

Paul Dubé, Chair  
Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Technology Industries  
391 Empire Avenue, Suite 5  
St. John's, NL A1E 1W6

September 30, 2011

Dear Mr. Dubé:

Thank you for your letter requesting our Party's stance on issues important to your organization. Below are parts of our platform that I hope will be of interest to your membership.

**1. What is the New Democratic Party's position on the use of non-renewable resource benefits to help develop long term socio-economic sustainability through the knowledge based industry?**

The benefits from the mining and offshore oil sectors are allowing some of us to enjoy greater prosperity. New Democrats want all the people of this province to prosper.

Our platform outlines plans to enhance the education system from early childhood to post-secondary. Investing in young people now is the key to future prosperity. A strong, accessible education system translates into a strong knowledge-based economy.

Our platform includes investments in sustainable resource-based industries including the fishery, forestry and agrifoods, and expanding local and export markets. We know that even small-scale renewable resource-based industries will depend on investment in technology and innovation to be successful.

We are also committed to investing in the social infrastructure that will help people and the economy thrive, such as quality child care/early childhood education, primary preventive health care, and adequate home care.

**2. What is the New Democratic Party's position on addressing the need for a cohesive government strategy that addresses an improvement to broadband accessibility throughout the province, with a minimum acceptable bandwidth speed?**

Access to high speed internet is essential for educational and business success now. Our platform includes a commitment to ensuring that all communities have access to high-speed internet.

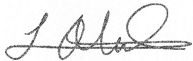
**3. What is the New Democratic Party's strategy to ensure ITC services, where appropriate, are leveraged to the benefit of its stakeholders and in what other areas will technology play a role in effective government?**

We understand that ITC services have a growing role in education and in all economic sectors, including small resource-based industries, cultural industries and services. Good governance now requires high quality delivery of services online.

Communities that are not connected to high-speed internet find it difficult to access many service improvements. Students and business are disadvantaged, and as government services migrate online, people may become less well served, which will have negative economic and social impacts.

If you wish to look at our platform, please go to <http://www.nl.ndp.ca/platform>.

Sincerely,



Lorraine Michael