



## Trades NL- Questionnaire 2019 Election

**What is your approach to resource development projects and are you committed to ensuring that the majority of construction on any future resource development project takes place in Newfoundland and Labrador, maximizing the number of jobs for our residents?**

One of the main points made in the preamble to your questionnaire refers to the items we both see as vital to any major project development in our province. Not the least of which is securing the best royalty regime possible through the negotiation process, making sure that local minorities are included as part of any project employment opportunity, and we certainly want to maximize all of the local employment we can. As you point out, this approach has led to a maximum investment in the province, a technology and knowledge transfer that positively impacts our employment landscape and expands our capacity to work within the oil and gas industry. Our view of this approach and commitment to it remains intact.

You may hear fear mongering from some corners in respect of the Bay du Nord development and the federal Bill C69 and it should be disregarded in favour of the facts.

In respect of Bay du Nord, this is a game changer for future development in our offshore. As a deepwater project, it opens up a whole new frontier in our offshore. While this project will create \$14 billion dollars in economic activity and Equinor, a key proponent of that project, have committed to increasing local fabrication capabilities, this is just the tip of the iceberg for the new frontier this project will open up in maximizing local jobs.

In respect of the federal government's Bill C69, provincial Liberals are the only politicians doing real, substantive work to amend that legislation to the benefit of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians. The Progressive Conservatives wish to pick a fight for the sake of picking a fight, because they think it looks good, but the reality is this will only chill relationships we need to capitalize on to protect resource development and maximize jobs for our residents. Premier Dwight Ball and Minister Siobhan Coady have taken the time to travel to Ottawa and present reasoned arguments for amendments to Bill C69 at the Senate. The Progressive Conservatives have not bothered to do so. Premier Dwight Ball and Minister Siobhan Coady have a demonstrated working relationship with the federal government, as evidenced by bringing home \$2.5 billion dollars in **new** revenues in our offshore and a commitment in writing to **deepen joint management** of our offshore resources, a clear indication that our message in changing the course on Bill C69 is working.

The Progressive Conservatives prefer to fear monger and mislead rather than present facts. The fact is that in 2012, changes were made by the Conservatives to environmental assessments with the creation of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA 2012) which removed responsible authority from the Canada NL Offshore Petroleum Board (CNLOPB). The federal government is now changing that legislation to an Impact Assessment Act.

*Liberal Party of Newfoundland & Labrador*



Since 2016, the provincial Liberal government has worked hard, using reason rather than rhetoric, to: restore responsible authority ensuring a role for our CNLOPB; reduce timelines for project assessment for a globally competitive process; ensure exploration was covered by Regional Environmental Assessment; and ensure the policy intent is reflected in the new legislation. We believe changes are needed and necessary to Bill C69 and we have done everything possible to ensure the greatest opportunity for our offshore.

Actions have included letters, briefs, personal briefings, multiple meetings with the top people at the federal government, interventions at federal and provincial forums, organizing stakeholder meetings, multiple meetings with Cabinet Ministers, Senators and as mentioned, presentations before the Senate Committee by the Premier and Minister Coady. **The best part? We understand the changes are coming.**

The Liberal effort trounces the PC effort, which has been largely about playing politics. The PCs in this province have a long history of not getting past the front porch in Ottawa. Progress on our offshore requires actual work rather than pontification.

**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 and will you commit to ensuring that the Bull Arm site remains a world-class facility?**

The changing oil and gas industry, particularly as it relates to development offshore Newfoundland and Labrador, is playing a role in the future of the Bull Arm site. Last fall Nalcor Energy – Bull Arm Fabrication Inc. issued an RFP to seek interest in the site from private developers. A final decision on anything relating to the RFP process has not been made. There is more planning work to be done. As you know there have been discussions surrounding an alternate use of the site as a service and maintenance locale for the oil and gas industry. As Minister Siobhan Coady outlined in a speech to the Clarenville Board of Trade in February there are ongoing discussions about this but up to now no definitive action has been articulated.

**Will you commit to engaging Trades NL in future projects on the Bull Arm site through a Special Project Order, (SPO)?**

Government views the use of special project orders in a very positive light and would be more than willing to engage with Trades NL in this manner should another major oil and gas opportunity present itself.

**Will you commit to ensuring any future SPO's contemplated for resource development projects include all member unions of Trade NL?**

While it would be governments desire to meet this commitment we must recognize that we are dealing with a hypothetical circumstance right now. The only thing we can say is that our intent would be to support an SPO where the size of the development warrants it. We would not be able to provide a blanket commitment without a detailed proposal to consider. Anyone suggesting otherwise would be disingenuous.

**Will you commit to implementing a community benefits agreement policy for Newfoundland and Labrador?**



In Newfoundland and Labrador any negotiations surrounding large industrial infrastructure has a tendency to focus on the project itself and not just the local community closest to such a development. While a great deal of emphasis is centered on the local community our view has always been more broad so as to include as much of our small province as possible in the benefits flowing from such activity. However, as a party we are not opposed to taking a closer look at moving in this direction. If, as a government, we decide to move forward on this process, Trades NL will be included as one of the primary stakeholders to be consulted and will be offered the opportunity to have input in formulating such a policy for our province.

**Will you commit to implementing a provincial income tax deduction/benefit/credit for skilled trades workers?**

This is certainly something we can consider in consultation with Trades NL. Right now there is a tax benefit that accrues to tradespersons in our province. It is offered under the federal tax code and administered by Revenue Canada. Qualifying tradespeople can get a tax deduction for the costs of tools and needed equipment including the payment of HST on those items. There is quite a list of things tradespersons can claim: tools and equipment, technical instruments, protective gear like helmets, steel toed boots, safety glasses, etc. Qualifying tradespersons and apprentices can make claims based on their income. While we do not now offer a similar program provincially we would be open to meeting with Trades NL and other stakeholders to discuss it in the near future.

**What is your party's position on the issue of providing adequate "hands on" time vs. classroom time for apprentices working on their trade and will you ensure that student training will be maintained and if possible enhanced as part of their pre-service course work?**

Answer: As Trades NL would be aware, this province enjoys a robust apprenticeship training program for tradespeople in our province. Like we see in most other jurisdictions apprentice time spent in practice is significant. For some of our trades that is 5400 hours of practical work while for others it can be up to 7400 hours of work. 80% of the work carried out by apprentices is done outside the classroom setting or "on the job". We are confident the current training schedule for the 2019-20 academic year, beginning this September, is not expected to change or be downgraded in any way. In fact, our platform document has a clear stated focus of increasing labour market development through Centres of Excellence at the College of the North Atlantic, which is a demonstration of our commitment to train our young people for the jobs to come.

We should add that the 20% of training conducted in the classroom is also informed by the industries involved. They have direct input into advising what skills are needed and what kind of theoretical study should make up part of the program. This collaborative relationship has proven itself to be an effective one and we hope to continue it into the future.