

John Leonard
President
Trades NL Council
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c/o Jennifer Furey [jffurey@tradesnl.com]

Dear Mr. Leonard,

Thank you for your correspondence of January 22, 2021 and for giving me the opportunity to detail my support for local jobs, especially those which employ skilled tradespersons.

In your letter you stated "When Newfoundlanders and Labradorians build our province, everyone benefits." I fully agree with this statement. Like you, I recognize that when our construction industry thrives, our communities thrive.

Please see attached, my responses to the four questions you have asked.

I look forward to working with you in the coming weeks and months on how we can work together to grow our economy and bring back jobs to Newfoundland and Labrador.

Sincerely,

Ches Crosbie
Leader
Progressive Conservative Newfoundland and Labrador

1. Maximize Number of Construction Jobs from Resource Development Projects

- A. *What is your Party's policy/approach to resource development projects?***
- B. *What process will your government adopt to ensure maximum construction jobs for our residents on future resource development projects?***
- C. *Are you committed to ensuring the highest number of construction, fabrication and maintenance jobs for our residents in any future resource development projects? If so, please elaborate on your policy/strategy. If not, please explain your policy and commitment on this.***

Yes, we are committed to supporting and maximizing local jobs, especially local construction, fabrication and maintenance jobs for residents in any future resource development projects. When work on projects or developments can be done in Newfoundland and Labrador, it should be done in Newfoundland and Labrador by Newfoundlanders and Labradorians.

A PC Government will take a "life of field" perspective with respect to all oil and gas development, identifying and maximizing local benefits from the outset. This perspective will ensure there are local economic benefits and local jobs at every stage of the process, from land tenure to exploration, to production, to decommissioning.

A PC Government will expand supply chains that support all economic development so Newfoundlanders and Labradorians are the principal beneficiaries of all our province's resources. In the offshore oil sector, for example, supply chain companies provide offshore supply boats and helicopters, health and safety equipment and training, engineering solutions and fabricators, food services and taxi services. Supporting and expanding the local supply chain will also support local construction jobs.

The public sector under a PC Government will support local business by purchasing goods, services and construction work from Newfoundland and Labrador suppliers wherever possible. We will not let local companies be disadvantaged when bidding on government projects.

2. Newfoundland and Labrador Benefit Agreement

- A. *Will your government adopt a Newfoundland and Labrador Benefits Agreement strategy?***
- B. *Employment of Apprentices – Will your government institute a requirement on public infrastructure for an apprenticeship ratio of 25%?***
- C. *Employment of Women – Will your government institute a requirement for the hiring of at least 14% women on ALL public infrastructure?***
- D. *Indigenous Skilled Trade Workers – On a project-by-project basis, will your government institute a requirement that developers plan and execute the hiring and training of indigenous skilled trade workers?***
- E. *Hiring Policy – Will your government institute priority hiring for qualified Newfoundland and Labrador residents?***
- F. *Monitoring and Accountability – Will your government monitor all public projects for adherence to workforce provisions, public report results and hold developers accountable?***

As a PC Government takes decisive action and implements our plan to bring back jobs and put our province back to work, we will ensure our own residents always come first – not big companies or elite special interests based outside our province!

It is Newfoundlanders and Labradorians who should be employed on projects in our province. When construction projects are funded using public money, our residents and our businesses should be employed.

A PC Government will require a local benefits policy when public funds are spent on infrastructure, to ensure Newfoundlanders and Labradorians receive maximum benefits and jobs, including underrepresented groups such as women, Indigenous persons and apprentices.

- Yes, a PC Government will adopt a Newfoundland and Labrador Benefits Agreement strategy. As a part of the tender or bid package, each proponent will have to outline how they will employ Newfoundlanders and Labradorians on the worksite. This encompasses all areas of the project, including construction, engineering, project management, and procurement.

- Yes, a PC Government will institute a requirement on public infrastructure for an apprenticeship ratio of 25%. A PC Government will require the proponent to outline a plan on how apprentices will be hired, supported, and mentored. The target ratio based on hours worked for apprenticeship hours to journey person hours in red seal trades shall be set at 25% as a minimum for each project.
- Yes, a PC Government will institute a requirement for the hiring of at least 14% women on ALL public infrastructure. A PC Government will require the proponent to outline a plan on how women will be hired and supported in the workforce. The target ratio based on hours worked for women in red seal trades shall be set at 15% as a minimum for each project.
- Yes, a PC Government will institute a requirement that developers plan and execute the hiring and training of Indigenous skilled trade workers. A PC Government will also require the proponent to outline a plan on how tradespeople who identify as Indigenous will be hired, supported, and mentored. Target ratios will be set on a project-by-project basis and set in consultation with Indigenous leaders.
- Yes, a PC Government will institute priority hiring for qualified Newfoundlanders and Labradorians for projects in this province.
- Yes, a PC Government will monitor all public projects for adherence to workforce provisions, public report results and hold developers accountable. We will monitor the impact of these actions, we will publicly report progress, and will hold developers accountable to follow our policies.

3. Bull Arm Site

- A. With the changing oil industry, particularly the possibility of increased deep-water development, please outline your plans for investment and development at Bull Arm, ensuring Newfoundland and Labrador continues to be positioned to avail of maximum work opportunities on current and new projects?***
- B. What is your plan to ensuring Bull Arm remains a world-class facility as part of our provincial infrastructure, available for major and minor project work for any industry sector?***

The Bull Arm Fabrication Site is a world class facility, which a PC Government will retain as a Crown asset and ensure it is maintained in a state of readiness for usage by the private sector. A PC Government will promote Bull Arm as a facility for construction, fabrication, topside development, and maintenance of offshore platforms and drill rigs. We will engage Trades NL in future projects on the Bull Arm site, through a Special Project Order (SPO). We will work with the developers of future oil and gas projects to ensure that Bull Arm has the infrastructure needed to maximize the work opportunities for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians.

4. Skilled Trades Worker Tax Credit

- A. Will you commit to implementing a Provincial Income Tax deduction/benefit/credit for skilled trades workers as a means of off-setting some of the many personal expenses they incur in their trade?***

A PC Government will review the case for a personal income tax deduction. We will work with Trades NL to review how such a tax credit would impact workers and how it could offset the cost of essential purchases.