

Provincial Election 2011: Statement from the Chair

Jo Mark Zurel, Chair of the St. John's Board of Trade, issued the following statement on the provincial election on behalf of the over 800 members of the Board.

“Once again we have been given the opportunity and privilege of exercising a basic right: deciding who represents us in government. We now have our representatives in place for the next four years and they have been granted authority by us to make decisions that will guide Newfoundland and Labrador into the middle part of this decade.

“I wish to congratulate Premier Dunderdale for leading her team to electoral victory. As only the second female to be elected premier in this country's history, it says a great deal about our progressive society that we put our desire for leadership above what gender people are, where they are from, and other factors that are far less important than the capacity, courage and commitment to do the job. Congratulations to you and your team and we look forward to working with you, your cabinet and your caucus in the coming months and years.

“I also congratulate the official opposition and the NDP caucus as they take part in the important work done in the people's House. I encourage them to be diligent in their efforts and to balance the roles of keeping government to account while supporting the things that need to be done for the benefit of the province.

“There are now 48 dedicated men and women who have been elected as Members of the House of Assembly. As you prepare to serve your individual constituencies for the next 1,461 days, remember also to represent the needs of this province as a whole. There is a greater good to be served and the over 500,000 people you represent all have dreams and wants and needs. In all your actions, remember the thousands of people you represent in your districts and the hundreds of thousands of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians who call this place home.

“You are the custodians of our natural resources, our tax dollars, our laws and many other factors that provide a quality of life in this province. Use them to benefit people today and use them to give our descendants a better future. It is our right to use the tools at our disposal today; it is our responsibility to do it in a way that makes tomorrow even brighter.”