



Amy Coady, President
Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador
1-79 Mews Pl.
St. John's, NL
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September 23, 2025

Dear Ms. Coady,

Thank you for reaching out to me with the opportunity to respond to your questionnaire. We always look forward to opportunities to share our plan to get a better deal for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians.

Municipalities are key service providers in our communities. However, their list of responsibilities always seems to grow, but their ability to get the resources they need to meet them fails to match pace. The NL NDP believes this is wrong, and that higher levels of government should not download further tasks on municipalities without backing them up with adequate supports. I hope the answers below will demonstrate our commitment to easing the burden on municipalities by giving them the tools they need to deliver the services people count on.

Will your party commit to developing a 10- to 20-year provincial infrastructure strategy focused on innovation, tailored to Newfoundland and Labrador's geography and inclusive of the financial/technical realities of small municipalities?

Far too often, provincial governments set their horizons on goals and strategies that only cover a single mandate. But what our province needs is a more visionary approach that thinks in longer periods, especially when it comes to infrastructure that will last decades. An NL NDP government would work with municipalities and other stakeholders to determine infrastructure priorities and discuss what elements should be included in any infrastructure strategy.

Does your party agree to conduct a comprehensive review of municipal funding tools, recognizing that property tax alone is insufficient to meet modern infrastructure and operational demands?

Municipalities provide a number of key services, without which nothing else could get done. Businesses rely on road construction and maintenance to get their goods to market and employees to work; homes rely on safe, clean drinking water and sewage systems; our public health requires comprehensive waste management and sanitation services to prevent the spread of vermin and disease; and the list goes on. But our cities and towns cannot provide these foundational services without the necessary financial or other supports. That is why an NL NDP government would sit down with Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador (MNL) and

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consult with municipal governments to study best practices in other jurisdictions and identify potential models for funding tools that could be applied right here in this province.

How does your party plan to work with the Federal Government to resolve policing challenges in rural communities?

We recognize that crime is a serious issue that many across the province are rightfully concerned about. We respect the tireless work of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), especially in policing our rural and remote communities. An NL NDP government will negotiate with the federal government for greater resources for the RCMP so that they can provide a more sustainable presence in our communities.

Municipal fire departments are under-resourced. What is your party's plan to support public safety through ensuring adequately resourced fire departments?

If the latest wildfire season taught us anything, it is that the roughly 6,000 volunteer firefighters across our province are heroes. They put themselves in the line of danger to protect our homes, businesses, and lives. With an NL NDP government, you can count on real leadership that would back up our firefighters - professional and volunteer. Over the course of the Kingston fire, leader Jim Dinn wrote the Premier repeatedly with constructive suggestions as to how to support the crews, such as exploring the possibility of wage replacement for volunteer firefighters that have to take unpaid leave to battle blazes. We would also take some strain off fire departments by restoring our waterbomber fleet to full capacity and hiring wildfire crews year-round, so they are more prepared to confront the lengthening fire season when it comes. Finally we would consult with the MNL and firefighters themselves to learn more about their specific challenges and needs, and work together to fix them.

Cellular service has become an indispensable public utility. What is your party's plan for ensuring residents have cellular access in their towns and cities?

Reliable internet and cellular service are necessities in today's economy. They're also lifesavers for stranded motorists and others facing emergencies. Yet this government has been too slow to expand these services in rural and remote areas. That's just not good enough. The NL NDP will work with the federal government and major service providers to find cost-effective ways to expand service to communities. We would then roll out delivery according to a plan that ranks regions according to demand and public safety considerations. Finally, we would also encourage and foster local co-operatives and non-profits that provide reliable, fast, and cheap internet, like the CRRS in Labrador West. People deserve a better deal in cellular service and internet, and the NL NDP stands ready to deliver.

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Will your party commit to adopting a formalized regional approach to address shared municipal infrastructure challenges and improve service delivery?

New Democrats were disappointed that the 2022 Regionalization Report seemed to go nowhere. The NL NDP will use our four-year mandate to bring MNL and the municipalities together to flesh out the recommendations by coming up with concrete structures for governance and details on citizen representation and elections. With this information, we will create a roadmap to adopting regionalization.

To address harassment-related challenges, additional tools and supports are required for the sector, including access to enhanced training, Employee Assistance Programming, and a dedicated anti-harassment campaign. What steps will your party take toward providing these supports?

We find it unfortunate when the elected representatives of the people are unable to co-operate and get work done on behalf of the voters that put them in office. It poisons relationships and stalls work on key priorities. However many of these conflicts would never have happened in the first place if enhanced training were available. Even when conflicts still arise, that training can diffuse tensions and lead to amicable settlements. That's why an NL NDP government believes in providing municipal officials with these resources. We would conduct an evaluation with MNL and its members of the effectiveness of the current training and support frameworks with an eye to making changes that improve the quality of the curriculum and tailor it to the specific needs identified.

Will your party commit to prioritizing the update of the three Cities Acts?

The Cities Acts have fallen behind the times, leaving councillors without the tools and guidelines for effective governance in the twenty-first century. New Democrats think that this type of neglect is shameful. An NL NDP government would work with the three cities to get amended legislation onto the books, so they can implement best practices in governance, improve transparency and responsiveness, and implement new ways to generate much-needed revenue.

Does your party commit to working with municipalities to ensure employment programs meet their needs?

We believe that application processes are designed to accomplish a number of important objectives, like ensuring funds go where needed most, or that rules are abided by. However, when more steps and paperwork are added on without any concern for how they interact with each other, the process becomes a bureaucratic mess that harms more than helps. New Democrats believe in smart application processes that maintain accountability while getting



results quickly and efficiently. We commit to working with MNL and the municipalities to streamline program application processes to meet their specific needs.

I hope the answers above are helpful to you and your members when you go to make a choice at the ballot box. In the meantime, we will soon be releasing our fully costed plan to get a better deal for the people of this province, in healthcare, in affordability, in job-creation, and in strengthening our communities. I believe it contains many new ideas that you and your members will appreciate. Please check it out once it is announced, at <https://nl.ndp.ca/>

Once again, I thank you for the opportunity to respond to your questionnaire.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James Dinn".

Jim Dinn
Leader, NL NDP
Candidate for St. John's Centre