



## ONWARD

### CLEAR **DIRECTION** PROVEN **LEADERSHIP**

#### NEWFOUNDLANDERS AND LABRADORIANS ARE FACING A STARK CHOICE: **ONWARD OR BACKWARD?**

In 2015, your Liberal Government made tough but necessary choices as we managed the province through an economic crisis. The necessity for difficult decisions was hidden by the prior Progressive Conservative Government. In our persistence for a stronger tomorrow came a resilience to see the plan through. This document sets out the product of that enduring commitment.

Today, your Liberal Government is offering a continued path to prosperity for Newfoundland and Labrador. Behind us are the prospects of doubling electricity rates due to the PC Muskrat Falls project, \$2.7 billion deficits, and PC mismanagement.

We cannot go back.

Ches Crosbie and the PCs promise to gut health care and implement a "debt brake law"; a harsh instrument that will arbitrarily cut hundreds of millions from our social programs, significantly reduce jobs, and do irreparable damage to our economy. He promises to scrap The Way Forward, which is an engine of job creation and partnerships in the burgeoning aquaculture, mining, oil and gas, tourism, forestry, and technology industries. We cannot go back.

Moving Onward with the Liberal path grows the economy while ensuring fiscal stability in a balanced and thoughtful manner under the following central themes:











#### SPENDING IS FORECAST TO GO DOWN GRADUALLY AS PART OF OUR FISCAL PLAN TO ELIMINATE THE GOVERNMENT'S ANNUAL DEFICIT BY 2022-23.

We have put in place several saving measures that grow over time. Spending in Government Departments has decreased.

We have made a commitment to reducing the size of the public service, in conjunction with collective agreements in place and through attrition. This includes approximately 100 positions this year, bringing our total reduction of positions to date to just under 900. We have also made reductions in our agencies, boards, and commissions.



This past year, we started the process of paying out severance to public service employees, which will eliminate a long-term liability from our books and save taxpayers over \$25 million annually once fully implemented.

The main reason for spending increases in Budget 2019 is 100 per cent cost-recoverable expenses which will not add to the deficit, such as spending that is fully recovered by the province through federal funding for such things as infrastructure; and one-time expenses, including Election 2019, Inquiries and the relocation of Little Bay Islands.



### **ATLANTIC ACCORD**



#### YOUR LIBERAL GOVERNMENT HAS SECURED A BETTER RETURN ON THE **HIBERNIA PROJECT.**

A renegotiated Atlantic Accord was finalized earlier this year with the Federal Government and guarantees an additional \$2.5 billion of revenue starting with \$134.9 million in the first instalment this year. This immediately improves the financial position of the province and reduces the financial burden on Newfoundlanders and Labradorians while preserving important public services.



As part of the agreement, our province will continue to receive 100 per cent of its offshore resource revenues, and benefit from their development just as if the resources were on land. And a dispute resolution mechanism has been established between the Federal and Provincial Government – the first of its kind in any Accord agreement. This ensures our province's rights will be respected.





### **BUDGET 2019**



#### THE BUDGET DEMONSTRATES CONTINUED PROGRESS ON THE ISSUES THAT MATTER.

#### On cost of living:

- No fee or tax increases in Budget 2019.
- Eliminating the Temporary Deficit Reduction Levy in 2019.
- Eliminating the tax on automobile insurance.

#### On improving the province's financial stability:

- The 2018-19 deficit stands at less than half of what it was when this government took office. At \$522 million the deficit is lower than forecast.
- Continued prudent management of government spending will see the government reach balance and surplus in 2022-23.



#### While investing in what matters:

- Infrastructure investments to support new and existing health care infrastructure, schools, roads and bridges, affordable housing and municipal infrastructure.
- Enhancements in the provincial drug program treatments and Insulin Pump Program.
- Improved access to child care and classroom resources to improve student outcomes.
- Allocating \$2.5 million, growing to \$5 million in following years to implement the Autism Action Plan.



### **HEALTHIER PEOPLE**

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#### YOUR LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WILL SUPPORT MORE PRIMARY HEALTH CARE TEAMS **ACROSS THE PROVINCE.**

Primary health care transformation initiatives such as these have already improved access to care and reduced costly emergency department visits for non-urgent care.

Since 2017, the Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan has significantly reduced the number of people waiting for mental health and addictions counselling services.

A new mental health and addictions facility will be constructed to replace the Waterford Hospital, with 102 beds, and bringing together mental health and physical health services in one location.

# FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Construction of a new acute care regional hospital in Corner Brook is planned for late 2019.

#### Other initiatives in Budget 2019 include:

- Enhancements in the provincial drug program to cover 15 more drug therapies including oncology treatments.
- Lifting the age cap for those currently enrolled in the Insulin Pump Program.







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#### YOUR LIBERAL GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC VISION IS THE WAY FORWARD PLAN, **A MULTI-YEAR PLAN TO STRENGTHEN OUR ECONOMY.**

#### This includes concrete action in a range of sectors:

- Doubling tourism spending with investments in tourism marketing and infrastructure.
- Protecting and diversifying the forestry sector.
- Improving workforce readiness to meet future labour market needs.
- Supporting film and television production and non-profit cultural facilities and organizations.
- Doubling food self-sufficiency and employment in agriculture.

#### Support resources development through:

- Advance 2030 government's plan for growth in the Newfoundland and Labrador Oil and Gas Industry.
- Mining the Future 2030 government's plan to position our province as a top tier global jurisdiction for safe, environmentally responsible exploration and mining.



Your Liberal Government's plan is to ensure Newfoundland and Labrador continues to be a globally-preferred location for investment to ensure lasting benefits and to employ more that 7,500 in direct operations in oil and gas.

In the past two years, over \$18 billion in investments have been announced in mining and oil and gas. In 2019, direct employment in mining is expected to grow to 5,100 jobs and another 1,200 employed in the construction activities.



### **EDUCATION**



#### YOUR LIBERAL GOVERNMENT'S NEW EDUCATION ACTION PLAN IS PUTTING IN PLACE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE PREMIER'S TASK FORCE ON **IMPROVING EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES.**

#### Investments to support the Education Action Plan include:

- Hiring 350 teacher resources in K-12 education.
- Support for teachers wishing to enhance their qualifications.
- Resources to support Social and Emotional Learning necessary for positive mental health.



Your Liberal Government is making transformative changes to early childhood development and the education system including:

- Significant investments to increase child care spaces.
- A Child Care Services Subsidy Program and improving accessibility of child care for low and middle income families.
- An income enhancement to qualified Early Childhood Educators.

### We are committed to supporting accessible and affordable post-secondary education through investments:

- In the College of the North Atlantic and its 17 campuses.
- To maintain tuition levels for Newfoundland and Labrador students.
- To improve infrastructure.



### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

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#### YOUR LIBERAL GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDE FIRST RESPONDERS WITH MUCH-NEEDED, **UP-TO-DATE EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY.**

This will include the creation of a single, province-wide public safety radio system; and using that investment to enhance cell-phone coverage across the majority of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Your Liberal Government is committed to:

- The construction of a new correctional facility in St. John's, with construction to start in 2022.
- Reducing crime through a Drug Treatment Court and Electronic Monitoring Programs.



#### Your Liberal Government is committed to:

- Continuing Legal Support for Survivors of Sexual Violence.
- Instituting Clare's Law, which is aimed at reducing domestic violence.





### MUSKRAT FALLS RATE MITIGATION

#### YOUR LIBERAL GOVERNMENT CALLED A COMMISSION OF INQUIRY SO YOU CAN KNOW EXACTLY WHAT WENT WRONG AND ESTABLISHED THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD'S ROLE IN **EXAMINING AND INFORMING DECISIONS ON ELECTRICITY RATES.**

Looking forward, your Liberal Government has a credible plan to protect ratepayers from massive electricity rate increases Muskrat Falls would otherwise cause.

# TO COVER THE COST OF RATES

Instead of rates rising to 22.89 c/kwh, the Liberal plan will prevent rates from rising beyond 13.5 c/kwh by:

- Reducing expenses.
- Directing Nalcor profits to cover the cost of rates.
- Financial restructuring through a commitment from the Federal Government to achieve electrical rate mitigation following options outlined by the PUB.





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## A BETTER ECONOMY

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YOUR LIBERAL GOVERNMENT managed the province through an economic crisis while surpassing forecasts on the economy. Not only have we exceeded general expectations, we have exceeded the 2015 Progressive Conservative Government's forecast for where our province would be today.

Your Liberal Government convened a high-priority Cabinet Committee on Jobs, and with nine straight months of steady growth in employment numbers in our province, we are committed to continuing this work, because it is working.

The facts are:

- The total number of people working in Newfoundland and Labrador today is higher than what was forecasted by the Progressive Conservatives in their last budget.
- Today, employee compensation is nearly a quarter of a billion dollars higher than forecasted in 2015.
- Today, project investment is one billion dollars higher than projected in Budget 2015.
- Today, retail sales are higher than the 2015 Budget projected they would be.

	PC Budget Forecast for 2018	Actual 2018 as a Result of Liberal Action
Employment	222,800	225,300
Employee Compensation	\$14.8 billion	\$15 billion
Capital Investment	\$8.5 billion	\$9.7 billion
Retail Sales	\$8.96 billion	\$9.01 billion

Your Liberal Government has a strong partnership with the Federal Government and Premier Dwight Ball has represented our province exceptionally on the national stage. By working together with our colleagues, we have been able to position Newfoundland and Labrador to achieve its potential. It was fitting that, on the seventieth anniversary of Confederation, celebrating our great union with Canada, Premier Ball stood side by side with the Federal Government and announced a new approach that was built on partnership and dialogue to ensure that Newfoundland and Labrador is the principal beneficiary of the rich resources in our offshore.



The new revenue stream guaranteed by the Government of Canada will deliver \$2.5 billion to our province, with the majority of the revenues to come before 2030, when this province most needs it, with no restrictions on its use. It will immediately reduce our provincial net debt, reduce our interest payments, and help us stay the course for fiscal stability and return to surplus. These are ADDITIONAL benefits over and above what we are already receiving under previous Atlantic Accord agreements.

Our strengthened Atlantic Accord includes a dispute resolution mechanism, the first of its kind in any Atlantic Accord agreement, that will ensure Newfoundland and Labrador's rights are respected. This province will continue to receive 100 per cent of its offshore resource revenues, and benefit from their development just as if the resources were on land.

And in addition to the \$2.5 billion revenue stream and the immense benefits that it will bring to our province over the longer term, your Liberal Government has also secured conditions that will ensure and support the future growth of offshore developments. We have secured deepened joint management of Newfoundland and Labrador's offshore development in areas such as land tenure, worker safety, regulatory efficiency, and regulator modernization as well as a firm commitment that oil and gas activity will be permitted in the highly attractive Northeastern Slope area – something industry has desired for a long time. These combined measures will fuel a brighter future for all Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, for generations to come.

#### STRENGTHEN OUR RESOURCE INDUSTRIES

Over the last two years, your Liberal Government has announced over \$18 billion in investments in mining and oil and gas projects in our province.

The potential in our oil and gas industry is incredible as we've outlined in Advance 2030 – A Plan for Growth in the Newfoundland and Labrador Oil and Gas Industry. In less than seven per cent of our offshore, we have identified a combined resource potential of 49.2 billion barrels of oil and 193.8 trillion cubic feet of gas. We also have over 650 leads and prospects identified to date, eight new entrants in the past two years, and close to \$4 billion in recent exploration work commitments.

Your Liberal Government's plan is to ensure Newfoundland and Labrador continues to be a globally-preferred location for investment to ensure lasting benefits and to employ hundreds more people in direct operations in oil and gas.

Under the leadership of Premier Dwight Ball and your Liberal Government, we have created a new, stand-alone oil and gas company to further drive investment and innovation in this industry. Our commitment is working, as our province has seen unprecedented investment in our offshore and mining industries.

This past November, the province received record bids for offshore exploration totalling \$1.38 billion. This is proof that our plan is working, and we are attracting investment and growing activity in our oil and gas industry.

With \$3 billion in mineral shipments in 2018, our mining industry is booming. The mining industry directly employed some 4,800 people throughout Newfoundland and Labrador. In the 2019 forecast, mineral shipments are expected to grow to \$4 billion with direct employment anticipated to be 5,100 and another 1,200 employed in the construction activities.

Your Liberal Government has moved swiftly to promote our mining industry and the many opportunities that exist. We will continue to move forward with our plan, Mining the Future 2030, and position our province as a top tier global jurisdiction for safe, environmentally responsible exploration and mining growth and to maximize benefits and opportunities by competitively producing quality products for global markets.

Your Liberal Government also recognizes the significant opportunities renewable energy presents in terms of economic development and environmental progress. With an abundance of developed and undeveloped renewable energy sources such as hydro and wind, Newfoundland and Labrador has much more to offer.

To chart this renewable future, we are committed to working with industry and stakeholders to develop a renewable energy strategy that is focused on creating employment opportunities and further positioning the province as an energy hub.

#### Bay du Nord Deepwater Oil and Gas Production

Your Liberal Government is taking the first step into a new frontier for the province's oil and gas industry – deepwater production and the development of the Bay du Nord Project. Discovered in 2013, the Bay du Nord Project is expected to be sanctioned in 2020, with first oil expected in 2025. With reserves of nearly 300 million barrels of oil, Bay du Nord is the first remote, deepwater project in the province's offshore. It opens a new basin – the Flemish Pass and is the first project to be negotiated under Newfoundland and Labrador's generic oil royalty regulations. The project has many benefits, including:

- More than \$14 billion in economic activity (in 2017 dollars).
- In-province employment of 22.3 million person hours over the life of the project (approximately 11,000 person years).
- Estimated \$3.5 billion in government revenues.
- Expected in-province fabrication of 5,000 metric tonnes.
- Focus on subsea engineering and new fabrication capabilities.
- A minimum \$75 million in research and development, and education and training expenditures over 10 years to position Newfoundland and Labrador as a deepwater centre of excellence.
- Equity stake of 10 per cent.



#### Voisey's Bay Underground Mine

Your Liberal Government has announced construction of the Voisey's Bay underground mine, to proceed in summer 2019. First ore production from the underground mine is expected no later than April 2021 and provides for continuity of operations at the Long Harbour processing plant. This initiative delivers on commitments to strengthen the province's economic foundation. The underground mine will extend the operating life of Voisey's Bay by at least 15 years and will result in:

- Close to \$2 billion in capital investment by Vale.
- 16,000 person years of employment during the five-year construction period, peaking at 4,800 in 2020.
- Once operational, 1,700 in jobs at the underground mine and Long Harbour processing plant.
- 2,135 person years in indirect and induced employment annually.
- \$370 million per year in labour income.
- \$1 billion in economic activity annually that will result in \$69 million per year in provincial tax revenue.

#### **RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**

The Newfoundland and Labrador technology sector includes almost 600 businesses, employing approximately 6,500 people. In an effort to increase technology sector business activity and grow the number of people employed, a joint government-industry working plan entitled The Way Forward on Technology was released in February 2018.

A target of supporting the growth of technology firms over the next two years has been established. Supporting greater research and development has proven outcomes and will help attract new researchers and investment to the province as well as help expand key industries.

Your Liberal Government is a partner in creating a culture where such innovation and entrepreneurship can flourish, recently supporting the growth of 40 firms.

Your Liberal Government will allocate almost \$14 million in this year's budget to support access to much-needed capital investment and support a climate where such innovation can occur.

The global ocean economy is anticipated to double in size by 2030 and your Liberal Government is positing our province to capitalize.

Your Liberal Government understands that the rapid growth of the ocean technology sector will require a new wave of innovation, science and technology. We believe Newfoundland and Labrador is well-positioned to solidify its place globally as an industry leader.

Whether it is remote monitoring, autonomous underwater vehicles, simulation, or subsea imaging technologies, we are developing technology that is supporting the development of resources in the offshore safely and responsibly.

Newfoundland and Labrador represents 50 per cent of Canada's ocean industry. The newlycreated Atlantic Ocean Supercluster will build off this collective activity and help grow the ocean economy into one of the most significant and valuable segments of Canada's economy. It will help open up new opportunities for businesses to compete globally and help create new jobs for young, innovative Newfoundlanders and Labradorians.

Your Liberal Government will be a partner of the supercluster and enhance the province's innovation infrastructure to encourage entrepreneurship. In particular, we are fostering development through the supercluster with investments like the Holyrood Marine Base.

For example, in Budget 2019, we are contributing \$2.5 million towards the construction of a new 36,000 square foot facility at the Marine Institute's Holyrood Marine Base.

This new facility will support education and research, as well as accelerate the growth of ocean technology firms through the provision of space and latest technologies to test products.

This year, your Liberal Government will also invest \$250,000 to launch an ocean technology competition, focused on developing solutions that solve Newfoundland and Labrador's unique challenges.

#### **ENERGY POLICY – RATE MITIGATION PLAN**

Premier Ball has been steadfast in his belief that the Muskrat Falls Project will go down as the greatest fiscal mistake in Newfoundland and Labrador history. Our province cannot go back to the mindset that allowed this ill-conceived project to come to fruition.

Your Liberal Government called a Commission of Inquiry so you can know exactly what went wrong. This Inquiry will continue and report to government in 2019.

Your Liberal Government has turned the page and brought the Public Utilities Board (PUB), the gatekeepers of lowest possible electricity rates and reliable service, back into the electricity rate conversation to inform its plan. The disastrous Muskrat Falls Project would never have come to fruition had the Progressive Conservatives not locked the PUB out of the process.

Going forward, your Liberal Government has a credible plan to ensure ratepayers are not subjected to the massive electricity rate increases Muskrat Falls would otherwise cause. Instead of 22.89 c/kwh, which would see power bills double, the Liberal plan is to mitigate electricity rates down to 13.5 c/kwh (the estimated rate in 2021 without Muskrat Falls) by the time Muskrat Falls begins to affect rates in 2021. We will do this by:



- Reducing Expenses:
  - o Organizational change at Nalcor Energy, reducing duplication and finding efficiencies.
  - o Reduce Muskrat Falls Operating and Maintenance Costs by at least 15 per cent.
  - o Reduce diesel fuel dependence in isolated diesel systems by 50 per cent.
  - o Displace costly oil-fired Holyrood generation.
- Raising Revenue:
  - o Direct \$200 million per year in Nalcor revenue to reduce electricity rates.
  - o Eliminate fuel fired electricity and electrify government buildings, including hospitals and Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador. This broadens the base of clean electricity users, thereby lowering the rate for you, the ratepayer.
  - o A comprehensive data centre policy, such that industrial data centres pay a similar rate to that of Quebec, extracting more revenue to pay for Muskrat Falls so you, the ratepayer, do not have to.
  - o Sell Holyrood performance credits and redirect that revenue from government treasury to you, the ratepayer.
- Financial Restructuring:
  - o Thanks to bringing the PUB back into the Muskrat Falls conversation, we now have a number of options through which our partnership with the Federal Government will achieve rate mitigation.
  - o Your Liberal Government has also entered into a formal process with the Government of Canada. Specifically, both parties agree:
    - > To undertake a thorough analysis of the underlying drivers of electricity rate increases.
    - > To consider all options including those identified in the interim PUB report, to achieve rate mitigation.
    - > To consider options to enable the province to export its electricity to maximize returns from its electricity generating capacity.
    - > To consider options for how the Lower Churchill projects' affordable, clean energy can further our mutual commitment to combat climate change.
    - > Canada and Newfoundland and Labrador agree to conclude the discussions in as expeditious a manner as possible in order that key policy issues are clear in time for the PUB to prepare its final report.

#### **ENERGY COOPERATION**

Premier Ball and your Liberal Government have been exploring new markets for our clean, renewable resources. Premier Ball has been a leader at the Council of Atlantic Premiers, First Ministers, and Atlantic Growth Strategy meetings which has resulted in a clear commitment from our provincial and federal colleagues to develop a Clean Power Roadmap for Atlantic Canada.

The roadmap will outline a collective vision for how jurisdictions can collaborate over the coming decades to build a clean power network across the region by creating a system-wide plan that will provide economic and environmental benefits. This includes transmission interconnections and next-generation renewable energy technologies — all areas where your Liberal Government will continue to invest.

#### YOUTH

In 2017, Premier Ball created The Premier's Youth Council as a body of up to 25 youth, aged 16-24, appointed through a merit-based process to provide advice to the Premier by bringing a youth perspective to select topics of importance. This council of young leaders meet regularly and often report directly to the Premier on public policy matters in the province.

Your Liberal Government will continue to create an environment that drives a strong and diversified economy, especially for young entrepreneurs.

In 2018-19, approximately 20 loans were provided to young entrepreneurs through the Drive Program, supporting 40 positions. This year, your Liberal Government will allocate \$200,000 to continue to assist young entrepreneurs through loans up to \$10,000.

Through the Green Jobs in Green Spaces for Youth program, there is \$138,000 for investment, which supports our ability to increase the number of student positions and enhanced customer service at parks.

#### WELCOMING NEWCOMERS

Going forward, your Liberal Government will emphasize our focus on supporting newcomer retention, beginning with assisting migrant workers and international graduates to become permanent residents, engaging employers in facilitating workplace-based language training, introducing empowerment-focused employment initiatives for former refugee women, and promoting international entrepreneurship. We will assist newcomers in becoming familiar with their new surroundings and communities, including learning the cultures of and building connections with Indigenous Peoples, and exploring opportunities to live and work in Newfoundland and Labrador. Your Liberal Government recognizes that immigration is critical to growth in Newfoundland and Labrador and is well on the way to reaching our Way Forward commitment of welcoming approximately 1,700 immigrants annually to the province by 2022.



#### FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Your Liberal Government is committed, through The Way Forward, to doubling food selfsufficiency from 10 per cent to 20 per cent by 2022. To do this, we are supporting new and existing farmers, making more land available for farming, and carrying out research to support innovation, improve production, and increase diversity. Since the launch of our Agriculture Sector Work Plan, more than 278 acres of land – the equivalent of approximately 211 football fields – have been prepared for fruit and vegetable production with the potential to produce five million pounds of food.

In 2018, commercial farmers in our province received 255,000 vegetable transplants. Your Liberal Government is committed to increasing this by seven times, to over 1.5 million in 2019. This means a greater variety of vegetables available to local commercial farmers to help jump-start the 2019 growing season. This is the highest in the province's history.

Our achievements to date mark major progress towards creating new business opportunities, and supporting the many entrepreneurs working in agriculture. Working with our province's dedicated and hard-working farmers, we look forward to continuing to create new jobs and growing on our success.

To build on these new opportunities in the agriculture sector, your Liberal Government will continue to work with farmers, producers, industry, and stakeholders to develop the agriculture sector.

As part of our Way Forward commitment to double food self-sufficiency and employment, the need for cold storage has been identified.

The benefits of such a facility would allow local farmers to overcome barriers that constrain vegetable production, extend their market season, and ultimately expand their operations.

Your Liberal Government is committed to working with the industry to increase the availability of cold storage and we are committed to investing more than \$10 million to support this growing industry, including:

- \$7.1 million under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership.
- \$2.25 million under the Provincial Agrifoods Assistance Program, including \$100,000 to launch the Community Gardens Support Program.
- \$1 million under the Provincial Agriculture Research and Development Program.

Your Liberal Government will also expand efforts to improve access to Crown lands. Amendments to the Lands Act have modernized the legislation and streamlined the process for acquiring titles to Crown lands and we will continue to enhance online services for Crown lands.

#### THE BIG LAND

Already, over the last three years, approximately 220 kilometres of the Trans Labrador Highway have been paved. This year, we are committed to more than \$40 million for the remaining work to be done, including widening and hard-surfacing in 2019. With completion in sight, a fully paved Trans Labrador Highway will open up opportunities for businesses and residents. Your Liberal Government knows that Labrador is rich in culture and history, forming an essential part of our province. Just as large as Labrador's cultural footprint is its vast geography.

Your Liberal Government understands that in a land so vast, transportation is of critical importance for economic development, for social connections and for accessing goods and services needed for everyday life. In 2019 coastal Labrador will have two new ferry services. The Qajaq W had its initial run in January across the Strait of Belle Isle and we look forward to launching our new North Coast ferry later this spring. Both services are fully accessible with ice-strengthened bows and will reduce our carbon footprint by half.

Your Liberal Government will continue to provide funding for safe access from isolated communities in Labrador to the nearest service centre through the Labrador Transportation Grooming Subsidy Program. Upon completion of the Trans Labrador Highway, your Liberal Government will partner with the Federal Government to explore the options and feasibility of a road connecting the North Coast of Labrador.

In addition to work on the existing transportation network in Labrador, your Liberal Government continues to consider what the future of transportation could look like in that region with the exploration of a fixed link between Labrador and the Island of Newfoundland. An updated pre-feasibility report was released in April 2018, reviewing both road and rail linkages. A fixed link could bring great benefits to both the province and the country, socially and economically. While we continue to consider this possibility and now know that it is technically feasible, we recognize that such a project would be a long-term endeavour requiring many partners.

Your Liberal Government remains committed to support community engagement and will continue to play a lead role in the Labrador West Regional Task Force to work with municipalities, the mining sector, and the Government of Canada to support the Labrador West region to seize potential opportunities as well as address any potential impacts. These opportunities include significant new mining and transportation developments made possible through an unprecedented level of cooperation with Quebec to promote development in the Labrador Trough area.



#### WORKING WITH INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

Your Liberal Government has made significant strides to build relationships with Indigenous peoples in our province and to move us toward reconciliation. Reconciliation is a journey and our commitment to that journey is clear and strong.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada was created as a part of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement to inform Canadians about Indian Residential Schools, and to guide a process of reconciliation. Of the 94 Calls to Action outlined by the Commission in 2015, approximately one third are directed at provincial and territorial governments. Although reconciliation will occur over generations, with systemic changes necessary across all aspects of Canadian society, we all can and must take concrete steps to achieve reconciliation. We have engaged with provincial Indigenous Governments and Organizations about the recommendations involving Government and are responding in ways that will build a better future while recognizing and addressing the challenges.

Reconciliation requires close partnership between the provincial government and Indigenous Governments and Organizations. We have started on this path and will continue to partner with Indigenous people across the province to inform and monitor appropriate and relevant efforts to advance reconciliation now and into the future.

This year, leaders of Indigenous Governments and Organizations will be invited to engage in the third annual Indigenous Leaders Roundtable with Premier Ball, to advance matters of mutual importance to Indigenous communities. Your Liberal Government looks forward to continuing these meetings annually over the next four years. Achievements to date include repatriation of Beothuk Remains, engagement to advance Truth and Reconciliation recommendations and mental health and addictions work, and engagement on other matters of importance.

One way your Liberal Government has moved to support Indigenous people is through our recognition that Indigenous people are currently underrepresented in the legal profession. To help improve this we have developed a partnership with the University of Saskatchewan to support Indigenous people in their pursuit of a legal education. To further build on this partnership, your Liberal Government has allocated two articling positions with the Department of Justice and Public Safety for those students upon graduation.

Your Liberal Government is proud to partner with Memorial University to launch the Visiting Aboriginal Elders Pilot Project by the School of Social Work and the Aboriginal Resource Office in support of the Call to Action on Education of the Truth and Reconciliation Report. This project will see Elders from Mi'kmaq, Innu, and Inuit communities of Newfoundland and Labrador visiting Memorial's St. John's campus throughout 2019. The presence of Elders on Memorial's campus enriches the cultural fabric of Memorial by introducing the university community to invaluable Indigenous knowledge and traditions.

#### INDEPENDENT EXPERT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Your Liberal Government will continue to mitigate the wrongs of the previous Progressive Conservative Government and protect the health of the Indigenous and local populations around the Muskrat Falls Reservoir by:

- Respecting the Independent Expert Advisory Committee process to use the best available and peer reviewed science and Indigenous knowledge, and may consider other relevant research only in addition to and not instead of the above-mentioned peer reviewed science, to assess and recommend options for mitigation of methylmercury impacts.
- Proceeding on the following basis following recommendations from the Independent Expert Advisory Committee process:
  - o Acknowledge current data including over 1,200 samples and analysis carried out by an independent and accredited laboratory.
  - o Designate a committee with Indigenous groups and municipalities and a new Chair to:
    - > Begin setting new terms of reference for implementing the recommendation for community-based monitoring program that answers questions about key indicators (i.e. water, key fish species, seal).
    - Begin setting new terms of reference for implementing the recommendation to allow for standard advice to be provided to pregnant women and the community at large that it is important and safe to eat country foods, to assist with the dissemination of communication materials, and to work with Indigenous and local populations to develop benchmarks for action to ensure an appropriate response and communication plan should methylmercury increases in country foods be detected through monitoring.
  - o Current environmental monitoring programs will be examined for further community involvement.
  - o Implement an Impact Security Fund through Nalcor to provide reasonable and appropriate compensation measures to address any impact of food consumption advisories.
  - o Continue dialogue with Indigenous groups and municipalities to address the remaining uncertainty of the science and potential environmental effects of soil removal.
  - o Immediate next steps:
    - > Convene a meeting with Labrador Indigenous leaders to identify oversight committee representatives, who will consider draft terms of reference and chair selection before developing a workplan and deliverables on implementation of recommendations.



#### TOURISM

Newfoundland and Labrador has become a destination of choice for people around the world as travellers are drawn to our people, our culture, and our way of life. Your Liberal Government is proud to continue to grow and support the provincial tourism industry and its over 20,000 jobs by enhancing market readiness, destination development and marketing support in partnership with communities, Hospitality Newfoundland and Labrador, the Newfoundland and Labrador Tourism Board, regional Destination Management Organizations, and tourism operators. Our tourism product development plan will be central to this.

Your Liberal Government will continue in its Way Forward commitment to double Tourist Spending in our province and continue our creative and award-winning tourism marketing campaigns. Under the Atlantic Growth Strategy, we are also working with the Maritime Provinces and the Federal Government on attracting more visitation from foreign countries.

Your Liberal Government commits to continue to work collaboratively to make investments in projects that leverage our limitless strength in tourism, including projects such as:

- Theatre Newfoundland and Labrador's multi-functional theatre complex in Cow Head.
- Supporting the Discovering Aspiring Geopark on the Bonavista Peninsula that will assist in securing UNESCO Global Geopark designation and advancing our geo-tourism industry.

Your Liberal Government commits to create even more buzz about our wonderful tourism experience by investing \$13 million in our tourism marketing campaign, and to also use funds from the \$9.9 million Regional Development Fund to work with industry and community partners to support initiatives to advance economic development infrastructure, marketing, research, and capability in tourism.

#### **FISHERY**

Your Liberal Government is fostering a renaissance in renewable resource industries – on land and on water.

We are transforming and driving innovation in the fish and aquaculture sector through programs such as the Atlantic Fisheries Fund, with a sharp focus on meeting the growing global market demand for sustainably sourced, high-quality, fish and seafood products.

Your Liberal Government will continue to build on its commitment to support aquaculture and double salmon and shellfish aquaculture production, which in turn will more than double employment. We've attracted unprecedented investments in aquaculture from leading global firms, which have positioned Newfoundland and Labrador to become one of the largest aquaculture producers in the country. The aquaculture supply and service sector is creating real opportunities for both new startups and established companies in Newfoundland and Labrador, creating new employment and maximizing industry competitiveness.

To assist fishing enterprises in the wild and farmed fisheries adopt innovative, modern fishing practices in a globally competitive sector, your Liberal Government is allocating millions from the \$100 million Atlantic Fisheries Fund it secured this year. This fund enhances our ability to partner with the industry to meet growing market demands for sustainably sourced, high-quality fish and seafood products.

The newly-created Canadian Fish and Seafood Opportunities Fund, the marketing pillar of the Atlantic Fisheries Fund will advance marketing initiatives and sharpen the industry's ability to target new markets and leverage benefits emerging from free trade agreements with Europe and Asia.

As we continue to explore opportunities to expand the fishery, the recently constituted Fisheries Advisory Council is a valued resource for input and guidance for growing the fishery. This year, we have allocated \$100,000 for the council, which is providing valuable guidance to government as we transition towards greater groundfish activity and manage changes in the availability of shellfish.

To support businesses in these industries, \$500,000 has been allocated through the newly announced Employment Enhancement Program for wage subsidies and training allowances. This will help foster innovation, growth and diversity in these important sectors.

Your Liberal Government will maximize shrimp processing in our province:

- The Newfoundland and Labrador fishery employs nearly 16,000 people from 400 communities. Support for the seafood industry delivers on commitments in The Way Forward to strengthen the province's economic foundation and deliver better outcomes for residents.
- By beginning an innovative, value-added opportunity for the shrimp processing sector, which could see several thousand additional tonnes of shrimp processed onshore with a potential value of millions of dollars and significant job creation for rural communities.
  - Offshore shrimp has been landed in Newfoundland and Labrador, the Maritime provinces, Iceland and Norway for many years. In 2018, offshore vessels landed approximately 30,000 tonnes of frozen-at-sea shrimp in Newfoundland and Labrador, almost all of which was transshipped for export markets.
  - To create increased value and benefit for Newfoundland and Labrador, we will continue to capitalize on an arrangement struck between offshore shrimp companies and onshore processors that will better utilize shrimp resources by making additional frozen-at-sea "industrial shrimp" (smaller shrimp, frozen with shell-on) available for onshore processing in this province. Previously, only a small fraction of industrial shrimp was processed in this province.



 As of April 15, offshore shrimp companies landing frozen-at-sea industrial shrimp will give onshore processors the opportunity to buy. A process has been established to create a streamlined barrier-free pathway for this to occur. Participating offshore companies will give five days' notice to onshore processors advising the vessel's estimated landing date and port, volume of industrial shrimp onboard and the price. Onshore processors who wish to purchase that industrial shrimp for processing will submit an expression of interest.

Your Liberal Government is also committed to providing \$2.5 million from our Labour Market Development Agreement to assist fish plant workers in the event of a downturn in processing work. We will continue to work hard to support the development of safe and sustainable communities. Through this funding, if required, we will provide meaningful, short-term employment opportunities for displaced workers at a time when they need it most.

#### FORESTRY

In forestry, our newly launched Forestry Sector Work Plan is guiding us in diversifying the forest industry, creating new business activities, and increasing job opportunities for residents.

Your Liberal Government fought the imposition of tariffs on newsprint produced by Corner Brook Pulp and Paper, protecting 500 well-paying jobs at the mill and securing the means to develop an innovative forestry sector in Newfoundland and Labrador, employing 5,000 people. We also achieved an exemption from softwood lumber duties and supported the signing of the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement. Your Liberal Government will never stop fighting for our traditional industries and will continue to build on their successes.

Your Liberal Government is strengthening the provincial forestry industry and achieving the goals of increasing timber allocations and harvest levels.

Guided by The Way Forward sector work plan, we will work with industry to diversify the products produced by the forestry sector.

To support this work, your Liberal Government will allocate in 2019:

- \$3.66 million to support silviculture and research into reforestation and forest improvement.
- \$3.42 million for the Fire Suppression Program to protect forests from uncontrolled forest fires.
- \$900,800 for the Insect Control Program to monitor and evaluate forest insect and disease conditions.

As part of our plan on forestry, we will be examining the feasibility of creating a Wood Products Innovation Centre dedicated to applied research, technology transfer and innovation to assist industry in developing new products, including non-timber forest products and valueadded wood products. This will be done in collaboration with College of the North Atlantic, Corner Brook Pulp and Paper, Newfoundland and Labrador Forestry Industry Association, and Memorial University's Grenfell Campus.


# HEALTHIER PEOPLE

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YOUR LIBERAL GOVERNMENT knows that it will take our collective and sustained effort across all sectors of our society pulling in the same direction to improve wellbeing in this province.

While improving our outcomes will take time, we have the potential to see significant progress by bringing our leadership, values, commitment, infrastructure, and evidence to the task. Through The Way Forward Plan, your Liberal Government has adopted and continues to invest in a Health-in-All-Policies approach to ensure all sectors are mindful of the influence that their activities have on the health and wellbeing of our province and its citizens.

Our approach is based on the work of the World Health Organization and we are learning from leading jurisdictions around the world that are using this same approach. As we forge ahead together, we will embrace our cultural strengths and shared experiences. Our goal is to achieve a healthy population living in healthy communities throughout our province.

To move this vision forward, your Liberal Government will invest in the social and economic determinants of health that contribute to a healthy society: creating more jobs and achieving higher incomes, increasing access to early childhood education to improve early childhood experiences, ensuring our children and youth thrive in our classrooms and achieve higher educational outcomes, supporting university education and training programs, promoting industry development that is value-added and inclusive, investing in better housing for all, continuing the path to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, supporting seniors to stay in their own homes, strengthening strong social connections in all our communities, and improving access to preventive and supportive health and community services across our province.

Your Liberal Government knows that for each decision, whether for new legislation, programming or spending, more and more of our focus will be on understanding the full impacts and avoiding unintended consequences so that we make the right decisions for the health and wellbeing of our people and of our province. Our future, and that of generations to follow, depends on it.

Your Liberal Government has had many successes with key construction projects, with more beginning this year. We are finding innovative ways to achieve needed infrastructure improvements for our health care system. Partnering with the private sector to design, build, finance, and maintain new health care facilities, your Liberal Government is committed to increasing access to critical health care services while maximizing value for taxpayers.

Premier Ball and your Liberal Government were proud to announce a new mental health and addictions facility will be constructed to replace the Waterford Hospital. This new facility will be located as an extension to the Health Sciences Centre in St. John's, bringing together mental health and physical health services in one location. This new facility will have 102 beds and will help us advance a key commitment in Towards Recovery: The Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan for Newfoundland and Labrador.



We have also begun work on a new acute care regional hospital in Corner Brook. Your Liberal Government will announce this spring the successful proponent for the design, build, finance, and maintenance of the hospital, with construction anticipated to begin later in 2019.

The new hospital in Corner Brook will be complemented by a long-term care home already under construction in the region and expected to be operational in 2020. This facility will include 145 beds and provide employment for 200 public service employees. Your Liberal Government's partnership with the private sector for the construction and maintenance of this facility will provide savings estimated at over \$14 million to the residents of our province over the 30-year life of the agreement.

We are using a similar approach for the construction of two new 60 bed long-term care homes in Grand Falls-Windsor and in Gander. Your Liberal Government will announce the successful proponent for these homes this spring, with construction slated to begin later this year.

Your Liberal Government is also establishing a six-bed mental health unit in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, eight new long-term care beds at the Dr. Charles S. Curtis Memorial Hospital in St. Anthony and undertaking a 20-bed expansion of the protective care unit at the Dr. Hugh Twomey Health Centre in Botwood. Specialized protective care units provide a safe and secure setting for residents living with Alzheimer's disease, dementia and other similar disorders.

Your Liberal Government is enhancing services in our communities and making sure that residents can access the range of supports they need to build and sustain healthy, fulfilling lives.

We are continuing to improve primary health care services to increase access to the right care, from the right provider, in the right place. Building on the success of primary health care teams on the Burin and Connaigre Peninsulas and in Bonavista, Gander, Botwood, Corner Brook, Sheshatshiu, and downtown St. John's, your Liberal Government will support more primary health care teams across the province. We have identified and are working to establish teams in Stephenville, Bell Island, the Northeast Avalon, and the Deer Lake/White Bay area. Since primary health care transformation has begun, we have seen a reduction in costly emergency department visits for non-urgent care.

Your Liberal Government recognizes that mental health and addictions affects the lives of almost everyone in this province. We know that one in five individuals throughout our province will have a diagnosable mental disorder each year. Over our lifetimes, close to 50 per cent of us will experience some form of mental illness.

In 2017, we released Towards Recovery: The Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan for Newfoundland and Labrador. Since then, there has been a significant reduction in the number of people waiting for mental health and addictions counselling services through initiatives such as Doorways, which is now available in 50 locations province-wide, including all correctional facilities. We have secured \$28.8 million over five years for mental health and addictions services through a bilateral agreement with the Government of Canada and we're the first province to sign a bilateral agreement under the new Emergency Treatment Fund for opioid dependence treatment, which will further increase investment by more than \$4 million.

As we continue to implement Towards Recovery, your Liberal Government is committed to ensuring that the voice of lived experience is heard in all our work through the support of our Recovery Council. The Recovery Council, which is composed solely of individuals with lived experience and affected family members, advises the Minister of Health and Community Services on mental health and addictions matters from a lived experience perspective.

# FOR OUR SENIORS

Your Liberal Government is proud to give back to the people that built our great province. In Budget 2019, we allocated \$123 million toward our NL Income Supplement and NL Seniors' Benefit, providing up to \$1,300 annually to adults aged 65 and older, of which, approximately 70 per cent of single beneficiaries are women.

Your Liberal Government also appreciates the impact of the rising cost of living on citizens that may be on lower or fixed incomes.

That is why we created the Newfoundland and Labrador Income Supplement that supports low income seniors, individuals, families, and persons with disabilities.

Through the Income Supplement, qualifying families are eligible to receive upwards of \$650 per year, with an additional \$200 for each child. Other families would receive more or less depending on their individual circumstances.

In 2018, approximately 47,000 seniors and their families received the Seniors' Benefit and approximately 154,000 families received the Income Supplement.

Throughout our next mandate, your Liberal Government will continue to provide these valuable programs with a total investment of \$123 million in 2019-20.

Premier Ball and your Liberal Government have taken great steps to support seniors, including the creation of our province's first Seniors Advocate. We have also worked closely with Seniors NL and other 50+ organizations throughout the province.

These are important organizations that ensure the voices of seniors are heard and your Liberal Government will allocate an additional \$270,000 for seniors organizations, which will provide additional funding up to \$2,000 for 135 seniors groups to enhance their programming.

To help ensure seniors and older adults remain healthy, active, and engaged citizens, in Budget 2019, your Liberal Government is allocating \$95,000 for the Age-Friendly Newfoundland and Labrador Community Grant Program. Through this program we are working with communities to effectively plan for our province's aging population.



## FREE EYE EXAMS FOR CHILDREN

This year, your Liberal Government will be launching a new program that will provide children starting kindergarten with access to a free, comprehensive eye exam from an optometrist.

We will contribute \$250,000 in coverage for children by supporting the Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Optometrists to deliver the Eye See Eye Learn Program.

This initiative will allow children to overcome potential barriers to eye exams and contribute to a more positive learning experience, as well as an overall improvement to their quality of life.

#### **MIDWIFERY**

The introduction of regulated midwifery services in the province will bring significant value to the health care system and expectant mothers.

In Budget 2019, your Liberal Government has allocated \$370,000 to establish the first location in Gander with a team of three full-time registered midwives. The first midwife will be on the ground this spring. Discussions are ongoing with regional health authorities about future expansion of midwifery services.

#### **ROWAN'S LAW**

Your Liberal Government will begin the legislative process, including public and stakeholder consultations, to pursue Rowan's Law to govern handling of concussions in sport. The law was passed in Ontario after Rowan Stringer, a 17-year old varsity rugby player, died from sustaining multiple concussions resulting in catastrophic swelling of the brain - second impact syndrome.

A public inquest following her death presented 49 recommendations, including the recommendation of a law to govern all youth in sport.

Rowan's Law as passed in Ontario has mandatory requirements for:

- Annual review of concussion awareness resources that coaches and educators would be required to review before registering in a sport.
- Removal-from-sport and return-to-sport protocols to ensure that an athlete is immediately removed from sport if they are suspected of having sustained a concussion.
- A concussion code of conduct that sets out rules of behaviour to minimize concussions while playing sport.

These changes will be considered keeping in mind that strong and effective public policy relies upon the experience and knowledge of people who are most affected. Engaging the sport sector in initiatives and decision making will be vital. We will pursue these changes

while keeping in mind the need for awareness and education on concussions with all sport partners, ensuring any new changes do not create overly burdensome and unnecessary red tape. Most of all, the safety of our most precious resource, our children, will be paramount.

## **INSULIN PUMP PROGRAM**

This year, your Liberal Government will be expanding the Insulin Pump Program.

While we continue to work with Eastern Health to complete a review of the program, we are immediately lifting the age cap for those currently enrolled.

This means individuals currently relying on the program are not at risk of losing their current coverage or having to take on a new financial burden.

# AUTISM ACTION PLAN

Your Liberal Government will increase services and supports for people across the autism spectrum and their families this year.

In Budget 2019, we have allocated \$2.5 million, growing to \$5 million in following years to implement an Autism Action Plan. This plan will take a whole of government approach in the provision of services to people with autism and their families. In total, 46 actions will fall into six main focus areas:

- Awareness, acceptance, diagnosis and assessment of autism spectrum disorder.
- Support for individuals, families and caregivers living with autism spectrum disorder.
- Evidence-based treatment and management of autism spectrum disorder.
- Education for children and youth living with autism spectrum disorder.
- Living with autism spectrum disorder in the community.
- Professional learning and development in autism spectrum disorder.

Your Liberal Government will improve access to home and community support services by eliminating the criteria of IQ 70 from the current eligibility requirements. This means eligibility for support services will be based on functional need only.

The Autism Action Plan will see the creation of two new programs that will ensure seamless supports across the lifespan. The Provincial Autism Services Program will expand Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) programming beyond Grade 3 for children and youth up to age 21 and the Supporting Abilities Program for adults will encourage supportive employment opportunities.

JASPER (Joint Attention Symbolic Play Engagement Regulation) will be available to children up to age 9. JASPER is an ASD therapy that has proven, long-term positive results in children. Clinicians in the province have received extensive training in JASPER. The training will now be made available to parents and caregivers.



# **NEW "HOME FIRST" SUPPORTS IN BURIN – GRAND BANK**

We have an aging population in our province, and more people needing specialized care. Our government is responding to those realities.

Budget 2019 provides \$575,000 so our residents can have enhanced home-based supports for people with complex care needs.

This advances our "Home First" approach to health care: providing better supports that help people remain in their homes for as long as possible.

Through "Home First", people with complex needs, which includes living with dementia or needing palliative care, will be able to access a team of health care providers, including:

- Social Workers
- Nurses
- Occupational Therapists
- Physiotherapists
- Behavior Management Specialists and Recreational Therapists

The team of health care providers will be focused on three areas of support:

- 1. Rehabilitative care
- 2. Dementia care
- 3. Palliative care

The benefits of this approach include:

- Providing more responsive care
- Reducing emergency room visits and pressure on hospitals
- Reducing caregiver stress

# A CLIENT-FOCUSED APPROACH

Guided by The Way Forward, your Liberal Government believes in a client-focused approach in our health care system. As such, we will create a Navigation Network in the Regional Health Authorities to help clients navigate the health system better. We have a Client Relations office in the four RHAs to help address concerns and complaints, however we do not have a separate system whereby clients can get assistance with accessing the appropriate supports. The network will see the creation of at least three navigation roles: a Kidney and Transplant Systems Navigator, Disability Systems Navigator, and Community Support Systems Navigator. The Network will complement the existing Mental Health and Addictions Patient Navigator and Cancer Patient Navigator roles. Your Liberal Government will also create Community Advisory Councils to break down silos in the RHAs and improve communication between communities and the health authorities, Department of Health and Community Services, and members of the Board of Trustees. These advisory councils will be modeled after the positive community cooperation that has occurred in communities like Bonavista and Grand Bank.

Your Liberal Government will provide funding to improve the scope of practice for health care providers, such as allowing pharmacists to give flu vaccinations to all residents in pharmacies for free. This will break down barriers to access so we can better protect our residents. The scope of pharmacists will also be expanded to provide travel vaccinations in pharmacies, further reducing barriers to access for residents of the province.

Your Liberal Government will implement a Quality Council under the new Patient Safety Act to ensure appropriate mechanisms are in place to address quality concerns in our health facilities.

Your Liberal Government will work with the Federal Government to implement a National Pharmacare Strategy that enhances drug coverage for all Newfoundlanders and Labradorians.

Your Liberal Government will also implement an AED registry to ensure our provincial AEDs are easily accessible and regularly inspected so they are available to residents where required.

# **BETTER HEALTH CARE OUTCOMES**

Your Liberal Government will also provide bus passes to all income support clients in the St. John's/Metro region by partnering with Metrobus, the City of St. John's, the Department of Children, Seniors, and Social Development, and the Department of Advanced Education, Skills, and Labour. This will further enhance our efforts in ensuring a Health-in-All-Policies approach to government policy.

Your Liberal Government will increase the number of Nurse Practitioners in our health facilities to provide better primary care to communities. We will also enhance the use of paramedics and advanced care paramedics in our communities to utilize their skills in enhancing prehospital care. This will support the overall health system, especially in rural areas of our province.

Your Liberal Government believes in getting better health care outcomes. That is why we will strengthen the Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Health Information (NLCHI) to drive innovation, efficiency, and patient care by moving towards a digitized health care system. NLCHI continues to make advancements in eHealth and more physicians are signing on to our Electronic Medical Record (EMR).

We will continue to focus on building our highly-integrated Electronic Health Record so that all patient health information is available to providers in one place. Your Liberal Government will build on our success by continuing to expand our TeleHealth and Remote Patient Monitoring services so people can access their health care providers without having to leave their community.



Platforms for e-prescribing and e-consultations will be utilized to allow residents to receive modern care. We will also increase the use of electronic appointment notifications to ensure less appointments are missed, and better enhance wait time management through the use of e-referral systems and common referral pathways, such as centralized intake.

Your Liberal Government will implement an Advanced Care Paramedic Training Program in Newfoundland and Labrador by using the curriculum already being delivered at the CNA Qatar Campus.

Your Liberal Government will also increase public health promotion and prevention measures to bring further awareness and education to areas such as smoking cessation, chronic disease management, healthy eating, and increased physical activity.

# DELIVERING VITAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Every day across the province, dedicated health professionals deliver vital services.

Your Liberal Government recognizes there is undue strain on our health care delivery professionals and is committed to closing gaps in our system that may exist, whether it is Registered Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses, Personal Care Attendants, or other groups of health care workers who ensure a healthy province.

In particular, we are committed to doing whatever possible to fill vacant positions as health authorities are experiencing recruitment issues with Licensed Practical Nurses and Personal Care Attendants. We will fix this.

Your Liberal Government is committed to improving access to Practical Nursing and Personal Care Attendant programs and educating additional people. A Health Workforce Planning committee is working to fast-track the Practical Nursing Program to ensure this happens as soon as possible.

Your Liberal Government remains committed to providing a \$5,000 bursary to students actively enrolled in the Practical Nursing Program and the Personal Care Attendant Program in exchange for a two-year service commitment in selected, difficult-to-fill positions.

As your Liberal Government has always done, it will negotiate issues that arise as put forward by labour unions, including those in the health sector, in good faith. We are committed to delivering better outcomes supported by evidence-based research.





# **BUILDING CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE – ROADS PLAN**

Your Liberal Government is continuing to deliver on our commitments to enhance our provincial transportation networks and provide vital infrastructure that connects Newfoundlanders and Labradorians with crucial services for healthier and more prosperous communities.

Two years after launching our Five-Year Provincial Roads Plan as part of The Way Forward, we have clear evidence the plan is working. By issuing tenders early in the year, road builders are able to take full advantage of our province's short construction season.

Combined with our investments in the Trans Labrador Highway, this has led to more than 1,400 lane kilometres being paved in Newfoundland and Labrador over the last two years. This is equal to paving one lane of highway from St. John's to Port aux Basques AND from Labrador City to Happy Valley-Goose Bay.

This year, your Liberal Government will continue the roads plan budget of \$77.2 million annually. We will allocate approximately \$13.6 million, including funding from the Federal Government, for local and rural highways with lower traffic volumes in need of repair.

For the first time in our province's history, centre line rumble strips will be added to Veterans Memorial Highway and construction of climbing lanes at four locations of the highway will be completed to create a safer environment for all motorists.

These improvements not only mean safer roads and fewer accidents for residents of such communities as Bay Roberts, Carbonear, and Spaniard's Bay, but they also support the continued economic growth of the region and efficient transportation of goods.

Safety on our highways remains a top priority for your Liberal Government. We have increased to use of modern technology to provide tools to the travelling public to make informed decisions before travelling. This year, new highway cameras will be installed at well-travelled routes including the Argentia Access Road and Hearts Content Barrens with an investment of \$145,000.

# MARINE

Our five-year marine infrastructure plan provides better services at ferry ports across the province.

In addition to the significant improvements to the Labrador ferry service, our new contracts for ferry services on the south coast of the island will deliver a more cost-efficient and sustainable service to the communities of La Poile, Francois, Grey River, South East Bight, Petite Forte, Rencontre East, Bay L'Argent, Pool's Cove, Hermitage, Gaultois, and McCallum.

Your Liberal Government this year will allocate \$5 million for the improvement of ferry terminals and wharves and \$10 million for vessel refits and maintenance of provincial ferries.



## MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Your Liberal Government is working with municipalities to create the building blocks for communities to better deliver municipal services, protect the environment, and encourage economic activity.

The good work that has been undertaken has resulted in more than 630 municipal infrastructure projects totalling more than a quarter of a billion dollars. These have been advanced by our ability to partner and work cooperatively with our municipal and federal counterparts.

Under our Three-Year Municipal Infrastructure Program, we are investing in new infrastructure, providing better access to clean drinking water, protecting our environment, and advancing regional collaboration.

With the goal of sustaining these positive community-oriented initiatives, your Liberal Government this year will allocate \$10 million in the Municipal Capital Works Program.

We have improved cost-share ratios so that communities are better able to initiate projects that improve transportation networks and provide places for residents to gather and work together.

Building on this progress, Premier Ball's ability to secure \$555.9 million in federal funding last fall under the Investing in Canada Plan will result in over \$1.3 billion in investments in public transit, green infrastructure, culture and recreation, and rural and northern communities.

In 2019, your Liberal Government will commit \$42 million in provincial funds for projects under the Investing in Canada Plan, and a combined investment of \$91 million in the Municipal Operating Grant Program, the gas tax program, Special Assistance Grants, and the Community Employment Enhancement Program.

Your Liberal Government has also allocated more than \$1.85 million this year for the Newfoundland and Labrador – Disaster Financial Assistance Program. This amount builds on over \$12 million provided last year.

# **REDUCING COST OF LIVING**

In order to save the province from the brink of financial ruin due to mismanagement by the previous Progressive Conservative Government, your Liberal Government made tough choices, some of which were not popular. The sun is breaking through the clouds and the return to surplus is drawing near. This means we can honour our promise to reduce taxes in our province, even while we mitigate Muskrat Falls. We have done this through:

- Eliminating the Temporary Deficit Reduction Levy in 2019.
- Eliminating the tax on automobile insurance.
- Avoiding fee or tax increases in Budget 2019.
- Establishing an effective plan for power rate mitigation.

# SAFE COMMUNITIES

Public safety is paramount. Currently first responders like police, fire fighters, ambulance drivers, and many others rely on outdated technology for communication. Presently, these brave men and women face the following challenges: the majority of systems are either at the end or have exceeded their useful life and are no longer supported by the manufacturers or vendors; the multiple separate radio systems have little or no interoperability, meaning one public safety agency does not have the ability to communicate by radio with another public safety agency, on demand and in real time. Third, none of the current systems have end to end encryption, meaning that personal or mission critical information can be picked up by a low-cost radio scanner.

Parallel to these limitations, ordinary Newfoundlanders and Labradorians currently cope with limited cell-phone coverage in many areas of the province. People of this province require greatly expanded cell-phone coverage.

Your Liberal Government will:

- Replace existing multiple radio systems with a single, province-wide public safety radio system.
- Leverage the resulting infrastructure from this critical public safety investment to provide cell-phone coverage across Newfoundland and Labrador.

Your Liberal Government is committed to a new Her Majesty's Penitentiary in St. John's. A new correctional facility is long overdue and will provide a space for the rehabilitation of inmates and a safer work environment for staff. Construction for the \$200 million facility is set to start in 2022 and this large project will prove to be a significant boost to the construction and trades industry.

As critically necessary as a new prison is, your Liberal Government acknowledges a robust Justice System is more than housing and rehabilitating inmates. It is also about reducing crime and minimizing the number of inmates in a correctional facility. To this end, your Liberal Government is also committed to progressive initiatives such as:

- A Drug Treatment Court:
  - A problem solving, therapeutic approach to those with addictions rather than locking them in prison and pretending the problem goes away.
  - o The court offers hope to help reduce the often tragic health, social and economic costs stemming from drug abuse and aims to help its client on their path towards rehabilitation and healing.
- A Bail Supervision Program:
  - o Bail supervision gives judges another option for supervising offenders instead of remand. The intent is to increase the number of individuals eligible for bail and support accused in securing housing and a surety, reducing the burden on correctional institutions while maintaining community safety.



- Fines Option Program:
  - For too long in our province, we have seen countless headlines where bad drivers with thousands of dollars in unpaid fines are pulled over. A fines option program acknowledges the reality that some simply cannot pay their fines and that imprisonment does little to fix the problem. This program allows for people to do community service and work to pay their debt to society.
- Electronic Monitoring Program:
  - o Electronic monitoring will see ankle bracelets used to enhance supervision of offenders, increasing accountability while keeping victims safe. Devices are currently being tested to determine which technology will work best in this province and over the next several months, a decision will be made identifying target offender groups who will qualify for the program.
- Adult Diversion Program:
  - o The goal of the program is to provide an effective and timely response to the offender's behaviour, encourage offenders to acknowledge and repair harm caused to the victim, and provide an opportunity for the victim to participate in the process. Alternative measures could include counselling, a letter of apology, community service or even a charitable donation. The program has seen success in multiple jurisdictions and is being piloted in this province through Provincial Courts in Stephenville and Corner Brook.

## CLARE'S LAW

Your Liberal Government is committed to instituting Clare's Law, which is aimed at reducing domestic violence. The law will inform people who may not know they are in an intimate relationship with someone who has a history of violence. The law would allow police forces to disclose a person's criminal history to that person's partner in some cases.

# **AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE CHANGES**

Your Liberal Government is committed to a complete elimination of the tax on automobile insurance and a modernized automobile insurance system complete with structural reforms.

In addition, we plan to implement the following measures to ensure structural changes to the system such that our roads are safe and insurance rates are stable:

- Amendments to the Highway Traffic Act to ensure safer roadways:
  - o Enable the use of traffic cameras on our roadways to increase road safety and deter bad driving behavior.
  - o Strengthen distracted driving provisions by adding strict fines and driver license suspension for driving without due care and attention causing bodily harm or death.

- Strengthen excessive speeding and street racing provisions and an expanded application to include stunts in addition to racing.
- o Impose a driver license suspension for infractions related to racing/stunting on a highway.
- o Include separate speeding offences for 31 to 50 kilometers per hour and greater than 50 kilometers per hour.
- Strengthen 'move over' provisions to add a speed reduction of at least 30 kilometers per hour to a minimum speed of 30 kilometers per hour or less for vehicles passing stopped emergency or designated vehicles.
- o Modify proof of insurance provisions to place the onus on the driver to prove the vehicle they were driving was insured at the time the request for proof of insurance was made.
- Improved Highway Design:
  - o Greater implementation of rumble strips, modern geometric design, and traffic congestion mechanisms.
- Direct Compensation for Property Damage:
  - o Under this system, claimants who are not at fault would not have to deal with the at-fault party's insurer to collect reimbursement for damages to their automobile, allowing for faster and more customer-friendly resolution of their claim.
- Mandating a no pay, no play system whereby uninsured drivers are prohibited from recovering compensation under any heads of damage if involved in an accident. This will reduce insurance costs for all consumers while simultaneously deterring the incidence of uninsured drivers.
- Require reporting of changes in insurers to minimize the incidence of uninsured drivers on our streets.
- Electronic documentation adoption of Digital Proof of Insurance, which would be an immediate indication to law enforcement that the vehicle is not insured.
- Evaluation of a potential Plate to Owner Policy:
  - All provinces with the exception of Newfoundland and Labrador and New Brunswick require that, upon the sale or transfer of ownership or interest in a vehicle, the plates must either be surrendered to the Registrar or remain with the original registrant. This would ensure vehicles are continuously monitored, registered and safe.
- Improving rate-setting process:
  - o Align our rate-setting process with that of Nova Scotia.
  - o Mechanisms to reduce cost for insurers in the rate setting process, savings that can be passed on to the consumer.



- o Increase in rating flexibility, including fleet-rating, that could lead to a higher general risk appetite by insurers, increasing competition in the marketplace to the ultimate benefit of policyholders.
- Risk sharing pools:
  - o This, as was done in Ontario, allows insurance companies to come together to form a pool of drivers who are of higher risk, but do not necessarily fall within the description of the Facility Association Residual Market risk, meaning savings for consumers.
- Mandatory insurance discounts for those with winter tires.
- Amendment of the Automobile Insurance Regulations to implement underwriting guidelines concerning the optional use of telematics in a manner that respects the privacy rights of individuals:
  - o Telematics technology is capable of collecting information about where, how and when vehicles are driven.
  - o The information must be treated as personal information and any rating programs utilizing telematics data must be optional and include express consent from the policyholder.
  - Telematics can provide significant vehicle and driver information including safety and security features such as roadside assistance and vehicle tracking. It can assist with claims handling, providing key accident details and providing driving feedback information to make for safer drivers on our streets.
- A better approach to taxi insurance:
  - o Decreasing the insurance commission for the taxi business to a more acceptable level, such as 3 per cent from 6 per cent, thereby reducing the premium required by the Facility Association for this class of business.
  - o Measures to address issues related to the reporting of claims and the non-identification of drivers.
  - Underwriting guidelines concerning the optional use of telematics to incorporate additional data collection to better identify risks within this market and the removal of rate filing requirements for fleet rated risks should encourage insurers, other than the expensive Facility Association, to provide insurance to the taxi industry.
- Diagnostic and Treatment Protocols:
  - The goal of diagnostic and treatment protocols is to get a person injured in a motor vehicle accident on the path to recovery as soon as possible with timely and effective evidence-based treatment specific to injury.

- Injured people would not have to wait for approval from the insurer or for a physician referral to access treatment, nor would they have to pay out of pocket for treatment. There would be consistency in treatment for defined injuries based on scientific evidence, and accident victims would able to choose their own treatment provider.
- Increased deductibles on pain and suffering damages:
  - o This leads to a reduction in bodily injury loss costs resulting in savings for the industry that can be passed on to the consumer. This is a firm rejection of a policy implementing a cap on damages for bodily injures.

## **BETTER SERVICES - DIGITAL BY DESIGN**

Your Liberal Government is committed to reducing manual, paper-based, and other less efficient internal processes and improving the experience and satisfaction of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians as clients of provincial government services. By 2022, our government will increase the number of services delivered online by 50 per cent.

Your Liberal Government has prepared a Digital by Design roadmap identifying six initial areas of service delivery for redesign. Over the next five years, we will invest in the implementation of this new approach to service delivery in order to meet the evolving needs of our clients, create greater efficiencies in how we do business, provide better services and contribute to better outcomes for all Newfoundlanders and Labradorians. Our vision for this initiative is One Client. One GovNL. One Relationship.

The six areas of focus are:

- 1. One GovNL Website: Redesign the www.gov.nl.ca website to make it easier to use, search and understand.
- 2. Smart Applications: Simplify application processes for government services for a more streamlined and personalized client experience.
- 3. Alerts and Notifications: Send status and informational alerts and notifications to clients to keep them better informed.
- 4. My GovNL Digital ID: Provide clients with a single user name and password to use in every digital interaction with the GovNL.
- 5. My GovNL Dashboard: Create a space on the One GovNL website where clients can view a history of their interactions with the GovNL.
- 6. My GovNL Profile: Create a space on the One GovNL website where clients can view and manage their information and preferences across the GovNL.

In 2018-19, our government will focus human resources and financial supports to implement the first year of this Digital by Design roadmap.



# A HEALTHIER ENVIRONMENT

Your Liberal Government will ensure the path Onward is environmentally sustainable. The rougher seas, higher winds, and stronger and more persistent storms demonstrate that climate change is real. We must balance the fiscal priorities of the province with the imperative to contribute to green communities.

Your Liberal Government is committed to the support and development of a clean economy and climate resilient infrastructure. We will promote initiatives to support an environmentally and economically sustainable future for our province for generations to come.

Your Liberal Government will continue the five-year Climate Change Action Plan, which is designed to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, stimulate clean innovation and growth, and build resilience to the impacts of climate change.

Your Liberal Government will commit \$15.1 million in provincial funds to leverage federal funding through the Low Carbon Economy Leadership Fund. These funds will ensure a suite of programs, including:

- Home Energy Savings Program
- The Energy Efficiency in Oil Heated Homes Program
- The Climate Change Challenge Program
- The Freight Transportation Fuel Efficiency Program
- Fuel Switching and Energy Efficiency in Public Buildings Program

Your Liberal Government will commit \$346,800 to support the review of the Provincial Solid Waste Management Strategy, which will ensure the protection of the environment by addressing a broad scope of waste management issues in a modern and efficient way.

Your Liberal Government will provide \$160,000 to each of the Western, Central, and Eastern Regional Service Boards to allow them to continue the Regional Water and Wastewater Operators Pilot Program until March 31, 2021. This will allow participating communities to continue to work towards improving operation and maintenance procedures for their water and wastewater systems, reducing the number of boil water advisories on public drinking water systems, and achieving compliance with the federal wastewater regulations.

Your Liberal Government will, in partnership with Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro, introduce a Heat Pump Rebate Program in 2019-20 to assist homeowners in increasing the energy efficiency of their homes through the installation of a heat pump. Homeowners can receive a grant of \$1,000 towards the purchase and installation of an eligible heat pump.

Your Liberal Government will continue The Way Forward on Climate Change thereby prioritizing increasing electric car usage. Extracting a positive from an extreme negative, excess renewable electricity our province otherwise would not need from Muskrat Falls presents new opportunities to reduce emissions through vehicle electrification Your Liberal Government will invest \$2 million in collaboration with Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro to leverage Federal Government funding to enhance the electric vehicle charging station network. This will include accepting applications from the private and not for profit sectors through the Investing in Canada Program and pursuing federal investment through the recent Request for Proposals from Natural Resources Canada.

Your Liberal Government introduced amendments to the Environmental Protection Act that allow the Provincial Government to draft regulations to ban the distribution of retail plastic bags. It is anticipated to take between six and 12 months before the ban is fully implemented, so residents will have time to get accustomed to bringing reusable bags along when shopping and businesses can begin looking at offering alternatives to plastic retail bags.

At the same time, your Liberal Government is committed to conserve our iconic and treasured wildlife resources through science-based management and collaborations with resource users on initiatives like 'Year of the Salmon' in 2019 and caribou management planning.

## PROTECTING THE MOST VULNERABLE IN OUR SOCIETY

The Way Forward commits to better services and better outcomes. As the basic social unit of any society, we know that better outcomes for families means better outcomes for Newfoundland and Labrador as a whole.

This year, your Liberal Government will proclaim the new Children, Youth and Families Act, a progressive piece of legislation that improves information sharing, enhances focus on maintaining children and youth in their family home, expands permanency options for children and youth in foster care, identifies and better supports youth in need of protection, and strengthens service delivery to Indigenous children, youth and their families.

Your Liberal Government is committed to enhancing well-being and access across the lifespan to help families and communities thrive. Our new modernized Act will be a cornerstone for our work. We will build upon this progress with an action plan on prevention and early intervention for families. By refocusing resources and realigning branches, we will coordinate government efforts, focus on community partnerships, and identify opportunities to reduce the number of children in need of protection, improve in-home supports for those children in need of protection, reduce the cost and improve options for out-of-home care and identify strategies to facilitate getting children home or to a permanent home.



## ACCESSIBILITY AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Your Liberal Government is pleased to partner with the Provincial Advisory Council for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities and the Coalition of Persons with Disabilities NL to develop and deliver an inclusive and accessible engagement process.

Members of the community of persons with disabilities and other interested groups and individuals had the opportunity to provide their valuable input to help inform the development of accessibility legislation for our province. Extensive engagement sessions throughout the province culminated in an Accessibility Symposium Workshop on February 28.

We have heard repeatedly and consistently from the community of persons with disabilities and stakeholders that we need a made-in-Newfoundland and Labrador approach to accessibility legislation and we need to get it right. To that end, your Liberal Government will continue to work with our partners to develop and deliver new provincial accessibility legislation.

## SUPPORTING FIRST RESPONDERS

In 2019, your Liberal Government is making our Fire Protection Vehicle Program work better for communities and fire departments.

This year, we have allocated \$2.88 million for the replacement of fire protection vehicles and firefighting equipment. This reflects a \$1 million increase to include more options for communities to access funding for both used and new vehicles, as well as \$101,000 for grants to the Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Fire Services to support operations and the Learn Not to Burn Program.

Your Liberal Government is proud to continue the presumptive cancer coverage benefit that career and volunteer firefighters receive in our province. Qualified firefighters can receive wage-loss benefits, medical aids, and certain other benefits through WorkplaceNL, while health care costs associated with firefighters' cancer treatment are paid through the Medical Care Plan.

Your Liberal Government also knows that work-related mental health conditions, such as PTSD, are impacting workplaces across Canada. That is why, as of July 1, 2019, a worker who experiences a traumatic event or multiple events at work will be presumed to have developed their diagnosed PTSD as a result of their work – making it easier to apply for benefits.

This progressive legislation simplifies the claim process and allows the workers' compensation system to help injured workers receive the assistance they need earlier. This will lead to better outcomes in improving the worker's overall health and well-being as well as options for returning to work when appropriate.

# HOUSING

Your Liberal Government demonstrated its commitment to affordable housing for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, by recently announcing a Provincial/Federal agreement to invest a total of \$270.6 million to help protect, renew, and expand social and community housing in the province, as well as to support Newfoundland and Labrador's priorities related to housing repair, construction, and affordability.

Through the new housing agreement, there will be enhanced standards of housing quality, which includes improved energy efficiency and accessibility. It will also acknowledge the importance of prioritizing people most in need and applying a gender lens to all investments.

Your Liberal Government supports a number of initiatives to help support vulnerable families and children, such as the Triple P Parenting Program for families with children in care. In doing this, we hope to support families in a holistic way to help prevent children from coming in need of protection and entering into the care system.

We believe that safe, stable and affordable housing is fundamental to the social and economic well-being of individuals, families and our communities. Your Liberal Government is working closely with our community partners to help improve access to affordable housing and make it easier for first-time home buyers to enter the market.

Last year, approximately 1,150 public housing units were modernized or renovated and this year we are allocating \$10.2 million to ensure safe and quality homes are available for tenants. To modernize and renovate public housing, \$3.1 million has been allocated, which will help ensure we continue to provide affordable housing.

The Home Energy Savings Program will provide \$4.4 million to assist low-income homeowners to help reduce energy costs. This year's expanded program will assist homeowners using alternate heating sources such as oil, propane, diesel or wood biomass; in addition to those using electrical heat.

Our \$7.39 million investment in the Supportive Living Program and the Provincial Homelessness Fund will allow us to support community agencies in places like Stephenville, Labrador West, and Carbonear who are working directly with individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Your Liberal Government will also maintain its support for the Housing Hub emergency shelter in Happy Valley-Goose Bay and provide \$500,000 in operational funding this year, enabling the Hub to continue offering shelter to those who are homeless.

Whether it is the Nain Transition House, Kirkina House in Rigolet or Grace Sparkes House in Marystown, there is incredibly important and valuable work being undertaken in transition houses and emergency shelters in our province. In this year's budget, your Liberal Government continues to support their work with \$11.8 million in funding and an additional \$500,000 will be allocated to assist Iris Kirby House.



## LGBTQI2S

Your Liberal Government believes in fairness, respect, and equality – for all – and we are committed to embracing and celebrating the diversity of all people. Everyone in our society deserves full acceptance regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, colour or religion.

Your Liberal Government is proud to have moved forward with gender neutral birth certificates, which allows for a change of sex designation on a birth certificate from female or male to non-binary.

Your Liberal Government will continue to recognize Pride Week with a flag-raising ceremony held at Confederation Building and illuminate the East Block in Pride colours during the week.

Through the Community Healthy Living Fund and support to community agencies, your Liberal Government will continue to provide support to a variety of LGBTQI2S related activities. We will also continue to support, through the Safe and Caring Schools Policy and the Guidelines for LGBTQI2S Inclusive Practices, professional learning, open dialogue, resource development, and student led activities.

## SEARCH AND RESCUE INQUIRY

Your Liberal Government will proceed with the establishment of an inquiry into search and rescue services in our province. The inquiry will be established in 2019 and will examine how services as a whole are provided in this province. Now that the Report of the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans has released its review of Maritime Search and Rescue, we will follow closely whether the Federal Government will accept the findings, as that decision will impact the scope of our inquiry. The Senate review and recommendations will help form the basis of the provincial inquiry.

## INNU CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEM INQUIRY

Your Liberal Government, in keeping with the Memorandum of Understanding signed between Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and the Innu Leadership, will establish an inquiry with the cooperation of the Federal Government into the treatment, experiences and outcomes of Innu in the child protection system.



# A BRIGHT FUTURE

# STRATEGIC CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE AT COLLEGE OF NORTH ATLANTIC CAMPUSES TO ALIGN WITH PRIORITY SECTORS

Your Liberal Government, through our partnership through the Labour Market Development Agreement (LMDA) with our Federal Government, are committed to creating economic development hubs in priority sectors central to our Way Forward plan. By establishing Centres of Excellence for priority skills training, this innovative approach takes direct action in developing a skilled workforce here at home to align with sustainable jobs to come through the burgeoning economic development we have fostered:

#### AQUACULTURE

• A \$237,000 investment for development and delivery of a new 18-week Aquaculture Training Program at CNA Burin campus, commencing Fall 2019. This is a joint program partnership between CNA and the Marine Institute.

#### TOURISM

- A \$703,006 investment for development and delivery of a new modular online Tourism and Hospitality Services Certificate Program, commencing Fall 2019.
- A \$351,050 investment for development and delivery of a new certificate program, Art and Design Essentials, through distance delivery, commencing Fall 2019.

#### MINING

• A \$858,373 investment for development and delivery of a new 9-month Geological Technician Certificate Program at CNA Grand Falls-Windsor campus, commencing Fall 2019.

## TECHNOLOGY

- A \$493,065 investment for building on work already completed to digitize year one of the Video Game Art and Design Diploma Program; by end of 2019-20, CNA will have permanently converted years two and three of the program to online delivery.
- A \$220,972 investment for development and delivery of a new modular online Atlantic Trades Business Seal Certificate Program by Fall 2019. This will provide entrepreneurial and business management skills to certified Journeypersons.

#### AEROSPACE

 A \$323,000 investment to research the development of a training strategy regarding Non-Destructive Testing (NDT) – Aerospace Development at CNA Gander campus. This includes stakeholder engagement, research, and strategy development activity to address emerging workforce development needs specific to non-destructive testing within the aerospace sector.



Your Liberal Government will provide \$200,000 for a feasibility study to explore opportunities for additional maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) operations for heavy checks of commercial aircraft.

Newfoundland and Labrador enjoys a long history in aviation, with several well established companies in the sector and a rich array of assets that could support future growth. We can increase the economic impact of the aerospace industry by:

- Attracting investment in a commercial aircraft MRO (maintenance, repair, and overhaul) facility focusing on outsourced heavy checks for the North American market.
- Collaborating with industry and post-secondary institutions to open a new aircraft mechanics training facility in St. John's and expand the aircraft mechanics training facility in Gander. This could train new high school graduates interested in working with the industry while reskilling Newfoundlanders and Labradorians who work in sectors with declining market potential.

The availability of qualified labour is crucial to competing in aerospace. The feasibility study is a crucial first step.

In addition, the Provincial Apprenticeship and Certification Board has approved a proposal from the aerospace industry to provincially designate Aircraft Maintenance Engineer as a new, voluntary apprenticeship trade. Workers with these skills are in high demand throughout the province and across the country. Newfoundland and Labrador is one of the first provinces to respond to aerospace industry demand to designate this trade, which will increase interest and awareness in College of the North Atlantic's Aircraft Maintenance Engineer programming.

# **GROWING TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION SECTOR**

Your Liberal Government partnered with:

- 1. the Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Technology Industries (NATI);
- 2. the Newfoundland and Labrador Environmental Industry Association (NEIA);
- 3. the Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters Newfoundland and Labrador (CME-NL);
- 4. the Atlantic Canada Aerospace and Defense Association (ACADA); and other technology stakeholders, to launch 27 actions to grow our provincial technology industry.

The Technology Work Plan outlines our plans to help grow 40 technology firms over the next two years.

Actions launched today that are responding to the needs of the provincial technology industry include:

- Helping people retrain for new careers in technology;
- Helping kids in the K-12 engage more with the technology, including increased exposure to coding and participation in youth technology experience programs;

- Promoting access to procurement opportunities for local technology sector firms;
- Helping new entrepreneurs in the technology sector with an industry-led mentorship program;
- Promoting technology innovation by holding an annual forum of government, industry and academic leaders; and
- Identifying and developing opportunities for clean technology.

So far, our government has supported the scale up of 20 firms, and are committed to supporting the scale up of at least another 20 in our next mandate. Examples include Quorum, a company that develops software for auto dealerships, and Empowered Homes, which developed innovative home heating technology. Even more provincial tech firms are being helped outside of our industry development plan through our partnerships with the Federal Government and their programming.

## **EMPOWERING WOMEN**

Your Liberal Government recognizes and understands that issues affecting women in our province are of great importance. As part of The Way Forward, we committed to supporting and advancing the economic and social security of women and girls. We are taking an "all of government" approach to issues impacting women and girls and are ensuring that our response to these issues best meets the needs of women and girls across the province.

Your Liberal Government has, for the first time in the history of our province, dedicated a ministerial portfolio with responsibility solely for the Status of Women. This is representative of the expanded commitment across our government to addressing matters affecting women and girls.

Your Liberal Government will continue to strive toward ending violence in all forms and it remains a critical focus. We will continue to convene the Justice Minister's Committee on Violence against Women and Girls.

Your Liberal Government adopted legislation in its last session to introduce paid family violence leave for workers and to expand the definition of family violence in our Family Violence Protection Act. We will build on these efforts by bringing forward new legislation, such as the Interpersonal Violence Disclosure Protocol – also known in the United Kingdom as Clare's Law – aimed at increasing the safety of women in intimate relationships. This would allow police agencies, in some cases, to disclose information about a person's partner.

Your Liberal Government will continue the program we created, in collaboration with the Federal Government, to ensure those who have experienced sexual violence are well informed about the legal system and understand their rights. This legal support program for survivors of sexual violence has served over 50 clients in its first six months of operation. The program helps break down barriers faced when encountering the justice system by providing up to four hours of free legal advice.



Your Liberal Government will be engaging in consultations across the province as we develop a new violence prevention strategy. This work will be guided and supported by a diverse committee of community stakeholders and senior staff from key government departments.

Your Liberal Government commits to advancing women in leadership. We need to see more women at decision making tables – in government, business, industry, and community. We will undertake initiatives to build, strengthen, and advance the leadership of women in our province. We will also celebrate the successes of women who are flourishing in leadership roles.

## PAY EQUITY

Your Liberal Government recognizes that there are often inequities in pay between women and men. As such, an interdepartmental committee has been given the mandate to complete a thorough review of the issue and look closely at models in other jurisdictions. Your Liberal Government will continue this important work and looks forward to the recommendations coming from the committee.

## MINIMUM WAGE

For the first time in the history of our province, your Liberal Government established a growing minimum wage that is tied to an economic indicator. This means that annual increases to minimum wage are predictable for both employees and employers. We are committed to continue to monitor this process to ensure it remains responsive, and comparable to jurisdictions across the country.

# EDUCATION, SKILLS AND CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

#### Childhood Development

Your Liberal Government is making transformative changes to early childhood development and the education system.

More affordable and accessible child care is important for families and the province as a whole. It helps build our communities, it encourages parents, in particular women and single parents, to return to the workplace and contribute to economic activity.

Building on the additional 1,000 affordable child care spaces created since last year, your Liberal Government will allocate approximately \$60 million for early childhood development this year, which includes \$7.4 million through an agreement with the Federal Government.

These investments will:

- Provide \$17 million for the Child Care Services Subsidy Program to reduce costs for individual families.
- Provide \$11 million to continue the Operating Grant Program which improves accessibility of child care for low and middle income families.
- Provide an income enhancement to qualified Early Childhood Educators working in regulated child care services to help improve the quality of child care services.

Coming from a recommendation of the Premier's Task Force on Improving Educational Outcomes and the Education Action Plan, your Liberal Government is undertaking consultationstoinform the development of a guiding document and phased-in implementation plan for Junior Kindergarten. This play-based, quality early learning program would be available for four-year old children in our province during the year prior to Kindergarten.

#### K-12

In July 2018, we released the Education Action Plan to guide actions to improve the K-12 system. In less than one year, close to 40 per cent of the actions have been completed or substantially underway. This reflects the importance we have placed on readying the province's youth for future career opportunities.

Through Budget 2019, your Liberal Government will allocate \$13 million, an increase of \$6 million from last year, to continue implementation of the plan and support better outcomes for students. Through the plan, we are implementing over 80 actions to ensure students have access to the supports they need and hiring 350 teacher resources over a three-year period.

This includes:

- Additional reading specialists, teacher librarians, and teaching learning assistants in K-12 education.
- Learning resources for teachers to support reading in the primary and elementary grades and for school libraries to support literacy development.
- A mathematics bursary program to support teachers wishing to enhance their qualifications in mathematics.

Recognizing the important contribution of Student Assistants, who support teachers in meeting the physical, personal care, safety and behaviour management needs of students with exceptionalities such as autism, cognitive and behavioural disorders, and physical disabilities, your Liberal Government will increase the budget for Student Assistant hours by \$300,000 over last year.



Through our Education Action Plan and the Toward Recovery Action Plan, we are ensuring resources are in place to support Social and Emotional Learning of our students. Social and emotional skills are necessary for positive mental health by achieving and maintaining personal well-being and positive relationships to succeed in the school environment and all aspects of life.

As part of the Responsive Teaching and Learning Initiative currently being phased-in across the province, your Liberal Government will provide an additional \$350,000 to introduce Social and Emotional Learning curriculum into the school system.

Transportation of students is a major focus of your Liberal Government and we will continue to work with the school district, operators, and the industry to ensure safety of our children.

Our current bussing policy is more favorable than most other provinces, however, we have heard from parents and have taken action to address concerns.

This year, we have continued to review bus routes and added many more stops within the 1.6 kilometre zone. Your Liberal Government will continue to review areas of concern and work with the school district to ensure continued safety of our children.

#### Post-secondary Education

In Newfoundland and Labrador, we are fortunate to have internationally-recognized postsecondary institutions that are attracting students from countries that span the globe.

Year-in and year-out, Memorial University and College of the North Atlantic graduate young women and men who go on to be community, business and industry leaders. Many are on the front lines of developing cutting-edge technologies and business practices that are helping strengthen our provincial economy.

Our commitment to supporting accessible and affordable post-secondary education system is reflected by our investment in Memorial University, which is the highest public investment as a percentage of a university's general operating revenues in Canada.

This year, your Liberal Government will also invest:

- \$87 million to fund College of the North Atlantic and its 17 campuses.
- \$78.2 million to maintain tuition levels for Newfoundland and Labrador students, including an additional \$4 million to Memorial University and \$1.1 million to College of the North Atlantic.

Your Liberal Government is working with the Federal Government, as well as leadership at Memorial and the College to improve infrastructure that supports greater learning, new discoveries, and entrepreneurship.

This year we will allocate \$12.2 million to the province's public post-secondary institutions for infrastructure projects. This includes \$1.8 million to complete the \$18.5 million Heavy Equipment Centre of Excellence in Stephenville.

We recently announced the terms of reference and the Committee of Experts for the independent review of the public post-secondary system in Newfoundland and Labrador.

The review will help ensure our institutions are well-positioned to meet the needs of students into the future, address emerging labour market demands, and continue to contribute to the province's economic growth.

We look forward to receiving the results of the review next year.

#### Skill Development/Workforce Development

Premier Ball and your Liberal Government are strengthening the province's workforce to ensure it is positioned to take advantage of current and future opportunities.

Record land sales for oil exploration show our resources continue to be in demand and positive developments are further anticipated in the mining, manufacturing, and tourism sectors, in addition to the aquaculture, agriculture, forestry, and technology sectors.

Through Budget 2019, your Liberal Government will provide funding for programs and services to maintain the province's skilled workforce and prepare for careers in these industries. These include:

- Approximately \$13 million committed for employment and training programs.
- \$6.1 million to support youth in employment and career related activities.
- Approximately \$700,000 to build capacity and provide more flexible training in the province's apprenticeship system by increasing offerings in an online format.
- \$161 million for investment through the Labour Market Transfer Agreement, which will help people prepare for, find, and maintain employment.

Your Liberal Government will also increase the base funding for programs supported by the Labour Market Development Agreement by more than \$3 million.

Additional funding under the Labour Market Development Agreement this year will be used to fund initiatives under the Labour Market Partnership program to support government priorities such as to pilot new training approaches at College of the North Atlantic and support the Community Sector Action Plan.

Last year, we launched the Student Mentorship Program, a program that provides up to 140 students with valuable on-the-job experiences. This year, your Liberal Government has allocated \$339,000 to expand the program to include summer career development opportunities in the agriculture, aquaculture, technology, forestry, mining, community, and oil and gas sectors.

Through the Youth and Student Services Program, there is more than \$6.1 million available for investment. This money will be used for such things as contributing to organizations that assist youth through a variety of services ranging from career fairs to youth employment initiatives focusing on career development and education.



Through our Workforce Development Agreement with the Federal Government, we will invest more than \$13.2 million in 2019-20. Programs supported under this agreement support skills development, provide apprenticeship wage subsidies, and help people with disabilities find and prepare for employment.

Your Liberal Government knows it is important to take steps to improve workforce readiness to meet future labour market needs. Collectively, we know that workforce readiness can't be isolated to a moment in time but we need to be working closely with industry to prepare people for new jobs.

In addition to the post-secondary review, your Liberal Government is allocating \$2 million over four years to develop The Way Forward on Workforce Development.

This comprehensive human resource plan will include dedicated staffing resources who will work with the K-12 school system to provide relevant career-development supports. Specifically, this will include the provision of sector specific labour market information products for inclusion in the new career education curricula.

# CULTURE/ARTS

In Budget 2019, your Liberal Government included multiple other investments to support the growth of the cultural sector, including:

- A \$1 million increase to the ArtsNL grant program in support of artists, bringing the total Provincial Government investment in ArtsNL to over \$2.9 million. This additional investment will increase ArtsNL funding programs that directly support artists to create, produce and showcase their work, building on our previous commitment under the Status of the Artist legislation.
- \$3.45 million for the Cultural Economic Development Program.

We recognize that our artists play a critical role in presenting Newfoundland and Labrador on the world stage and we continue to provide support for this vital sector through the Newfoundland and Labrador Film Development Corporation, the Arts Council, and the Heritage Foundation.

Your Liberal Government understands that Newfoundland and Labrador is well-known for creativity, story-telling, and captivating scenery. We will leverage our strengths in a highly-skilled workforce supporting the development of a film and television industry that employs more than 600 people, creating employment opportunities for women with more than 70 per cent of the projects supported to date being led by female producers. The film and television success in our province acts as part of a robust presentation of our province to the world, bolstering our tourism plan even further. To leverage our strengths and continue to position Newfoundland and Labrador as an attractive location for investment in a very competitive global industry, we will continue to:

- Allocate \$4 million for the Film Equity Program, which we doubled in 2017.
- Renew the Newfoundland and Labrador Film and Video Industry Tax Credit which was set to expire.

Your Liberal Government also recently released a Cultural Action Plan that reflects the importance of culture to the provincial economy. Developed with input from stakeholders throughout the province, the action plan is a guide for cultural collaboration over the next five years.

Your Liberal Government will continue its core support for the protection, development, promotion, and celebration of Newfoundland and Labrador's vibrant culture. This will include:

- Support for non-profit cultural facilities and organizations (and associated activities) through funding programs and advisory expertise.
- Funding support for community cultural activities and events.
- Funding support for Indigenous cultural heritage.
- Operational funding support for The Rooms.
- Continuation of the Art Procurement Program.

## DEMOCRATIC REFORM

Your Liberal Government delivered an All Party Committee on Democratic Reform.

The Committee's work is underway and your Liberal Government commits to continuing the process. The All-Party Committee will review democratic processes in Newfoundland and Labrador with the goal of improving democracy to better serve residents of the province. The committee will examine, study, and consult with the public as it reviews campaign finance laws and considers changes to financial reporting by political parties and district associations. The Terms of Reference allow the committee to identify and explore other issues deemed important by the public.

It is important we have a fair, just and modern electoral system for the people of Newfoundland and Labrador. Based on lessons learned from democratic reform committees across the country, our committee will do its work on an issue-by-issue basis. We have heard from the public and stakeholders that campaign finance rules require change. This will be our initial focus.

## WORKPLACE HARASSMENT

Every person has a right to feel safe and valued in the workplace. Your Liberal Government is not tolerant of behavior that suggests otherwise. We are fully supportive of creating an environment where anyone can come forward and have their voice heard. To this end, your Liberal Government is committed to continuing onward with two ongoing transformations:



 A newly strengthened and modernized Harassment Free Workplace Policy for departmental government employees. The new policy, which came into full effect on June 1, 2018, is one of the most progressive workplace harassment policies in Canada.

The new policy incorporates all of the recommendations from the Rubin Thomlinson report that was commissioned to review government's workplace and respectful workplace programs. It also incorporates best practices from other jurisdictions. Key elements of the policy are:

- An employee awareness program and mandatory training focused on prevention for all employees under the policy.
- A 90-day timeline for all harassment investigations.
- A "single-access entry" point has been established for complaints to be made. This will also ensure that all complaints are addressed in a consistent manner.
- Various communication checkpoints have been established for both complainants and respondents to provide regular updates as the complaint progresses through to resolution.
- The definition of sexual harassment under the policy has been updated to include gender-based discrimination or insults.
- When requested by a complainant, a complaint shall be automatically subject to a formal investigation.
- 2) We also embrace the fact there is not a one size fits all solution to these complex issues, and to that end, your Liberal Government is charting a new way forward for how these matters are handled in the legislature. This commitment is the product of the tireless work of the Privileges and Elections Committee of the legislature. It includes a proposed Harassment-Free Workplace Policy Applicable to Complaints Against Members of the House of Assembly and a recommendation that it be adopted by the House. The Privileges and Elections Committee has recommended a proposed Policy that:
  - Outlines a comprehensive definition of harassment.
  - Provides a confidential support mechanism through the establishment of a position, independent of the Legislature (including its statutory offices), to provide support and guidance to individuals throughout the process.
  - Assigns jurisdiction for the complaint and resolution process, including formal investigations, to an independent office of the Legislature (Office of the Citizens' Representative).
  - Establishes a clear process for complaints.
  - Provides both informal and formal resolution options.
  - Includes mechanisms to protect confidentiality of the complainant and witnesses (to the extent possible, complying with principles of procedural fairness).

- Makes respectful workplace training mandatory for all MHAs.
- In addition to the proposed Policy, the Committee has recommended changes to the principles of the Code of Conduct for Members of the House of Assembly; as well as the Code of Conduct provisions outlined in the House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act (HOAAIA). There are also recommendations for other consequential statutory amendments to the HOAAIA to give effect to the proposed Policy.

# COSTING

Against a mountain of fiscal, economic, and social challenges, your Liberal Government has been resilient, and has made progress that can be measured. With The Way Forward and our continued path Onward, we have set out a plan focused on taking control of our fiscal situation all the while building a better economy and a healthy, prosperous society.

All initiatives in our platform fit within the existing budgetary envelope as presented by the Minster of Finance on April 16th, 2019. We have presented a creditable plan to get the province's financial situation under control and are continuing Onward the path to prosperity.

Details of the current fiscal situation of the province, as detailed in Budget 2019, are presented below:

#### Return to Surplus

Your Liberal Government remains on track to return Newfoundland and Labrador to surplus.

In 2016, we charted a path to return to surplus in 2022-23. In our first year, we cut the overwhelming deficit in half. We remain diligent and focused on our plan to returning to a sustainable surplus in 2022-23.

#### Revenue

Revenue forecasts have increased significantly from Budget 2018 projections.

Through the Atlantic Accord Agreement we receive a guaranteed fixed cash revenue stream from 2019 until 2056, and these funds are "front-end loaded," with approximately 60 per cent received by 2030. In 2019, we will receive \$134.9 million dollars from the first payment.

In 2019-20, revenue is expected to reach \$10.3 billion. Even excluding the Atlantic Accord, revenues are projected to continue trending upward between now and 2022-23.



#### Price Assumptions

While the average price of oil in 2018-19 moved above 2017-18 numbers, oil prices showed continued volatility. Recognizing this, forecasts are carefully considered, and are based on the forecasting models of 11 industry analysts.

In Budget 2019, we are forecasting oil at US\$65 per barrel for 2019-20, and the Canada to US exchange rate to be 76.5 cents.

#### Expenses

This past year, we started the process of paying out severance to public service employees, which will eliminate a long-term liability from our books and save taxpayers over \$25 million annually once fully implemented. To date, \$253.5 million has been paid out.

Of the total paid out to nearly 23,000 public service employees, \$78.5 million was contributed to RRSPs and \$175 million was paid out in cash, which is benefiting the overall economy and small businesses.

The main reason for spending increases in Budget 2019 is 100 per cent cost-recoverable expenses, which account for \$130.8 million.

These expenses have a \$0 impact on the deficit, as the costs are fully recoverable.

There were also several one-time expenses, including Election 2019, Inquiries and the relocation of Little Bay Islands.

Spending in Government Departments has decreased, and we have kept spending stable despite increasing cost pressures.

Spending is forecast to go down gradually as part of our fiscal plan. We have put in place several saving measures that grow over time.

#### Borrowing

In Budget 2018 we forecasted gross borrowing of \$1.45 billion, however our actual borrowing in 2018-19 was \$1.425 billion.

For Budget 2019, borrowing will be \$1.20 billion, which is lower than Budget 2018 projections due to increased cash flow from the Atlantic Accord.



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Authorized by the Chief Financial Officer of the Liberal Party of NL.

