

January 29, 2021

Mr. Ches Crosbie
Leader

Progressive Conservative Party

Dr. Andrew Furey
Leader

Liberal Party

Ms. Alison Coffin
Leader

New Democratic Party

Mr. Graydon Pelley
Leader
NL Alliance

Subject: Issues of Concern, NL Election 2021

Newfoundland & Labrador Coalition of Seniors, Pensioners, and Retirees Associations (Coalition)

Our Coalition considers the enclosed issues to be the subjects of primary concern for aging persons in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador as you seek our vote during this provincial election. The Newfoundland and Labrador Coalition of Seniors, Pensioners, and Retirees Associations has an organizational affiliation of 14 seniors and pensioners groups, with an influential reach of 250,000 – 300,000 citizens throughout the province. This reach represents real power when it comes to public awareness, especially at election time.

In the attached document, you will see that our focus, for now, is on four key areas:

- Health Care
- Personal Care Homes Standards & Long Term Care Standards
- Electricity Costs
- Cost of Goods & Considerations for Retention of More Personal Income

We ask for the position of your party in resolving these issues, should you be elected, and we respectfully ask for your reply in writing by noon, February 5, 2021.

In concluding, on behalf of the Coalition, I want to remind you that while aging persons are often demonized as the cause of our health care and financial stability woes, seniors contribute immensely in time, service, and dollars to the social fabric and economy of our Province. Alone, the Teachers' Plan pensioners contribute \$306M per year and Public Sector Retirees contribute \$495M per year to our economy. These are no dollars to be disregarded. If you add to these contributions all the dollars that flow into Newfoundland and Labrador from OAS, CPP, and GIS payments, and from other pension plans not noted above, the older citizens are more often a financial benefit than a liability to our economy. And, our Province would be "still in the water" if you could not depend on us for the uncalculated hours of unpaid volunteer time in delivering support service, family and child care, youth activities, and much more.

Our asks are not monumental, but require bravery and bold decision making. We deserve no less, as do all the citizens of our Province.

Sharron Callahan
Chair, Seniors Coalition