

February 8, 2021

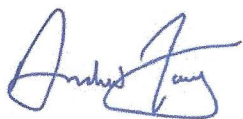
John Leonard
President, Trades NL
80 Mews Place
St. John's, NL
A1B 4M3

Dear Mr. Leonard:

Thank you for taking the time to reach out to the Liberal Party of Newfoundland and Labrador with your questions and concerns regarding the province's skilled trade workers.

Enclosed you will find responses from the Liberal Party to the questions posed.

Allow me to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to Trades NL for your efforts on behalf of workers to build prosperity in our province.



Sincerely,

Dr. Andrew Furey
Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador

cc: Darin King, Executive Director, Trades NL

1. Maximum Number of Construction Jobs from Resource Development Projects

The Liberal Party is committed to creating opportunities for workers in Newfoundland and Labrador and maximizing benefits for our residents. The Liberal Government has recently invested in a number of projects to ensure employment. We invested \$16.6 million in the Come By Chance Refinery to maintain warm idle. This will help protect the asset for future restart, help mitigate restart costs and increase employment levels to 200 full-time equivalents on an interim basis – with potential for more with future restart.

Our Government also secured \$320 million from the federal government to support direct and indirect employment in the Newfoundland and Labrador oil and gas sector. The Oil and Gas Industry Recovery Task Force, established by Premier Furey, was tasked to provide recommendations for the expenditure of this fund to ensure maximum employment for the people of our Province. Of the \$320 million, \$32 million has been committed to the local service and supply sector, the Terra Nova project will receive up to \$175 million, and will benefit from a modified royalty regime in order to maximize employment. We invested \$41.5 million into the West White Rose project to maintain jobs in the near-term and protect the option of restarting the project in 2022. This project will provide employment for 169 people in project management 331 people, including 162 tradespersons in Argentia and Marystown. Hibernia Management and Development Company Ltd. will receive up to \$38 million, resulting in an estimated 300,000 hours of work over an additional 18 month period. The investment will result in a total commitment of 148 full time equivalent positions. Securing employment for the people of Newfoundland and Labrador has been the primary consideration for all of these investments, and we will continue to invest in the oil and gas industry for the benefit of the workers.

Under the leadership of Premier Furey, our Government will require contractors bidding on Government of Newfoundland and Labrador infrastructure projects to prioritize the hiring of qualified workers based in Newfoundland and Labrador. We will require contractor responses to Government infrastructure requests for proposals to demonstrate a commitment to hiring workers based in Newfoundland and Labrador, as well as women, Indigenous Peoples, and other local workers underrepresented in the workforce on Government infrastructure projects, as well as a commitment to hiring and mentoring apprentices.

In addition, the Furey government's continued commitment to education and skills development, including opportunities for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians to enter the technology industry and entrepreneurship ecosystem, will augment the qualifications of local workers to successfully bid for and work on major projects.

Going forward as the world recovers from the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent economic crisis, we've committed to an additional \$50 million fund to help support industries and jobs in our province. We will continue to support construction jobs on existing projects in the province and work to position Newfoundland and Labrador as a leader in resource development projects.

2. Newfoundland and Labrador Benefit Agreement

The Liberal Party is committed to creating opportunities for Newfoundland and Labrador workers.

As described above, our government will require contractors bidding on Government of Newfoundland and Labrador infrastructure projects to prioritize the hiring of qualified workers based in Newfoundland and

Labrador. Contractors will also be required to demonstrate a commitment to hiring women, Indigenous Peoples, and other workers underrepresented in the labour force.

The Liberal Party also recognizes the importance of apprenticeship and other training programs for Newfoundland and Labrador workers. We are committed to ensuring that workers are equipped with the tools and training they need to access opportunities across the province. We are also committed to procuring goods and services for infrastructure projects from local firms when possible.

Monitoring and accountability for public projects is a priority for the Liberal Party. We are committed to ensuring that the government's Occupational Health and Safety Division has the resources it needs to ensure healthy, safe workplaces across the province.

We look forward to consulting with Trades NL as we implement these and other strategies for our province's workers.

3. Bull Arm Site

Our government recognizes the important role that the Bull Arm Site plays in provincial resource development and in providing construction jobs to Newfoundland and Labrador workers. We are committed to ensuring that Bull Arm remains a priority.

As our newly created Oil and Gas Industry Recovery Task Force continues its work and recommends investments from our \$320 million recovery fund, we will ensure that Bull Arm remains a site of significant employment for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians.

4. Skilled Trades Worker Tax Credit

The Liberal Party of Newfoundland and Labrador values our skilled trades workers and recognizes that costs incurred by skilled trades workers can be significant. We are open to exploring ways to alleviate these costs in consultation with stakeholders like Trades NL and we welcome further dialogue on this important issue.