

# Federal Election Issues

## Electricity transmission

Unnecessary barriers between provinces can mean some provinces are lacking in energy assets while others have a surplus, creating a national imbalance.

**Why it's important:** A long term and innovative plan for getting the most out of the country's energy assets for the benefit of the whole country will mean more diversified, stable and reliable energy, at lower costs. Businesses and residents can count on better and cheaper energy when there are multiple providers.

**What we need:** A clear, forward-looking national policy on Canada's energy infrastructure, including energy transmission between provinces, as soon as possible.



## Debt payment and deficit reduction



This year's deficit and the forward-looking deficit projections are very troubling. Economic health and balanced budgets are intertwined.

**Why it's important:** \$33 billion is being spent on financing our federal deficit. \$33 billion could eliminate the provincial debt, fund the entire Lower Churchill project, and build hundreds of schools and dozens of hospitals.

**What we need:** Specific and aggressive measures to achieve balanced budgets, including some structural changes to the costs of government.

## Jobs and Growth support

Governments can support business, particularly start-ups or those trying to do new things such as prove new technology, to create jobs and growth.

**Why it's important:** Funding helps entrepreneurs do creative and innovative things that employ people locally and bring in new money from global markets. New skills, new industries and new money will be needed to succeed locally. Businesses in St. John's have succeeded because of this start-up and supportive funding.

**What we need:** Continued Atlantic Innovation Fund and other strategic investments to help further diversify our economy.



## Federal decision-making presence in Newfoundland and Labrador

Newfoundland and Labrador needs to have more federal decision makers located here. Currently, authority is often located outside the province.



**Why it's important:** Federal decision-makers here can more easily understand our unique challenges, identify local opportunities, and be accountable for federal commitments. With more federal decision-makers in the community, more 'made-in-Newfoundland and Labrador' solutions can be found for local issues.

**What we need:** Additional decision-making capacity in Newfoundland and Labrador to help further represent our needs and interests in the federal bureaucracy.

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## Fisheries Management

More effective management of resources in the Nose and Tail of the Grand Banks and the Flemish Cap could help build a more economically viable and culturally important fishery.

**Why it's important:** The resources of this once-tremendously productive ecosystem remain in trouble. Science, compliance and other regulatory and cooperative mechanisms would ensure effective management and the rebuilding of fish stocks, supporting the primary industry of many communities across Newfoundland and Labrador.

**What we need:** For Canada to take further action in fisheries management - including reforming the NAFO system - related to the Nose and Tail of the Grand Banks and Flemish Cap.



## Arctic Gateway

Canada's Arctic is home to vast natural resources that can help the country achieve energy independence. It is also home to new transportation routes and is important for defining the country's boundaries in the world.



**Why it's important:** Being able to access large amounts of potential resources and having clearly Canadian transportation routes in the North will require support services, which would naturally be provided by Newfoundland and Labrador's strategic position. Our coastline from the deep-basin of Argientia to the tip of the Torngat Mountains National Park and many points in between would provide re-fueling, search and rescue, short-sea shipping and many other opportunities.

**What we need:** A national Arctic Gateway strategy with Newfoundland and Labrador in a lead role, supporting existing transportation and service assets and creating new ones.

## Marine Atlantic

Marine Atlantic is a \$200 million/year operation supporting \$10 billion in retail and wholesale trade in Newfoundland and Labrador.

**Why it's important:** Island residents have access to only a few days worth of food if the ferries stop running. It's also important because central Canadian economies were helped through the recent recession by this province's continued strong performance, with billions of dollars worth of goods moving via the ferry service.

**What we need:** Continued attention paid to the Island's 'road link' with the rest of Canada, and their road link to our multi-billion dollar economy.



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