



1. 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?

We have taken significant steps to achieving a prosperous and sustainable fishing industry, and we know there is no future for our fishery without youth engagement.

One of our first actions as a government was the establishment of a Fisheries Advisory Council. The Council is represented by harvesters, processors, the aquaculture industry, research experts, the Federal Government and the general public. This year, we have allocated \$100,000 for the Council. The Council is a valued resource for input and guidance for growing the fishery. One of their focus areas is harvester succession and attracting new people into the industry.

Women have played a crucial role in the fishery since its beginnings. We are pleased to have a number of women on our Council with strong and diverse backgrounds in the fishery:

- Valerie Johnson, CEO of the Gooseberry Cove Cod and a member of the Newfoundland and Labrador Organization of Women Entrepreneurs;
- Joann Smyth, Director of Policy with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada; and
- Janice Ryan, Former Senior Specialist, Fisheries Conservation for WWF-Canada.

We are proud to have Janice Ryan as our Liberal Candidate for Ferryland. Janice holds a Masters of Marine Studies, Fisheries Resource Management, and has over 18 years of experience in various sectors of the Newfoundland and Labrador fishing industry. Janice has been a tremendous asset to our Fisheries Advisory Council given her background with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Fish, Food and Allied Workers, and the processing sector. She has worked with fish harvesters on fishing vessels to observe snow crab, shrimp and groundfish commercial fishery operations to build a strong foundation of practical knowledge about the realities facing the industry. Through her role with WWF-Canada, Janice has represented the organization on the world stage as a panelist/presenter in prestigious international conferences. She will be a tremendous asset to our caucus and our province.

Part of increasing participation of women in the fishing industry, or any industry really, is committing to family friendly policies. To improve access to child care, we are increasing capacity, making child care more affordable, and supporting early childhood educators in the critical work that they do.

We are proud to have implemented full day kindergarten throughout our province because we know the potential for full day kindergarten to not only support young families, and in particular, mothers, but to help children ultimately achieve better outcomes.

We are undertaking consultations to inform the development of a guiding document and phased-in implementation plan for Junior Kindergarten. This play-based, quality early learning program would be available for four-year old children in our province during the year prior to Kindergarten.

Regarding training and retention, \$500,000 has been allocated to support businesses in these industries through the newly announced Employment Enhancement Program for wage subsidies and training allowances. This will help foster innovation, growth and diversity in these important sectors.

We've also invested hundreds of thousands of dollars under the Labour Market Partnership Program for the Newfoundland Aquaculture Industry Association to assist in the development of a human resource plan for the aquaculture industry in our province.

And we're investing \$237,000 in the development and delivery of a new 18-week Aquaculture Training Program at CNA Burin campus, commencing Fall 2019. This is a joint program partnership between CNA and the Marine Institute.

Succession planning and supporting young harvesters is crucial to youth recruitment and retention, as are they to the overall future of the fishery and rural Newfoundland and Labrador. Our government welcomes the input of stakeholders like yourself who represent small scale fisheries on how to facilitate harvester succession and youth recruitment and retention in the fishery.

2. **FOOD SECURITY: The province has set a target of doubling our food security by 2022. New policies are needed to encourage engagement in fishing and local sales of fish as a component of food security. • 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?**

We are committed to doubling food sufficiency, as are we to increasing commercial salmon production to 50,000 MT and commercial mussel production to 10,750 MT, and consequently, generating 1100 additional person years of employment, doubling aquaculture employment in the province.

Central to creating a value chain that makes local fish more accessible to Newfoundlanders and Labradorians is marketing.

Our Seafood Innovation and Transition Program has supported growth, innovation and diversification in the province's seafood sector, funding projects that focus on technologies and innovations in harvesting, processing, aquaculture and marketing and to strategically place Newfoundland and Labrador in a position to avail of opportunities in the marketplace.

We are also proud to have secured \$100 million through the Atlantic Fisheries Fund. As part of the Atlantic Growth Strategy, the Atlantic Fisheries Fund is creating new opportunities for provincial producers of sustainably sourced, high-quality fish and seafood products. These investments are driving innovation, growth and diversity by providing important financial support to harvesters, processors, aquaculture operations, academia and other stakeholders throughout Newfoundland and Labrador.

The newly-created Canadian Fish and Seafood Opportunities Fund, the marketing pillar of the Atlantic Fisheries Fund, is tasked with advancing marketing initiatives and sharpen the industry's ability to target new markets and leverage benefits emerging from free trade agreements with Europe and Asia.

Our government has representation on the federal Seafood Value Chain Roundtable, which brings together leaders from across the seafood industry – harvesting, processing, further processing, retail, trade associations, wild capture, aquaculture, finfish, shellfish and more. The Roundtable provides an opportunity for information sharing, discussion and strategizing on a national level about its key priorities of competitiveness, trade, human resources and market access issues.

Key objectives of the Roundtable are:

- improving sector competitiveness
- maintaining and increasing access to international markets
- addressing labour challenges
- maximizing value from fisheries and aquaculture resources

We know we have some of the highest quality seafood in the world. Our government recognizes that our identity as Newfoundlanders and Labradorians was born, in part, out of the small scale fisheries that drew people to the coasts of our province. We are open to exploring strategies to creating a value chain to make our fish more accessible and affordable for Newfoundlanders & Labradorians.

3. **COMMUNITIES: Within our coastal communities, fishing still provides the best tool for sustainable development because it is cross-linked with culture, tourism, technology, and transportation. • 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 fishery isn't just part of our economy. It's part of our identity. The fishery is primarily why people settled along our east, north east, and southern Labrador coasts.

Because of its economic and cultural value to Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, it is imperative that we promote our fishery in a sustainable manner and optimize its value for our fish harvesters, processors, workers, and coastal communities.

Here are some examples of how we are ensuring policies supporting fisheries are more fully integrated across government departments:

Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture

Planning for the revitalization of the cod fishery as well as overall fishery diversification has been a focus of our government since Day One. We have taken significant steps to achieve these goals through the establishment of a Fisheries Advisory Council and the Seafood Innovation and Transition Program in our first budget. Our provincial investment in the Seafood Innovation and Transition Program has leveraged millions in further investment from other sources.

The \$100 million Atlantic Fisheries Fund is facilitating growth, technological advancement and diversification by building capacity within our fishery.

Department of Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation

Our culture is expressed and celebrated every day in our art, literature, music, traditions and practices, built heritage, languages, food, oral histories and story-telling. Through our Cultural Action Plan, we are working with our stakeholders and Indigenous communities to foster a supportive environment to encourage opportunities necessary for us all to work together to develop, protect, govern, and manage the province's cultural resources.

Through our Tourism Product Development Plan, we are identifying opportunities to improve the visitor experience through food tourism and enhanced food and beverage offerings. Experiencing the local culinary scene of the province provides a way to connect visitors directly to food stories, traditions and tastes.

To enable operators to create and enhance food experiences, there is a need to address persistent challenges within the food tourism sector. There is a need for affordable and efficient access to supply and distribution channels for local food products, especially in rural Newfoundland and Labrador. There are government departments and industry organizations that play a critical role in helping to improve access to local food products. There are unexplored business opportunities, policy requirements, marketing activities and communication linkages among food sector development partners.

The actions we will take to advance food tourism follow.

1. Engage in supporting the development of brand food experiences through network and itinerary development, best practices, promotional programs and marketing partnerships with food and tourism stakeholders.
2. Provide experience development, market-readiness, and other business development support to enable food operators to enhance experiences, especially in areas where visitors and market intelligence have identified gaps in the variety and diversity of food experiences.
3. Collaborate with industry and government food stakeholder organizations to establish provincial food priorities that enable tourism operators to enhance the quality and value of food experiences, with particular emphasis on access to local products and service/quality.

Department of Advanced Education, Skills and Labour

As mentioned above, we've invested hundreds of thousands of dollars under the Department of Department of Advanced Education, Skills and Labour's Labour Market Partnership Program for the Newfoundland Aquaculture Industry Association to assist in the development of a human resource plan for the aquaculture industry in our province.

The Labour Market Partnership Program is used to encourage, support and facilitate labour force adjustments and human resource planning activities.

We've allocated half a million dollars to support businesses in these industries through the newly announced Employment Enhancement Program for wage subsidies and training allowances. This will help foster innovation, growth and diversity in these important sectors.

We are also committed to providing \$2.5 million from our Labour Market Development Agreement to assist fish plant workers in the event of a downturn in processing work. We will continue to work hard to support the development of safe and sustainable

communities. Through this funding, if required, we will provide meaningful, short-term employment opportunities for displaced workers at a time when they need it most.

Through the Department of Advanced Education, Skills and Labour, we provide over \$300 million per year to Memorial University and the Marine Institute to support cutting-edge research and education on fisheries and marine studies.

Given Newfoundland and Labrador represents 50 per cent of Canada's ocean industry, in Budget 2019, we are contributing \$2.5 million towards the construction of a new 36,000 square foot facility at the Marine Institute's Holyrood Marine Base.

This new facility will support education and research, as well as accelerate the growth of ocean technology firms through the provision of space and latest technologies to test products.

We also provide \$87 million to the College of the North Atlantic, which provides a wide range of programming that can benefit our fishery, from Cultural Culinary Arts and Tourism to our newly announced 18-week Aquaculture Training Program at CNA Burin campus, commencing Fall 2019. This is a joint program partnership between CNA and the Marine Institute.

Action at the Cabinet Level

Our Government recognizes the vast economic potential of the aquaculture industry, which is why aquaculture has been a key focus of our Cabinet Committee on Jobs, and why we launched the Way Forward on Aquaculture.

Actions Identified within our government's work sector plan on aquaculture include:

- Responding to the human resource needs of the industry with tailored labour market supports, immigration attraction, and efforts to help make youth aware of opportunities in aquaculture;
- Responding to the capital and infrastructure needs of the industry by adjusting government funding programs and exploring partnership opportunities to develop facilities that strengthen the value chain for mussel and salmon producers;
- Responding to the public awareness and market access needs of the industry by developing a marketing strategy that promotes products and builds public trust;
- Responding to the needs of provincial entrepreneurs by promoting opportunities for aquaculture supply and service companies, which in turn creates new employment and maximizes industry competitiveness; and
- Responding to the public's need for sustainable aquaculture development by reviewing all provincial policies related to aquaculture, including the provincial Code

of Containment and other measures used to promote sustainability, which ensures the province remains a leader in best practices for years to come.

4. **ACCESS: Securing access to resources and markets for small-scale fishers has been recognized by both the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals and the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries, as a means to viable fishing livelihoods. • What specific actions will your party take to improve access to resources and markets, both local and external, for small scale fisheries?**

As referenced above, the newly-created Canadian Fish and Seafood Opportunities Fund, the marketing pillar of the Atlantic Fisheries Fund will advance marketing initiatives. Free trade agreements with both Europe and Asia hold much promise for improving access to markets. We value the role of small scale fisheries, and are committed to working together to ensure their sustainability.

5. **SUSTAINABILITY: The scientific community has provided information and tools that can be used to ensure harvesting, processing, and the distribution of fish products is done in a more ecologically and economically sustainable way, helping us meet the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals. • 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?**

To avoid a repeat of the cod moratorium and the socio-economic devastation that ensued, we must follow a precautionary and evidence-based approach to resource management.

Our decisions must be led by science. We advocated for the need for science-based fisheries management decisions during the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans consultations in 2016, and welcomed the federal government’s commitment of \$14 million over five years to conduct full Northern cod stock assessments annually.

The Federal Government’s renewed investment in, and commitment to, fisheries science, is crucial as we move forward to sustainably harvest cod. This process brings harvesters to the table with DFO scientists when reviewing the state of fish stocks, and results of such assessments are shared with the public. This collaborative evidence-based approach is vital to a sustainable cod fishery.

We believe the Liberal Party of Newfoundland and Labrador has the best capacity to advocate on our people’s behalf with the federal government.

More broadly speaking, Through the Atlantic Fisheries Fund, we are making investments in:

- Harvesting Sector – More than \$3.7 million for 54 projects throughout the province, targeting all three cod stocks in Newfoundland and Labrador that support commercial and stewardship fisheries. Projects are focused on improving quality of landings through adoption of harvesting and on-board handling technologies for inshore groundfish fisheries.
- Processing Sector – Over \$4.6 million for five projects throughout the province. Projects focus on cutting-edge technology, automation, and improving quality and productivity in the processing sector.
- Aquaculture Sector – More than \$1.5 million for four projects focused on improved technology and increasing aquaculture research to improve sustainability.
- Science Partnerships – Over \$4.3 million for a five-year scientific research project focused on filling key knowledge gaps to improve stock assessments, contribute to fisheries certification, and inform strategies for managing the impacts of climate and productivity changes.
- Innovation/Research and Development – \$4.5 million for a multi-year applied research and development project focused on driving innovation in the seafood sector by linking the demands of industry to the capacities of universities.

From investments in projects like WWF Canada's Northern Cod Improvement Plan and the Centre for Fisheries Ecosystem Research's studies into residency and stock dynamics of cod to the Fisheries Science Stewardship and Sustainability Board's study of the Mitigation of European Green Crab in Fortune Bay, we are investing in the responsible stewardship of our fishery.