



Question:

If elected, how will your party grow the economy in a way that makes life more affordable for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians? How will you balance economic development with the protection of public services, and what specific actions will you take to reduce the cost of living for working families?

Your Liberal government is committed to addressing the cost of living that has risen globally and across Canada in recent years, so life is more affordable for everyone across the province.

Our government announced more than \$750 million in targeted short- and long-term measures since March 2022 to help residents with affordability. These included adjusting the Seniors' Benefit threshold and indexing it to the consumer price index, benefiting more than 50,000 seniors, as well as increasing the income supplement by 15% over the last 3 years. We also cut childcare costs with \$10 day child care for 11,200 children and cut the cost of registering passenger vehicles by 50%.

A re-elected Liberal government will go even further to reduce the cost of living by leveraging our future revenue from the renegotiated Churchill Falls agreement to reduce costs for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians. With the new Churchill Falls MOU offering a generational opportunity for economic prosperity, it is only fair that Newfoundlanders and Labradorians should pay less for their electricity. Our government will remove the provincial portion of the HST from all residential electricity bills in the province, saving customers 10% on their bills every month.

By cutting this tax, the government is ensuring residents see the direct benefits of the Churchill Falls agreement in their own homes, with lower monthly energy costs and more money back in their pockets.

We also removed the Retail Sales Tax from home insurance premiums and reduced the cost of gas by cutting the provincial fuel tax by 50%, saving customers 8 cents per litre every time they fill up at the pump. A re-elected Liberal government will make this fuel tax cut permanent and maintain the home heating supplement of up to \$500 for residents who rely on home heating fuel.

The Liberal government also commits to no new taxes or government fees, if re-elected.



Question:

What are your party's priorities when it comes to addressing the climate crisis? If elected, will you commit to ensuring first responders, particularly wildland firefighters, have the protections they need — including presumptive cancer coverage — as adverse weather events become more common?

This past summer saw Newfoundland and Labrador experience the worst wildfire season in our history. Your Liberal government has established a Cabinet Committee to support residents and communities in Conception Bay North. This committee remains in place during the election and continues to be supported by a team of senior public service employees.

We remain committed to being there to support affected individuals, families and communities on the North Shore as the recovery effort continues.

In recognition of these efforts, we announced \$100,000 for new wildland firefighting uniforms, as well as \$500 honourariums for our volunteer firefighters and search and rescue volunteers. We also provided a \$10,000 honorarium to volunteer fire departments and search and rescue teams in appreciation of their exceptional efforts.

To confirm this appreciation, we will introduce legislation to establish standardized reimbursement and compensation guidelines to ensure that volunteer firefighters, search and rescue members, and service organizations involved in large-scale designated emergencies receive fair compensation for their equipment, time and efforts.

A re-elected Liberal Government will also double the volunteer firefighter and search and rescue tax credit to further support those who protect our communities.

We will also establish a new Provincial Meritorious Service Medal to honour those volunteers and emergency services personnel who make exceptional contributions during times of crisis.

The heroic efforts of our firefighters, responders and communities, as well as a world-class fleet of water bombers and ground equipment, this fire season showed us how important it is to be prepared for the serious threat posed by climate change and future wildfires.

The Liberal Government recently allocated \$4.2 million for Atlantic Wildfire Centre to enhance training and strengthen the province's ability to tackle wildfires at home and away. A plan for the centre's design phase is underway, as well as development of a design for infrastructure to improve support for aerial assets for the Gander and Wabush Airports.

A re-elected Liberal government will procure a heavy lift helicopter to ensure availability throughout the fire season. These aircraft played a crucial role in this season's efforts, and we will also explore usage of the heavy lift helicopters for other emergencies. We will also complete the repair of our province's damaged waterbomber aircraft and procure two bird dog aircraft.

This summer's wildfires also demonstrated the importance of having mobile incident command trailers to provide planning and communications facilities in rural areas.



A Liberal government will therefore also purchase mobile incident command trailers that will be pre-deployed around the province, ready to respond on a moment's notice.

We will also provide funding to communities for the construction of permanent firebreaks, sprinkler systems and monitoring equipment for critical infrastructure, and to purchase more protective equipment and tools for volunteer fire departments.

Currently, our government provides presumptive cancer coverage to professional and volunteer firefighters. As we committed to in recent weeks, a re-elected Liberal government will further expand that coverage to include Wildland firefighters.

Question:

If elected, how will your party support healthcare workers and reinvest in the public healthcare system? Will you commit to strengthening public delivery, including considering bringing homecare into the public system? And how will you address chronic understaffing and the working conditions faced daily by our healthcare workers?

Health care represents the single biggest investment in our province at nearly \$4.5 billion in Budget 2025.

Our Liberal Government is transforming health care in Newfoundland and Labrador to modernize the system. Guided by the recommendations of Health Accord NL, we are also increasing the focus on the social determinants of health to improve the well-being of people across our province and prevent serious health issues.

Our aggressive recruitment and retention strategies are working. We've reduced vacancies across health care disciplines and added seats in programs including medical school, nursing, paramedicine, and licensed practical nursing.

More than 90 per cent of last year's nursing class have been successfully recruited, with a 40 per cent reduction in the use of agency nurses from its highest point. Registered nurse vacancies reduced from 418 to 280 from October 2024 to April 2025. Nurse practitioner vacancies reduced from 82 to 65 from October 2024 to April 2025. We've hired 1,300 nurses and 140 physicians since April 2023.

We continue to focus on reducing our reliance on agency nurses who have been filling the gaps to keep delivering much-needed health care. An AG Report on NLHS spending on agency nurses has resulted in significant progress in that regard: 12 of 15 recommendations have already been implemented, an RFP has been awarded to perform the forensic audit, and we have also started a comprehensive review, in part to ensure that the recommendations of the Auditor General are fully implemented.



Among other things, in the coming year our government will not only increase the number of people connected to a family care team but will also increase incentives to recruit and retain

more doctors and nurses in rural areas, and to retain doctors and nurses who are educated in Newfoundland and Labrador.

We have already created 21 family care teams, which collectively have connected more than 110,000 additional patients to primary care through these teams.

A re-elected Liberal Government will continue to increase investment in our family care teams to increase the number of patients connected to primary care to 155,000 by the end of next year. We are committed to opening 14 more family care teams across the province to meet the goal of 35 family care teams envisioned by the Health Accord.

Your government will also introduce 10 new Mobile Primary Care Teams, with the first one starting in central Newfoundland. These Mobile Primary Care Teams will travel to rural communities in the region with the specific goal of providing in-person care to those without a primary care provider. The services and care this team will provide will be the same as you would normally expect to receive from a family physician.

This model will be replicated throughout Newfoundland and Labrador, increasing direct, in-person access to primary care for rural and remote residents.

Question:

If your party forms the next government, will you commit to protecting the following public services from privatization:

- **Long-term care**
- **Acute care services (dietary, maintenance, housekeeping, security) currently delivered publicly.**
- **Highway snow clearing and maintenance currently delivered publicly.**
- **Newfoundland and Labrador Liquor Corporation (NLC)**
- **Motor vehicle registration services**
- **Registry services (deeds, companies, and securities)**
- **Provincial ferry services**
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Please provide your position and any additional details regarding your party's approach to privatization.

Our Liberal government has never endorsed or promoted a policy on privatization, nor have we ever looked at privatization as a means of solving problems involving the public sector workforce. While we have engaged with the private sector through public private partnerships on infrastructure development the question of government service to citizens has never been considered.



We do not believe that basic government services should ever be transferred out of government to save money or to make a profit. We have a public health care system we must maintain and a series of departments, from snow clearing on our highways to provincial ferry services.

We have no plans, either now or in the future, to reduce the number of public services being provided or to offload them to the private sector.

Question:

What concrete steps will your party take to address workplace violence in Newfoundland and Labrador, and how will you ensure that workers are safe, protected, and respected on the job?

Everyday thousands of provincial public employees come to work in Newfoundland and Labrador and often are the first people in government the public deals with. They always answer that call for assistance, whether it is a wildfire, a hurricane or simply offering a supportive word to a resident. Those employees deserve and must be assured of a safe working environment.

Our Liberal government recognizes the stress public employees face daily. To that end, we will always hold their personal safety and protection as a priority, above all else. Our Liberal government will continue to work with stakeholders to establish, promote, and enforce workplace practices, standards, and procedures, to proactively maintain safe workplaces for all.

Question:

Will your party give unionized workers in Newfoundland & Labrador its commitment to refrain from using back-to-work legislation to end legal strikes in our province?

Our Liberal team supports unionized workers' legal right to strike, and are committed to an open and good-faith bargaining process.

Using the legislature to force an end to a legal Labour action is quite rare in our province. The last time it was used goes back 21 years. In 2004, Progressive Conservative Premier Danny Williams' government ordered striking public sector employees off the picket line and back on the job.

We are committed to good faith bargaining with our valued public service employees, while adhering to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, including workers' rights to freedom of association.