

Pledge 2: Making Life More Affordable Now

Most people expect to pay their own way in life. Nobody expects a free ride. But what we pay should be fair.

It's time for a province where people who earn less and have less are not unfairly burdened by the basic expenses of living. Life's necessities must be affordable.

In the first year after the election, an NDP government would:

- Reduce drivers' license fees by one-third.
- Begin phase-in of a needs-based grant program to replace provincial student loans.
- Eliminate the "tax on tax" on gasoline and diesel.
- Increase the basic income tax exemption from \$7,989 to \$9,000.
- Reduce small business taxes by 25%.
- Raise income support rates by 5%.
- Provide funding to reduce the ambulance fee for residents from \$115 to \$50.

Pledge 5: Getting a Fair Deal for Working People

When you work hard to do the best you can for your family, you deserve a government that treats you with respect. Working people need basic protections.

It's time to recognize the contributions of workers. It's time to keep them as safe as we can, and to give them the freedom to tell the public when something in their workplace is a threat to public safety.

In the first year after the election, an NDP government would:

- Legislate protection for whistleblowers.
- Develop a multi-year plan for regular increases to the minimum wage.
- Enact anti-scab legislation.
- Pressure Ottawa for an independent offshore safety board.
- Advocate with other provinces to strengthen our public Canada Pension Plan.
- Amend the Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Act and Regulations to include occupational diseases of firefighters.
- Allow workers exposed to asbestos to be compensated for *all* asbestos-related cancers that develop.
- Adopt the recommendations of the Voisey's Bay Industrial Inquiry Commission.

The New Democrat Plan for a Healthy Economy

When New Democrats talk about a healthy economy, we think about more than the profits of corporations and banks. A truly healthy economy is one where everyone who has been part of building Newfoundland and Labrador shares in the good times.

It's time to recognize where the true economic strengths of our province lie. Small businesses and co-operatives have demonstrated, over and over, their importance to ongoing economic health. Their revenues stay in the communities where they are generated.

Over the next four years, a New Democrat government would:

- Redirect funds from the Business Attraction Fund to an investment fund for co-ops and small businesses, and a seed capital fund for not-for-profit enterprise.
- Introduce a provincial adjustment fund to assist employees and communities affected by industry downsizing or closures.
- Increase funding for research, training and jobs in green energy production and energy efficiency.
- Partner with industry to expand shipbuilding in the province.
- Assist in forest industry diversification for domestic and export markets.
- Increase primary and value-added production of agrifoods for local and export markets through aid to small-scale production, processing and marketing.
- Strengthen legislation for protection of farmland.
- Increase municipal operating grants.
- Increase funding to the Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council in order to bring per capita arts spending up to the national average.

The New Democrat Plan for Healthy and Sustainable Fisheries

The industry that created and nurtured Newfoundland and Labrador for centuries has been allowed by successive provincial and federal governments to deteriorate over the years. This neglect of the fishery has had a profound and negative effect on the people who live in our rural communities. A healthy fisheries industry would go a long way to revitalizing rural Newfoundland and Labrador.

It's time to take a practical approach to rebuilding and re-energizing this vital resource. It makes sense for so many reasons – employment, food security, and environmental stewardship among them. We must not be afraid to ask questions. We must be prepared to accept difficult answers.

Over the next four years, a New Democrat government would:

- Resurrect and expand the 2011 MOU
- Agree to cost-share fleet rationalization for those fleets that are looking to downsize and have developed viable plans.
- Research the impact of aquaculture on the wild fishery and the coastline.
- Work with federal New Democrats towards a judicial inquiry on the future of the Newfoundland and Labrador fishery.
- Develop an adjustment plan for plant workers affected by permanently closed fish plants.
- Pursue custodial management of Newfoundland and Labrador fisheries.
- Establish a seafood marketing council to conduct market research, launch marketing campaigns and support the formation of NL seafood marketing consortia.
- Expand marine ecosystem research.

The NDP Fiscal Plan

The policies in this document reflect our vision for a prosperous Newfoundland and Labrador. We know that with intelligent choices and proper stewardship, together we can build a better, fairer province.

But we are also realistic. Here's how the NDP 2011 Platform shapes up from a financial point of view.

Our Pledges are the five key components of the Platform. They are measures that will make life better for people in this province, and they can all be achieved within a year of the election. The accompanying chart tells you both what the costs of these pledges are (where there are costs attached) and how we plan to pay for them.

We see the remainder of the platform as being equally important. It is made up of goals that we believe we can reach in the second, third, and fourth year after this election.

However, our first priority is to balance the province's budget in each year of the next government's term.

We would achieve this goal by introducing a 3% surtax on petroleum royalties and reallocating one per cent of the provincial budget through efficiencies and reassignments.

Four more years of the same tired status quo is not what the people of this province need. Irresponsible promises are not a credible alternative.

Our Platform is realistic, practical and committed to making life better for the ordinary families of Newfoundland and Labrador.

NDP First Year Pledges 2012-2013

REVENUE

PROVINCIAL SOURCES:

Efficiencies from provincial budget (One per cent of program spending)	\$74,000,000.00
Three per cent petroleum royalty surcharge	\$68,000,000.00

REVENUE TOTAL:	\$142,000,000.00
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EXPENSES

PLEDGE 1

Home support worker wage increase and training grant	\$12,750,000.00
Expansion of NL drug prescription program by ten per cent	\$13,000,000.00
Coverage of glucose tests strips	\$2,000,000.00

PLEDGE 2

Driver's fee reduction by one third	\$2,600,000.00
Post Secondary Education needs based grants	\$4,700,000.00
Elimination of gasoline "tax on tax"	\$35,000,000.00
Increase basic income tax exemption	\$21,900,000.00
Reduction of small business tax by one per cent	\$4,000,000.00
Increase income support rates	\$11,400,000.00
Reduction of ambulance fees	\$4,200,000.00

PLEDGE 3

Hire 100 more full time home care workers	\$2,900,000.00
Provide up to \$250 per household for seniors snow clearing	\$8,000,000.00
Increase funding for Seniors Resource Centre	\$100,000.00
Free college or university course for seniors	\$400,000.00

PLEDGE 4

Recruitment and retention of early childhood educators	\$5,000,000.00
Ten per cent contingency	\$14,050,000.00

Expenses Total	\$142,000,000.00
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