



Here is NL Alliance's responses to the questions asked of us by Trades NL:

1. A primary consideration of resource development projects in our province is ensuring that Newfoundland and Labrador receive maximum benefits for our residents. This has traditionally been achieved through a balanced approach which has included:

- a. royalties accruing to government when the project is operational;**
- b. construction jobs for local residents, including strategies to increase the participation of women, aboriginals, and other under-represented groups within the industry; and**
- c. an equity stake in the project.**

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

- What is your policy or approach to resource development projects?**
- 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? If so, please elaborate on how your party would ensure our province receives maximum benefits.**
- If not, please explain your policy and commitment on this.**

NL Alliance would work with members of the local construction industry and construction law experts to ensure that contracts for publicly funded resource development projects have legitimate enforceable clauses that require successful bidding proponents for such projects to be primarily NL based, with full-time NL residents making up the majority of their employees.

We must also work together with industry and educational partners to train and prepare the workforce, in addition to the strong trades workforce we currently have in the province, to be among the best in the world, who will build and develop projects that would be the envy of all. We will encourage innovation and create opportunities to grow an already vibrant industry.

We believe that the skill and the resources are already here in Newfoundland and Labrador to staff and manage resource development projects, that will allow skilled trades people to have long-term, viable jobs in the industries of their chosen study. We must be strategic and purposeful in our approach to training and development. We must also be cognisant of the national and global trades jobs market and be competitive, yet realistic. We will constantly consult with industry and experts who are 'on the ground' and know the challenges, needs and often time the solutions needed for the industry as a whole.

Having local people employed is the best return the province can receive, and creating an environment where people can live and thrive in Newfoundland and Labrador is our greatest goal.

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

- **With the changing oil and gas 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 that the Bull Arm site 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)?**

NL Alliance recognizes that Bull Arm is an asset to Newfoundland and Labrador and the trades industry in this province. We will work to ensure that the benefits and resources of Bull Arm are used in any way we can - particularly by seeking out opportunities for projects in various sectors and industries, where fabrication and construction can take place at Bull Arm and employ NL trades people.

We agree that it is a world-class facility, and Newfoundland and Labrador can be a player in the global construction market through it. Even with the province's current financial state, selling such an asset for a one-time payment would be foolish and careless. If someone will benefit from it, it should be the people of NL directly.

As mentioned in our previous answer, we would work with industry and legal experts to ensure any lease agreement or use of the site would be used to the benefit of NL most of all.

3. 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 SPOs, and demonstrated they have the skills and expertise to get the job done, productively, in a safe and efficient manner.

- **Will you commit to ensuring any future SPOs 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).**

NL Alliance agrees that all member unions of Trades NL should be invited to be apart of all future SPOs, in order maintain a healthy labour relations climate.

4. 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 Agreement policy for Provincial Public infrastructure work. Under this model, projects must demonstrate maximum benefit to the province (local contractors, labour supply, supply and service sector). Community Benefit Agreements will set out hiring provisions to help sustain our skilled trades workforce by including provisions for fair wages, hiring of local qualified residents, apprentices, females and indigenous workers. Community Benefit Agreements have been adopted by most other provinces, to ensure maximum benefits to their residents. The Canada Free Trade Agreement allows such agreements and policy. This is a tremendous economic diversification tool, and keeps investment at home, for benefit of all.

- **Will you commit to developing and implementing such a Community Benefits Agreement policy for Newfoundland and Labrador?**
- **If yes, outline your thoughts on how this may be achieved.**
- **If you are not supportive, please describe your reasons.**
- **Will you engage and include Trades NL in the development of such policy?**

Any policy that can be developed to benefit the people of Newfoundland and Labrador is worth exploring and evaluating. We believe that a Community Benefit Agreement would ensure that the workers of our province would be given priority in gaining employment within our provincial workforce. NL Alliance believes that if it is our resources then we should be the first to benefit as well as the ones who benefit the most. This includes every aspect of the harvesting, processing and development of our resources.

If we are going to make Newfoundland and Labrador a “Have Province” again then we must provide opportunities for our people to prosper. There must include protection and security for our workers.

In developing such an agreement we must have all stakeholders involved in the development of such policy. Trades NL would have to be involved in this process because of their involvement in the trades workforce. NL Alliance believes in collaborating and including everyone who is affected by a decision made about them.

5. Many of our skilled trades workers spend considerable money travelling to and from their job sites, as well as in 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, similar to a benefit available to other workers who incur expenses as part of their employment?**

Being that there are many factors that a government would have to consider in implementing such a deduction/benefit/credit, it is difficult for NL Alliance to commit to doing so. However, when elected, we would certainly visit this issue once we have access to finances and other information needed to make this decision. We want to make the work environment in NL as welcoming as possible for all Tradespeople and therefore would look into all ways to bring in incentives to keep workers in the province.

6. 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 it cannot 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 are 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?**

NL Alliance agrees that it is vital for skilled trades students to receive high quality pre-employment training that consists of significant practical application of theoretical principles. We believe that the quality of practical training should not be sacrificed in harmonization, and that the practical sequencing between in school and on the job training blocks is essential to maximum retention of knowledge and skills in every trade. The NL Alliance will work with industry experts to continue to maintain and enhance the quality of training for the skilled trades.