

Time to decide

With eight days left to campaign before more than 1,400 days of governance, the St. John's Board of Trade is asking people to make sure they get the information they need to make an informed choice when voting for their local representatives and provincial leaders.

“Sure, voting is on October 11, 2011, but vote for the person and party that will have the best record on October 11, 2015,” said Board Chair Jo Mark Zurel. “Vote for the person and party who you think will best manage tens of billions of public dollars and provide you with public services today and into the future. You don't have much time left to decide.”

The Board of Trade is encouraging all Newfoundlanders and Labradorians to vote in next week's election. The Board is also encouraging voters to educate themselves directly on each party platform so that they can have an informed vote and also hold the government to account after October 11.

“Voting is your voice,” said Mr. Zurel. “People have a civic responsibility to vote. They also have a responsibility to learn for themselves what their vote means. Read the party platforms yourself – don't rely on your neighbour, or the media, or campaign workers, or anyone else to tell you what the parties stand for or what they will do. Look at their written commitments and make a judgment about whether they reflect your values or will create the province that you want. And then ask questions.”

The Board of Trade has provided its members with a question guide for voters to quiz candidates at the door, primarily on economic and fiscal policy and has made that available to the public at www.bot.nf.ca/publications.asp.

“Eight days of campaigning is a short time and 1,461 days of governing is fairly long,” said Mr. Zurel. “This is your last chance to vote for a provincial leader for four years. Be counted.”

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



Provincial Election Q&A

Bring this to the door when candidates come knocking and keep track of issues that are important to you.

Topic	Liberal	NDP	PC	Other
Do you think that government spending growth that outpaces its economy and relies on one industry for one-third of its revenues is sustainable?	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No
You said yes. Explain how it is sustainable/You said no. Why does it happen?				
Will your party deliver a specific, measurable, and proactive plan for economic diversification within 12 months of the election and back it with real funding?	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No
You said yes. What exactly is the plan?/You said no. What happens after oil?				
Do you have a specific plan, with timelines, to get the province out of annual deficit?	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No
When will it happen and how?				
Do you have a specific plan, with timelines and financial benchmarks, to reduce or eliminate the province's \$16,000 per capita debt?	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No
When will it happen and how?				
Has your party publicly committed to a transportation strategy which will help get people to/from work and create new opportunities for people locally?	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No
Does your party agree that business is the source of new jobs, wages and government revenues?	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No
You said yes. Will you eliminate the payroll tax on jobs?/You said no. Who does create new opportunities?				
Does your party have a plan for attracting and keeping local private and public sector head offices and decision-makers in the province?	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No
What are you doing now to attract and keep decision-makers who contribute to the community?				

My questions and thoughts: