

1. EMPLOYMENT: Almost a third (32%) of Newfoundland and Labrador professional fish harvesters are above 54 years of age. Workplace policies and safety regulations restrict youth from participating in most areas of a commercial fishery until the age of 16, yet career choice is greatly influenced before the age of 9 and there is little attention to fish harvesting, or related careers, in school programming. Further, as a result of real barriers to the participation of women in maritime industries, including fishing, only about 23% of the professional fish harvesters are women.

• **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?**

A Crosbie government will recognize that government does not directly create jobs in the private sector, but can rather focus on helping business do their work of creating jobs. It is the role of a Crosbie government to help provide the conditions to stimulate private sector investment and job creation. (See more on this in my answer to your third question)

A Crosbie government will work with stakeholders involved in employment provincially, nationally and globally to create a framework of current and projected high demand employment opportunities coupled with education and training requirements to ensure successful employment. We will work in collaboration with all post-secondary training institutions to ensure residents have affordable access to the training programs offering the highest potential to full-time meaningful employment utilizing institution location, program offerings and ability to mobilize. We will review both Public and Private training legislation and regulations to create consistent guidelines that maintain a high level of commitment and standards with a focus on creating labour market driven programming resulting in greater employment opportunity for graduates. We will work with stakeholders to develop a template for allotting and approving federal and provincial employment and training program funding that targets high priority labour market shortage areas with the goal of more-effective use of funding and improving employment outcomes. We will explore options, both technical and practical, to ensure post-secondary programming is available to those in remote regions and in a manner that is cost effective and allows participation to fit personal schedules. Memorial University and College of the North Atlantic will play an enormous role in securing a strong and sustainable future for Newfoundland and Labrador. We will work with our public and private college system in collaboration with the private sector to deliver programs responsive to the needs of industry. We will ensure our graduates are prepared to enter the labour market with quality programming in subject matters that consider emerging industries, disciplines, and technology. We will continue to support the most competitive post-secondary tuition fees and student aid programs in the country. We will work with Memorial and the College to promote opportunities for women, for Indigenous Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, and for persons with disabilities.

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?**

In the agrifoods sector: We will create economic conditions that encourage private sector venture capital investment in value-added agrifoods businesses. We will work to increase the value and marketability, locally and globally, of local agricultural products. There is no reason to believe this same value-added approach cannot drive further growth in the fishing industry.

For example: The aquaculture industry is key to the economic revival of rural Newfoundland and Labrador. Our government will champion an environmentally sustainable industry that provides long-term opportunities for our rural areas that are not to the detriment of our existing wild stocks. A Crosbie government will work to streamline the existing regulatory framework while increasing transparency in reporting and monitoring of the industry. Our rural economic security depends on a balanced approach to industry. Aquaculture projects must not be added to the Bill C-69 Project List.

Another example: A Crosbie government will take an honest approach to the cod fishery and seal hunt. A successful seal harvest is vital to addressing the increasing seal population, which will limit the pressure on our rebounding cod stocks. Our humane seal harvest, with **full utilization of seal products** from oil to leather to protein, can sustain jobs and communities while helping stocks recover. We will ensure the resources exist to support and market our industry properly.

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?**

A Crosbie government will bring together partners from industry, government and post-secondary education into multiple **Partnerships for Jobs**. These partnerships will identify potential for growth in sectors of the economy where the province has industry leaders, strength in skill development, technology, research, supply chains, and strong links to markets. The partnerships will advise government on appropriate policies and how to use the tools of government to help build new capacity in these sectors. The ultimate goal of each partnership will be to find ways to increase the size and scope of these industries and increase participation by local companies in supplying goods and services.

The government of Newfoundland and Labrador manages a range of policies – taxes, education and training, research, natural resources development, regulations, and infrastructure – that reinforce each other in ways that can obstruct or encourage economic growth and job creation. A Crosbie government will marshal all the **economic development policy tools** available to it into a focused and coordinated effort to create more and better quality jobs in support of these partnerships for jobs. This will include ensuring that young Newfoundlanders and Labradorians have access to quality education and training programs that are adapted to the labour market requirements. Partnerships for jobs will be created in the fishery, aquaculture and other industries that have potential for growth.

A Crosbie government believes that Newfoundlanders and Labradorians should be the beneficiaries of all of our province's renewable and non-renewable resources. It is the goal of a Crosbie government to **develop and expand a supply chain** that supports all natural resource development so Newfoundlanders and Labradorians are the principal beneficiaries of all of our province's resources.

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?**

A Crosbie government will call for **joint management of our fishing industry** alongside our federal counterparts through a board similar to the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board. Practical regulation and administration in areas such as vessel size, gear type, and search and rescue are vital to a successful industry, and can only be realized with regional authority. We need a seat at the table. Our fisheries resources must never again be traded away or taken away to serve other purposes. We must be a partner in their development, just as we are a partner in the development of our offshore oil and gas resources. Newfoundland and Labrador needs a formal role at the decision-making table for our fishery resources.

Our government will promote the enhancement of **Indigenous access to our fishery resource**. It should be attained through an open and transparent process by the federal government in collaboration with appropriate stakeholders. The resource would be available through voluntary transfer/sale from existing quota holders or with

a total allowable catch (TAC) increase. There should be no mandatory, unilateral action by the federal government to remove quota from existing enterprises as demonstrated in the failed Grand Bank Clam issue in 2018.

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?**

As announced in June 2018, a Crosbie government will follow through on the recommendation of Municipalities NL and others to ban single-use plastic bags. This will not be a stand-alone policy but a sign of a **new way of thinking about plastic use and pollution**. We will explore other ways to reduce plastic pollution in our environment, on land and in our ocean. We will commission the Multi-Materials Stewardship Board to work with Municipalities NL and other stakeholders to explore opportunities to expand recycling in our province, which is lagging behind other jurisdictions. We will also promote an attitude of collective stewardship of our environment to nurture a culture of waste prevention.

The federal Liberal government has increased marine exclusion areas from 2 to 8.27% of our oceans and intends to further increase this exclusion area to 10%. While marine protection areas afford environmental protection, there has not been sufficient study or consultation with the fishing, or oil and gas, industries. We demand that our important industries be provided the **careful analysis required** before further decisions are taken.

Kindest regards,  
Ches Crosbie  
Leader, PC Party of Newfoundland and Labrador