



Newfoundland and Labrador
New Democratic Party

P.O. Box 5275, Stn. C
St. John's, NL A1C 5W1

Kimberly Orren
Island Rooms of Petty Harbour
10 D Main Road
Petty Harbour, NL A0A 3H0

May 13, 2019

Dear Ms. Orren:

Thank you for your questionnaire on issues of concern to your organizations. Our responses are below.

1. EMPLOYMENT: What specific policies would your party put forward to increase recruitment of young people, including women, into the fishing industry, as well as to facilitate training and longer-term retention?

Restricting young people to 16 and older in the fishery is primarily a safety issue, and while these could be examined for some revision, the NL NDP does not want to compromise safety in the industry.

However, since career choices can be made at a young age, the NL NDP is committed to ensuring that young people are shown that a sustainable fishing industry can be an exciting and rewarding career choice. This can be done through the formal school curriculum, advertising and more training sessions where young people can participate and learn about the industry.

The NL NDP is committed to removing employment barriers to women in all sectors, including the fishing industry. The future of the industry is with young people, and the NL NDP will work with stakeholders to preserve the province's largest sustainable industry for the next generation.

2. What mechanisms and infrastructure will your party target to create a fisheries value chain that makes local fish more accessible and affordable for Newfoundlanders & Labradorians?

Seafood and the fishing industry are key elements in attaining the goal of food security. The people of the province must be encouraged to eat more seafood, and more healthy seafood. This increased consumption will boost the industry. The NDP is committed to investing in expanding local seafood markets to improve food security and grow the industry.

3. What is your party's plan for promoting our fishing industry within the provincial economy and how will you ensure that policies supporting fisheries are more fully integrated across different departments of government?

The NL NDP is committed to the development of the fishery, the largest sustainable industry in the province. Properly managed, the industry and the 16,000-plus people working in it can provide high quality, healthy food to the world.

The NL NDP will embark on an ambitious program to ensure that our fishing industry, although partially under federal control, produces high quality, value-added products, with expanded local and export markets and direct links to tourism.

A prosperous fishing industry will revitalize and energize rural communities across the Island and Labrador, reinforcing the vitality loved by visitors to the province. Whatever role government departments have in the fishery should be coordinated to fully support the industry.

4. ACCESS: What specific actions will your party take to improve access to resources and markets, both local and external, for small scale fisheries?

The major firms involved in the province's fishery have for decades resisted the idea of an industry-wide brand as they have in Alaska and Iceland, to name a few. Small independent processors and co-operatives need government to do this work. Unlike large fish processors, they do not have the financial resources for branding and marketing. An NL NDP government would work with industry to establish a generic marketing strategy for the province's seafood industry.

In addition to a generic brand for the province's seafood, which would make it instantly recognizable to consumers around the world, government can help smaller processors and co-operatives access markets. Government has the resources to make the connections and find the markets. The players in the industry can do the rest.

5. SUSTAINABILITY: What policies, technologies and infrastructure will your party target for change in order to reduce habitat destruction, bycatch, carbon footprint, and fish waste, among others?

The collapse of the Northern cod stock was a wake-up call. The industrial fishery of the past cannot be revived. The NL NDP believes the future of the fishing industry depends on using the best science and technology to ensure the resource is harvested sustainably, the product is of high quality, and the benefits go to communities adjacent to the resource.

Thank you for your interest in the policies and positions of the NL NDP.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alison Coffin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alison Coffin, Leader
NL New Democratic Party