



2019 Provincial Political Party Survey Summary

Please take a few moments to offer your political party's perspective on the following issues:

Resource Development Projects

A primary consideration of resource development projects in our province is ensuring we receive maximum benefits for our residents. This has traditionally been achieved through a balanced approach which has included royalties accruing to government when the project is operational; construction jobs for local residents, including strategies to increase the participation of women, aboriginals, and other under-represented groups within the industry; and an equity stake in the project.

This approach has ensured maximum investment in the province, significant opportunities for our skilled trades workers, and the continued development of expertise in constructing world class projects.

What is your policy/approach to resource development projects? Are you committed to ensuring the highest number of construction jobs for our residents in any future resource development projects? If so, please elaborate on your policy/strategy. If not, please explain your policy and commitment on this.

Bull Arm Site

The Bull Arm Site has been a cornerstone of the oil industry in our province since the completion of the Hibernia platform in the 1990s, and Trades NL has been a major player in all of this work.

With the changing oil industry, outline your plans for investment and development at Bull Arm, ensuring Newfoundland and Labrador continues to be positioned to avail of maximum work opportunities on current and new projects. Will you commit to ensuring it remains a world-class facility as part of our provincial infrastructure, available for major and minor project work in support of our oil and gas industry? Will you commit to engaging Trades NL in future projects on the Bull Arm Site, through a Special Project Order (SPO)?

Special Project Orders (SPO)

On many of the oil projects completed in our province, owners have requested government approve a Special Project Order (SPO) to facilitate a healthy labour relations climate, and support projects getting completed on time and on budget. Our members have participated in each of these SPO's, and demonstrated they have the qualifications, safety record and productivity levels to get the job done.

Will you commit to ensuring any future SPO's contemplated for resource development projects include all member unions of Trades NL (thereby avoiding the possibility of "wall to wall" agreements and considerable labour unrest)?

Community Benefits Strategy

One strategy that supports economic activity within the province, and the continued development of our skilled trades workforce, is the adoption of a Community Benefits Strategy for Provincial Public Infrastructure work. Under this model projects and contractors must demonstrate maximum benefit to the region and province (local contractors, labour, suppliers and service sector). Within these agreements there are clearly defined targets outlining the benefits to the local community – employment levels for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, employment of underrepresented groups, hiring of apprentices, etc. This is a tremendous economic diversification strategy, and keeps investment at home, for benefit of all.

Will you commit to developing and implementing a community benefits strategy for Newfoundland and Labrador? If yes, outline your thoughts on how this may be achieved. If you are not supportive, please describe your reasons.

Skilled Trades Worker Tax Credit

Many of our province's skilled trades workers spend considerable money travelling to and from their job sites, as well as purchasing the tools they are required to have on the site.

Will you commit to implementing a Provincial Income tax deduction/benefit/credit for skilled trades workers as a means of off-setting some of the many personal expenses they incur in their trade?

Skills Trade Training

It is important that the province maintain the highest standards of pre-employment training for skilled trades students. We are supportive of the current move towards harmonized training for the Atlantic Provinces, but are concerned that it may reduce the hands-on time students will receive as part of their training.

Provincial plans of training and the harmonized curriculum should provide adequate time and resources for students to do the practical components of their trade. More theory and less practical is not the best approach. The emphasis must continue to be on the "doing" and not just the "how" of a trade.

To ensure our apprentices properly trained, they must be able to demonstrate the hands-on part of their trade. In other words, the time allocated to training must include sufficient time to verify the ability of students to do the practical components.

What is your party's position on this issue? Will you commit to ensuring student training approved by the province will maintain, or enhance, current requirements for hands-on training as part of their pre-service course work?