



MEDIA RELEASE

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Planning for success: Election 2011

Counting today, there are 36 days until the 2011 provincial election. After October 11, there are 1,461 days until the 2015 election. Now is the time for the three provincial parties to come forward with comprehensive platforms for what will happen in the 1,461 days between elections.

“Over the next four years, the provincial government will spend roughly \$30 billion of public money,” said Board of Trade Chair Jo Mark Zurel. “That’s over \$20 million per day. Over the course of the next four years, it’s nearly \$60,000 for each man, woman and child in this province. Those kinds of numbers require a plan, and we need to see those plans now if our political leaders are going to ask us for our votes in the coming election.”

The public has seen a lead-up to the provincial election through policy and funding announcements and critiques of different actions and positions. Now the Board of Trade is urging all parties to release their full, costed platforms for people to evaluate before the vote.

“Five weeks from today, over half a million people will know who their government will be for the next four years,” said Mr. Zurel. “It will be their government that takes them half-way to 2020. If 2020 is a term about perfect vision, let’s see what visions our political leaders have for our future. Is it one that uses the resources we have today in a way that sets us up for a future of self-reliance or one of repeating past mistakes? Is it one that charts a clear path to sustainable prosperity or one that enjoys the fruits of our resources today with no regard for tomorrow? These and more questions have to be answered clearly, and now, by each leader and each party. The voters that provide elected officials with the ability to create and pass laws, control our shared natural resources, and spend our money want to know what the plan is.”

Over the coming weeks, the Board of Trade will be raising issues of economic sustainability and providing its members and the general public with information about key issues that will affect people across the province.

For more information on a plan for Newfoundland and Labrador, visit www.bot.nf.ca/publications.asp.

The St. John’s Board of Trade is a non-partisan, business advocacy organization that is the principal voice of business for over 800 members and their tens of thousands of employees. Its mission is to improve the local business climate, enhancing its members’ ability to do business through advocacy and member services. Twitter: @stjohnsbot

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