

Provincial Election Questionnaire

NAPE

Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Public and Private Employees





Dear Mr. Dinn,

As the province prepares to vote in the provincial election, our members – along with all Newfoundlanders and Labradorians – are looking for clear and meaningful commitments from those who wish to form the next government. The issues facing workers, families, and communities are urgent and complex. Workers are concerned about the rising cost of living, the challenge of rebuilding after devastating wildfires, the growing impacts of the climate crisis, the need to strengthen and expand public healthcare, the increasing threat of privatization, and the importance of ensuring safe and respectful workplaces.

NAPE proudly represents over 30,000 workers across Newfoundland and Labrador who deliver the services and goods our province depends on every single day. These are the workers who keep our communities functioning, our roads clear, care for the most vulnerable, and who help build a stronger and fairer province for everyone. Our members, their families, and the people they serve deserve to know where your party stands on the critical issues outlined in this questionnaire.

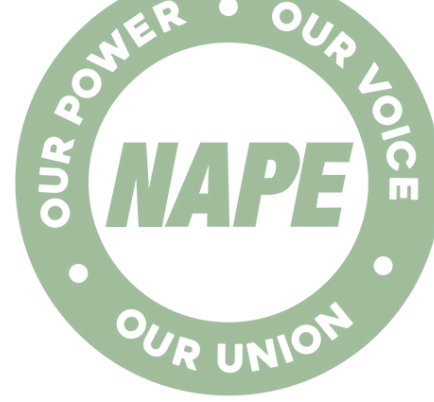
We are therefore asking that your party provide written responses to each of the questions below. Please note that your responses will be shared directly with our members and posted publicly, including on our social media channels. We believe it is essential that workers and voters alike have the information they need when making their decision at the ballot box.

Thank you for your time, your consideration, and your willingness to engage directly with the concerns of Newfoundland and Labrador's workers. We look forward to your response **no later than September 24th, 2025.**

Sincerely,

Jerry Earle, NAPE President

The Economy & Cost of Living



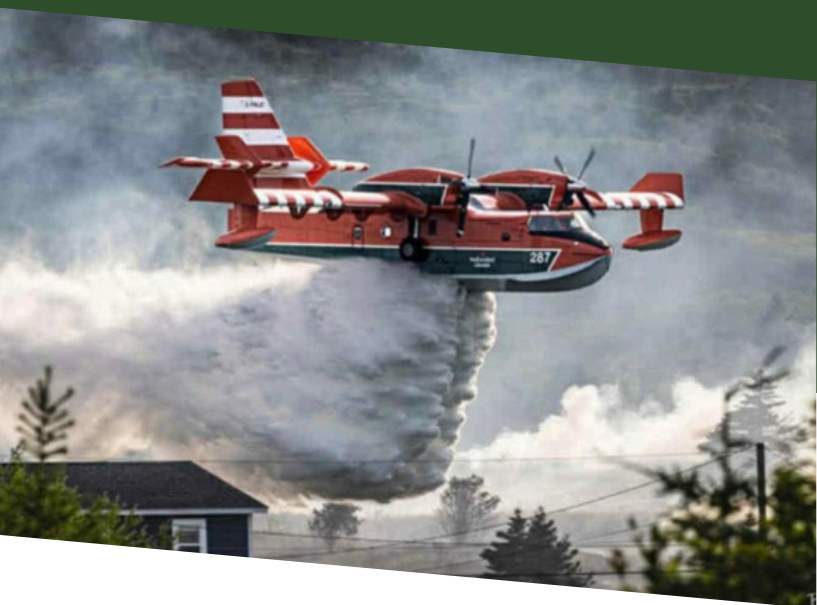
Newfoundlanders and Labradorians are struggling with the rising cost of living while the province faces ongoing economic uncertainty. The most recent quarterly update reported a growing deficit, and our province must also rebuild following devastating wildfires. External pressures – such as the possibility of renewed U.S. trade tariffs – create additional risks. At the same time, there are opportunities in oil and gas, as well as through the Labrador power deal. This is a pivotal moment for our province and the people who live here.

Working families need fair wages, stronger worker protections, and access to affordable public services. Improving labour laws, ensuring access to affordable childcare, and protecting workers from economic instability must be priorities. A resilient economy must reduce reliance on volatile resource markets while fostering social and economic justice.

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?





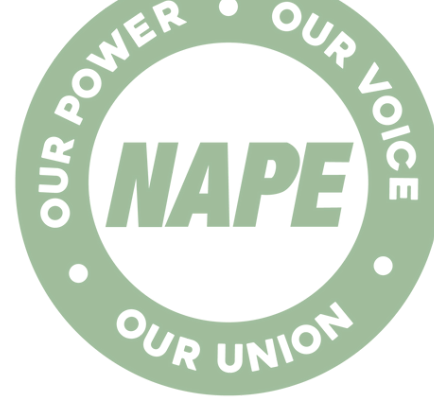
Climate Change & Protection for First Responders

Our province has already experienced the devastating impacts of climate change, through events such as Snowmageddon and the 2025 wildfires. These adverse weather events are becoming more frequent, more severe, and more costly for our communities. Many of our members are on the front lines fighting these fires and protecting communities. Yet, wildland firefighters – who risk their health and safety in the line of duty – still do not have presumptive cancer coverage. They were excluded from the 2016 legislation that extended presumptive care to other firefighters, leaving them without the protections they deserve.

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?

Healthcare & Public Services



Healthcare in Newfoundland and Labrador is facing serious and growing challenges. Workers are struggling with affordability, including access to reliable childcare, while many job classifications remain chronically understaffed, leaving frontline staff overworked and in unacceptable working conditions. At the same time, the Auditor General has reported that nearly \$400 million per year is being spent on travel nurse contracts, while privatization continues to expand through privately hired nurses, privatized blood collection, and a new Nurse Practitioner pilot program operating outside of the provincial health authority.

Homecare – which is healthcare – allows seniors to age at home, supports rural communities, and helps reduce pressure on hospital and long-term care beds. Yet it continues to remain in the private sector.

Our province can only succeed if we have a strong, well-funded, universal, and public healthcare system – one that ensures frontline workers are supported and that services remain accessible to all.

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?





Privatization of Our Public Services

Protecting public services is a top concern for workers and for the public. Communities rely on these services being delivered publicly, transparently, and with accountability. The creeping privatization of public services undermines both the quality of those services and the working conditions of those who provide them.

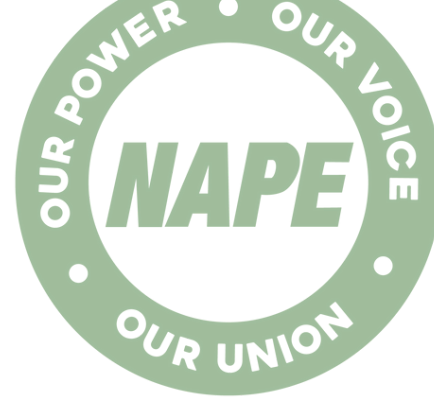
Question:

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

Please provide your position and any additional details regarding your party's approach to privatization.

Workplace Violence



Workers in Newfoundland and Labrador are facing unprecedented levels of workplace violence. Between 2013 and 2020, 89% of claims submitted to WorkplaceNL related to workplace violence came from ten professions – six of which are represented by NAPE. In 2019, then-CEO of WorkplaceNL Dennis Hogan reported that workplace violence had increased by over 70% in the previous decade. In 2018 alone, WorkplaceNL accepted more than 230 claims caused by violence, including worker-on-worker incidents.

This crisis affects not only the safety and wellbeing of workers; but also, the quality of services delivered to the public; as well as the ability to recruit and retain staff in critical jobs. It is an issue that can no longer be ignored.

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?





Back-to-Work Legislation

Earlier this year, the federal government used Section 107 of the Canada Labour Code to end a legal strike by Air Canada's flight attendants less than 12 hours after they walked off the job. In 2024, the federal government used Section 107 to end three other legal strikes.

Unions believe the federal government's repeated use of Section 107 of the Labour Code violates Canadians' constitutional right to strike and interferes with the bargaining process as employers no longer feel it is necessary to bargain in good faith.

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?

