



Onward 2019: Premier Ball Presents Liberal Election Platform

St. John's, NL – April 29, 2019: Today, Premier Dwight Ball presented the 2019 Liberal Platform, which builds on the 127 actions already taken through The Way Forward since 2016 to support new jobs, achieve savings, and improve outcomes with health, education and other key issues.

To date, the Liberal Government's partnerships with business, community, cultural, educational, and Indigenous leaders have resulted in achievements that include:

- \$18 Billion in global investment in provincial industries;
- A province poised to lead Canada in GDP growth this year;
- Nine consecutive months of employment growth;
- New jobs in industries targeted for growth, including mining, oil and gas, technology, aquaculture, agriculture, and tourism;
- More than \$100 million in annualized savings through zero based budgeting, reduction of leased space, efficiencies in fleet management, the elimination of severances, and attrition;
- Improved educational supports for children;
- Wait lists for mental health services reduced by more than 60 percent province-wide; and
- Progress on much needed infrastructure including a Waterford hospital replacement, new hospitals and long term care facilities, and new schools.

The 2019 Liberal Platform builds on these achievements with actions taken under four themes:

- **“A Bright Future:”**
Highlighted Initiatives
 - Establishing Centres of Excellence within College of the North Atlantic campuses to develop a skilled workforce that aligns with new jobs emerging in sectors targeted for growth
 - Attracting investment in a commercial aircraft maintenance, repair, and overhaul facility for the North American market
 - Supporting more artists to create, produce, and showcase their work with a \$1 million increase to the ArtsNL grant program, bringing the total investment to over \$2.9 million
 - Supporting the development of technology firms with high growth potential
 - Expansion of child care spaces
 - Advancing women in leadership and applying a more comprehensive gender lens to policy
- **“Healthier People:”**
Highlighted Initiatives
 - Implementing the new Autism Action Plan
 - Expanding successfully piloted primary health care teams and the “Home First” approach
 - Enhancing the provincial drug program to cover more drug therapies
 - Lifting the age cap for those currently enrolled in the Insulin Pump Program
 - Constructing the Waterford replacement and other healthcare facilities through P3 approach
 - Providing free eye exams for kindergarten children
 - Establishing “Rowan’s Law” Legislation to protect youth from concussions from sport



- **“Better Living:”**

- Highlighted Initiatives*

- Establishing a single, province-wide public safety radio system and leveraging the resulting infrastructure to provide better cell-phone coverage
- Committing \$270.6 million in Federal-Provincial funding to help protect, renew, and expand social and community housing in the province
- Eliminating the tax on automobile insurance
- Putting in place Clare’s Law legislation aimed at stopping domestic violence
- Building a new penitentiary
- Delivering “Digital By Design” government services

- **“A Better Economy:”**

- Highlighted Initiatives*

- Continuing to deliver on established multi-year industry development plans
- Delivering on and evolving the Immigration Action Plan
- Partnering with Indigenous leaders to respond to all recommendations under the Truth and Reconciliation Commission within the next mandate
- Committing \$250,000 to launch an ocean technology competition, focused on developing solutions that solve Newfoundland and Labrador’s unique challenges

“Tremendous progress has been made in Newfoundland and Labrador because we worked with our partners in industry, culture, and our communities to create The Way Forward for job creation, better health and education outcomes, and an affordable cost of living. If we truly want to make our province an ideal place to live, work, and raise a family, we all face a stark choice – go backwards with the healthcare cuts and needless referendum exercise proposed by the PCs, or move onward with the clear direction and proven leadership that is delivering results.”

The platform also includes the Liberal plan “Protecting You from the Cost Impacts of Muskrat Falls,” which is designed to protect residents from increases to electricity rates and taxes resulting from the Muskrat Falls project that would affect the cost of living. The newly signed Atlantic Accord agreement, which delivered a new, guaranteed, and unrestricted \$2.5 billion revenue stream; a Federal commitment to joint management of offshore resources; and a federal commitment to achieve rate mitigation; also supports the platform.

The platform can be viewed on-line at: <https://nlliberals.ca/onward/>

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