



Newfoundland & Labrador ELECTION PLATFORM 2019



Working for You

It's time to build a better Newfoundland and Labrador.

MESSAGE FROM ALISON COFFIN

Your Voice for Change in 2019

On May 16, the choice for Newfoundland and Labrador couldn't be clearer. New Democrats know there is a better way to govern, a better way to manage our economy to ensure our communities thrive. We will safeguard the public services you need for you and your family.

I am from Joe Batt's Arm on Fogo Island. My formative years were spent on the Burin Peninsula before heading to Memorial University to study economics. In my professional life I have been fortunate enough to be able to work and live here.

I love our province. I love our open spaces and fresh air.

I am proud to be a voice of change. I am proud to lead our NL NDP team.

We are committed to building a prosperous economy where everyone has an opportunity to get an education and a job – a province where people have access to the quality public services they need to help raise a family and care for their parents.

The NL NDP vision is one of long-lasting prosperity for the people who live here. We will make sure the people of this province are at the centre of every government decision.

New Democrats will work to make everyday life more affordable, to improve health and long-term care, to provide quality public services when and where you need them, and to protect our environment. I want to build a strong and fair society with a diversified, sustainable economy.

New Democrats offer a better choice for voters. My heart breaks when I see how government mismanagement has forced many young families to leave our province in search of work and opportunity. The current government has saddled us with enormous debt while they continue to treat public tax dollars (your money) like their own personal chequebook.

Every New Democrat elected to the House of Assembly means one more voice for your everyday priorities. Our ideas work for people and for businesses. Your money should be spent on you.

It's time to build a better Newfoundland and Labrador for all of us. Vote for the party that is always working for you.



LEADER, NL NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY

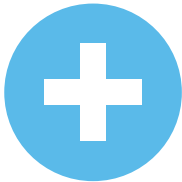
Our Platform

New Democrats work for you. We will:



Make Everyday Life **More Affordable**

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Improve **Health Care** and **Seniors Care**

[PAGE 6](#)



Invest in a **Sustainable Economy**
and **Protect the Environment**

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Fix **Politics** and **Government**

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Support Our **Communities**

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MAKE EVERYDAY LIFE MORE AFFORDABLE

Newfoundland and Labrador faces uncertain times. Basic household costs are increasing – groceries, housing, child care, medical needs, gasoline prices, and of course electricity.

The debt of Muskrat Falls reduces our ability to provide the public services we need as families, young people, and seniors. Don't let the other parties deceive you – what they call their “rate mitigation plans” are merely political documents designed to fool voters. The costs related to Muskrat Falls hang over our heads. That debt will take 50 years to pay. We have to start making life more affordable today.

We can eliminate poverty-level wages. We can increase access to child care, energy efficiency measures, and education. We can make the province work for everyone who lives here.

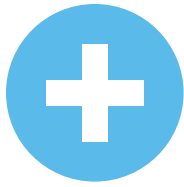
Alison Coffin and the NL NDP will work for you to help make everyday life more affordable in Newfoundland and Labrador.

We can increase access to child care, energy efficiency measures, and education. We can make the province work for everyone who lives here.



THE NDP WILL:

- ✓ **Collaborate with the Public Utilities Board to develop a realistic rate mitigation plan.** The NL NDP understands that affordable electricity rates are a necessity – not an option – for families, students, seniors, and businesses. We are committed to keeping rates at 13 cents a kilowatt-hour. No one can afford the rate shock of a 5-cent or higher rate hike.
- ✓ **Invest in child care.** Working families need affordable child care. Current fees range from \$750 to \$1,000 a month per child. It has been a long-standing goal of the NL NDP to work towards a public, universal, affordable child care program. This program will give families more dollars to spend on local goods and services, boosting our economy. We are committed to affordable child care. Our goal is a \$25-a-day child care program.
- ✓ **Increase the minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2021.** One in three workers in this province (over 70,000 women and men) earn poverty wages of less than \$15 an hour. Sixty-six per cent of minimum wage workers, earning only \$11.40 an hour, are women. A \$15 minimum wage would help reduce poverty and encourage young people and newcomers to stay in our province.
- ✓ **Improve energy efficiency programs.** The current retrofit programs help only a small number of clients each year. We need more assistance to heat homes and workplaces efficiently. The NL NDP will invest \$2 million to retrofit more low-income households and \$3 million to launch a small business retrofit program.
- ✓ **Provide more support to low-income homeowners and tenants.** The NL NDP will top up the Provincial Home Repair Program by \$2 million to provide more grants to low-income households for repairs and invest \$1.5 million to create new portable rent supplements.
- ✓ **Create regional public transit.** We will work with all levels of government to develop badly needed regional public transit systems, which will provide affordable access to work and education, stimulate the economy, and reduce congestion and pollution.
- ✓ **Keep post-secondary education accessible and affordable.** The NL NDP supports the tuition freeze. We will reinstate the full needs-based grants program and ensure that the College of the North Atlantic and Memorial University are properly funded. Our long-term goal is to progressively reduce tuition fees.



IMPROVE HEALTH CARE AND SENIORS CARE

Other parties talk about reducing spending and cutting taxes for their high-income friends and corporations. They fail to mention what public programs or infrastructure will suffer because of their actions. Our quality of life depends on many things including access to important physical and mental health supports, long-term care, and affordable medications.

Alison Coffin and the NL NDP will work for you and act to ensure families, young people, and seniors have the services you count on when and where you need them.

THE NDP WILL:

- ✓ **Fix staff shortages in health care.** We are fortunate to have a public health care system that provides high quality, safe, and accessible health care. Work overload, forced overtime, denied holiday leave, and staff fatigue are serious issues affecting both health care providers and patients. Proper staffing will help improve patient care, make life better for health care providers, and save money.
- ✓ **Legislate a better staff to resident ratio in long-term care facilities.** The NL NDP recognizes that care of our family members in these facilities must be top priority. We must meet the health, safety, and social needs of residents, and we can only do this with more staff members.
- ✓ **Invest in home care for seniors and those with special needs.** The NL NDP will invest \$5 million to restore necessary home care hours that have been cut since 2016. Home care saves money by allowing people to stay in their homes and communities.
- ✓ **Invest in affordable housing for seniors.** More than half of our seniors have low enough incomes to qualify for the Guaranteed Income Supplement. Many are struggling with high housing costs. The NL NDP will invest an additional \$2 million annually to develop more low-income seniors' rental units.
- ✓ **Make prescriptions affordable.** Newfoundlanders and Labradorians should be able to afford the medication they need regardless of age or income. The NL NDP will continue to advocate for a national pharmacare program and review provincial programs to raise income ceilings and reduce client contributions.
- ✓ **Reinstate Adult Dental Program coverage.** New Democrats will invest \$3.5 million to make clients of the NL Prescription Drug Program Access and 65+ plans once again eligible for dental care. No one on fixed and low incomes should suffer serious health consequences because they cannot afford dental care.
- ✓ **Remove the age 25 cut-off for insulin pumps for all people with Type 1 diabetes.** Many people cannot afford \$7,000 for an insulin pump and thousands for supplies. The NL NDP will invest \$1.5 million to ensure that people with diabetes have insulin pumps, test strips, and other items necessary to help prevent the costly complications of this disease.



Our quality of life depends on many things including access to important physical and mental health supports, long-term care, and affordable medications.

ALISON COFFIN and the NL NDP
will work for you to create and keep good jobs here and build a sustainable economy in every part of this province.





INVEST IN A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY AND PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

How we manage and take care of our natural resources determines the economic and social well-being of the province. We must plan for a diversified economy – including support for local industry and innovation.

The province has been nearly bankrupted with a megaproject costing 10 times what we could afford. Successive governments have handed millions of dollars over to large corporations who use our public money to enrich themselves and then leave. We've seen that too many times.

We continue to have the highest unemployment rate in all of Canada despite the billions of dollars in profits from our natural resources that leave the province every year. Too many people are forced to work longer and harder for low-income wages. Too many others must leave the province to find job opportunities. Tens of thousands have to use food banks to meet their basic needs. There's something fundamentally wrong with this picture. We need a serious economic plan to help our businesses and workers succeed.

Newfoundland and Labrador has abundant natural resources. Development without the proper oversight often results in environmental degradation and costly clean-up. We must develop our oceans, lands, forests, and other natural resources in a sustainable manner which ensures Newfoundlanders and Labradorians are the principal beneficiaries.

Alison Coffin and the NL NDP will work for you to create and keep good jobs here and build a sustainable economy in every part of this province.

We must develop our oceans, lands, forests, and other natural resources in a sustainable manner which ensures Newfoundlanders and Labradorians are the principal beneficiaries.

THE NDP WILL:

- ✓ **Lay the foundation for diversifying our economy.** We will establish a permanent Green Fund to provide seed funding and venture capital to local businesses, social enterprises, and community organizations pursuing green and sustainable business and community economic development initiatives.
- ✓ **Eliminate the small business tax.** To help grow the economy and create jobs, the NL NDP will eliminate the corporate income tax on small businesses.

- ✓ **Expand support for food security and agriculture.** Our province is heavily reliant on food imports and has the lowest number of farms of any province and lowest average farm area. The NL NDP will develop a plan for a co-operative marketing agency, a cold storage network, mentorships, paid internships, a farm buy-back program leasing working farms to young farmers, and a processing fund.
- ✓ **Encourage energy diversity.** We will support local wind, solar, and tidal power enterprises to start up, create new jobs, and increase the province's renewable energy supply.
- ✓ **Prepare the province for electrification of transportation.** The NL NDP will work with industry and the federal and municipal governments to invest in charging stations, electrification of public transport, and rebates on electric vehicles.
- ✓ **Build sustainable inshore fisheries.** As the harvest rate of northern cod grows, the NL NDP will ensure that owner-operator fish harvesters and Indigenous groups are allocated the first 115,000 metric tonnes of quota.
- ✓ **Invest in young fish harvesters.** The NL NDP will remove barriers to the loan guarantee programs to better support young people who want to become enterprise owners.
- ✓ **Value our marine resources.** We will require any new aquaculture enterprise to ensure that our marine environment is fully protected and that locally farmed fish is processed locally.
- ✓ **Establish industry-wide health and safety standards for fish processing.** The issue of industry health and safety standards for workers is serious and must be addressed.
- ✓ **Protect offshore workers and the environment.** Husky Energy ignored iceberg safety rules, putting workers at risk. More recently they spilled 250,000 litres of oil, harming marine life. With deep-sea drilling planned, we need an independent safety and environmental offshore authority.
- ✓ **Complete a thorough review of the impact of offshore oil on the fisheries.** This should include research on the impact of seismic testing.
- ✓ **Increase funding for artistic creation.** Our musicians, writers, actors, visual artists, and filmmakers make huge contributions to our province, including our economy. The NL NDP will increase the ArtsNL grant to \$5 million over a period of three years to support necessary arts creation and development work.
- ✓ **Enact pay equity legislation.** Women earn 37 per cent less than men in NL – the largest gender pay gap in Canada. Our provincial Human Rights Act stipulates equal pay for equal or similar work; we would expand it to include equal pay for work of equal value. Equality is a key NL NDP principle; legislated pay equity will address the continuing gender wage gap.
- ✓ **Strengthen labour laws.** The NL NDP will introduce a ban on replacement workers during legal strikes. We will strengthen the Labour Relations Act and apply new enforcement mechanisms for occasions when collective bargaining breaks down.



FIX POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

It's time to do politics differently. It's time to fix government.

Government gives tax breaks worth tens of millions to big businesses. High paying jobs go to party insiders. Environmental legislation has been evaded. Government has allowed multinationals to ignore labour standards and use replacement workers to prolong strikes. The NL NDP will stop giveaways, patronage appointments, and back room deals.

We are serious about democratic reform. We are committed to making sure every vote counts in our elections, we will end corporate and union donations, and we will lower the voting age to provide our youth a say on the future direction of the province.

Alison Coffin and the NL NDP will put the people of this province at the centre of every decision. We will ensure proper, transparent oversight and make the government accountable to the House of Assembly and the people of the province.

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THE NDP WILL:

- ✓ **Dismantle Nalcor and stop the creation of an oil and gas corporation.** There is strong evidence that Nalcor is an unnecessary and overly expensive crown corporation. There is no need for another expensive crown corporation. One government department with an accountable Minister is all that is needed.
- ✓ **Create an independent and non-partisan Parliamentary Budget Officer.** This will provide independent analysis on the state of the province's finances and the costs of any development proposal.
- ✓ **Make the contracts for current public-private partnerships open and transparent.** We need to know if these construction projects can give us best value, lowest overall costs, and quality public services for taxpayers. The NL NDP will not support any future public-private partnerships and will demand all construction projects be open and transparent.
- ✓ **Launch an all-party committee to address the job crisis.** All-party committees give the House of Assembly the opportunity to discuss, research, consult the public, and seek out expert advice on major new initiatives.
- ✓ **Review government's equity stakes in offshore oil.** It may be a conflict of interest for government to both own and regulate these projects.
- ✓ **Reform our tax system.** We will ensure our tax system is fairer, and bring income and corporate taxes in line with the other Atlantic provinces.
- ✓ **Reform political party financing.** It is time the province banned corporate and union donations and capped individual donations.
- ✓ **Introduce a fair and proportional representation electoral system.** Every vote should count, and the House of Assembly should better reflect the will of the people.
- ✓ **Lower the voting age to 16.** Many of today's political decisions will greatly impact future generations, from Muskrat Fall to climate change. Young people should have a voice in determining the province's direction.
- ✓ **Increase women's representation in agencies, boards, and commissions.** Women make up 52 per cent of the population, and should hold 52 per cent of the seats on decision-making bodies. The NL NDP will add gender and diversity to criteria for appointments to agencies, boards, and commissions.



It's time to do politics differently. It's time to fix government.



To prosper we need strong, thriving communities. Communities need better funding so they can provide solutions.



SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITIES

To prosper we need strong, thriving communities. Our towns and communities are facing many challenges, including low tax bases, an aging population, the impacts of climate change, and the need for sustainable economic development.

Infrastructure is deteriorating, and offices and services at the local level are disappearing. Communities have to improve and upgrade their infrastructure as they look to provide clean drinking water, waste management plans, and basic community services. Communities need better funding so they can provide solutions.

Around our province, voluntary, not-for-profit organizations add to our community well-being. Alison Coffin and the NL NDP recognize that the increasing demands placed on communities and not-for-profit organizations require government to be a partner in finding solutions.

THE NDP WILL:

- ✓ **Establish a new provincial-municipal partnership.** The NL NDP will work with Municipalities NL to accelerate a regional approach to municipal government, increase the tax base, and make sure needed services are made available.
- ✓ **Address inclusion.** Fairness of opportunity and a lessening of inequality are key values for the NL NDP. We will work with the disability community to bring in legislation to remove barriers and enforce rights. The NL NDP will add diversity to the criteria for appointments to agencies, boards, and commissions.
- ✓ **Support newcomers.** Increase investment in language training and other programs so newcomers can more easily integrate into the community.
- ✓ **Enhance funding to women's centres and transition houses.** These centres do front-line work supporting women and advancing their rights. The NL NDP will invest in a new women's centre in St. Anthony and increase the budgets of women's centres and transition houses.
- ✓ **Increase funding to the Indigenous Violence Prevention Grants Program.** We must help end violence against Indigenous women and children.
- ✓ **Provide more support to community agencies.** We need to boost the capacity of organizations that help people overcome barriers to participating more fully in society.
- ✓ **Resource inclusive education adequately.** Increase the number of student assistants, guidance counsellors, social workers and others as needed, and provide every deaf student access to sign language interpretation.



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