



During the election campaign, we'll show you what our panel has to say about the theme of the week. Our panelists include 2 men and 2 women. Two are owner-operators of small businesses operating in St. John's, 1 is a senior executive of a business operating across the province, and 1 consults with new businesses.

Survey #2: Newfoundland and Labrador: A National Player

The federal government is only a few months into a majority mandate. In what order should the top federal-provincial priorities over the next 4 years be addressed?

Facilitating more offshore oil exploration, getting more federal government executives/managers in NL, building the Lower Churchill, and securing funding for health care and social services all received 1 first-place vote, with Lower Churchill getting 2 second-place votes to make it the top priority.

In what order should NL push the federal government to: allocate more money to the provinces for health and economic development, eliminate deficit and reduce debt, reduce internal trade barriers like credential recognition, allow energy to pass provincial borders, and increase regional collaboration such as joint purchasing?

Eliminate deficit and reduce debt and allow energy to pass provincial borders tied for the top spot.

The business community in NL would benefit from the federal government: putting government executives in NL, designating NL as the eastern Arctic Gateway, promoting NL as a top immigrant destination, encouraging oil and gas exploration, and securing loan guarantees for Lower Churchill.

Panelists most strongly agreed with encouraging oil and gas exploration and securing loan guarantees for Lower Churchill. Designating NL as the eastern Arctic Gateway was also strongly supported.

The federal government would most help the business community in NL by NOT: moving decision-making jobs out of the province, allowing restrictions on the flow of immigrants and skilled labour, making decisions based more on ideology than fact, putting one region's interest over another's, or managing the province's interests as one part of one region's interests.

The panelists said that the federal government should not move decision-making jobs out of the province (2 of 4 panelists selected this choice).

The following statement most closely reflects my views: Newfoundland and Labrador's issues stay quiet on the national scale because:

Canada is managed like a series of regions where complaint and chaos minimizing is the goal (top response with 2 of 4 panelists agreeing).

