of our jurisdiction as a Board; however, it might be a policy matter that the government may want to pursue.”* (see <https://www.gov.nl.ca/ffa/files/R-Fish-Processing-Licensing-Board-Recommendations-to-Minister-Loveless-September-2020.pdf>).

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

- Current regulations require fisherpersons to “dump” unintended by-catch. This includes any species which may be accidentally harvested or fish which outside of the license (ie too small).
- Dumping the unintended by-catch while harvesting is a waste, it is also a loss economic opportunity and a threat to food security.

A PC Government supports the Newfoundland and Labrador seal industry. We will work with our local industry and the federal government to create and protect jobs.

- 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.