



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 #5: NL of the Future

Newfoundland and Labrador currently has just over 500,000 residents. 10 years from now, the ideal number of Newfoundland and Labrador residents would be:

There were some differences in how big of a population panelists wanted the province to have but all agreed that they would like to see a larger population.

In 10 years, which industry do you want to see as the main driver of Newfoundland and Labrador's economy - GDP, employment, wealth creation, etc?

Oil and gas did come up as a response, but the majority wanted knowledge industries (IT, biotech, consulting, etc) to be the principal driver of the economy a decade into the future.

Looking forward 30 years, which industry would you like to see as the main driver of Newfoundland and Labrador's economy?

Interestingly, all panelists agreed that they would like to see oil and gas as the main driver of the economy a generation from now.

Government (federal, provincial and municipal) currently accounts for approximately 38% of employment earnings, 21% of GDP, and 32% of employment in this province. In 10 years, would you want to see government's footprint on the economy:

While there wasn't any real agreement on an answer here, the trend was that government should lower its footprint either somewhat or substantially.

What is the one big-picture item you would like to say in 30 years "I'm glad we did that for this province":

There were two responses here, either that we reach a point where oil and gas accounts for less than 10% of GDP because of widespread diversification or our multi-billion dollar public debt is eliminated.