



Newfoundland and Labrador  
New Democratic Party

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

Charlene Johnson, CEO  
NL Oil and Gas Industries Association  
Box 44, Suite 606, Atlantic Place  
215 Water St.  
St. John's, NL A1C 6C9

May 14, 2019

Dear Ms. Johnson:

Thank you for the opportunity to answer your questionnaire concerning issues of importance to your members. Please see below for our responses.

**As our industry continues to grow and become more globally attractive, how will your government ensure the legislative rights such as “full and fair opportunity” and “principal beneficiary” within the Atlantic Accord are upheld?**

The NL NDP is committed to ensuring that the wealth of our offshore is generated primarily for the benefit of the people of the province, as outlined in our Atlantic Accord.

Our industry is globally attractive because of the prospectivity that has been shown in our offshore. We as a province do not have to make large concessions to multinational oil companies. They want our oil.

We are a very politically stable jurisdiction with a skilled and highly-trained workforce, and potentially vast oil fields offshore.

The NL NDP is committed to ensuring that while we extract the wealth of our offshore fields, we do so in an environmentally sound manner with the safety of our offshore workers front and centre: no more Husky iceberg events, no more large oil spills.

From a legislative standpoint, we would first and foremost work with the federal government to create an independent offshore worker safety and environmental protection authority to enforce standards in the offshore oil and gas industry.

**What specific actions will your government undertake to support the supply and service sector and ensure their “full and fair opportunity” to participate in the sector?**

Our supply and service sector is recognized globally in the offshore oil and gas industry. In order to maintain and expand this reputation, and gather the necessary experience, our benefits agreements must include the maximum benefits for our supply and service companies.

Agreements made for developing the offshore cannot make the oil companies the primary or principal beneficiaries. These multinationals must understand that to have profitable access to our resources, they will have to play by our rules, one of which is that our supply and service companies have the fullest possible opportunity to work offshore.

**How will your party ensure benefits agreements include life-of-field requirements and how will such stipulations be enforced during all phases of a project to ensure significant value is received for all of Newfoundland and Labrador?**

The Atlantic Accord was developed and signed to provide that the people of the province would be the principal beneficiaries of the resource lying off their coast.

The NL NDP is committed to ensuring that the province’s workers are the principal beneficiaries at every step of the way in the life of our offshore oil fields.

As well, we are committed to ensuring that workers and the offshore marine environment receive maximum protection. We are committed to creating an independent offshore worker safety and environmental protection authority to enforce standards in the offshore oil and gas industry. Principal beneficiary means protecting the lives of workers and making sure the marine environment is pristine long after the oil and gas industry has left.

Significant value from our non-renewable offshore oil and gas reserves are important, but not at the price of losing the significant and sustainable value of our marine environment.

**To reach its tremendous potential, how will your party ensure globally competitive legislative and regulatory processes for the Newfoundland and Labrador offshore oil and gas industry?**

The oil and gas industry has lobbied heavily to avoid environmental legislation which they say impedes their ability to explore and produce oil and gas in our offshore.

It is claimed there is a potential 100 billion barrels offshore — equal to the remainder of Norway’s resources.

Yet there has been resistance to the creation of an independent offshore worker safety and environmental protection authority, even though the remaining oil wealth is found at great depth in the harshest environment on the planet.

We cannot allow the agenda of multinational oil and gas companies to compromise the Atlantic Accord, or our own resources. We must be the principal beneficiaries in every way. If “globally competitive” means we have to compromise worker or environmental safety, then the NL NDP is opposed to acceding to those compromises.

It has been suggested in some sectors that oil companies may take their business elsewhere. If our prospectively is anything close to what has been so far suggested, this notion is nonsense. International oil and gas companies comply with Norway’s high standards. They will comply with ours. They want our resource.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alison Coffin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line extending from the end.

Alison Coffin, Leader  
NL New Democratic Party