

2025

Provincial Election Platform

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Introduction

As Newfoundland and Labrador prepares for the 2025 Provincial Election, the Newfoundland and Labrador Construction Association (NLCA) is proud to present its Provincial Election Platform: **Building for Growth, Building for the Future.**

This platform addresses how the construction industry can support prosperity across the province—with sustainable communities, a skilled workforce, and resilient infrastructure.

Formed in 1968, the NLCA is a professional association representing over 550 member firms across Newfoundland and Labrador. Through our work with commercial and industrial construction sectors, we represent thousands of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians employed in the industry and their families. As the leading advocate for the construction industry, our mission is to ensure our members have the tools, support, and environment they need to succeed—now and into the future.



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Our Priorities for Newfoundland and Labrador

1. Addressing Provincial Infrastructure Deficit

Infrastructure funding is critical to community health and economic opportunity. The 2025 budget commits over **\$1.1 billion in infrastructure investment**, which the government projects will generate **\$690 million in economic activity** and create hundreds of new jobs Government of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Recommendations:

- **Create a multi-year Strategic Infrastructure Plan** with predictable funding and timelines for planning.
- **Publish procurement pipelines in advance** so the industry can anticipate and mobilize labor and resources effectively.
- **Continue to strengthen partnerships with the federal government** to maximize investment in infrastructure projects.
- **Prioritize infrastructure projects** that enhance health care, education, housing, and community resiliency.
- **Explore opportunities for regional collaboration on infrastructure delivery** to improve efficiency, reduce duplication, and ensure smaller communities benefit from shared capacity, while providing dedicated supports to help assist under-capacity municipalities access infrastructure funding.



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2. Expanding Workforce

Newfoundland and Labrador's construction sector faces a workforce challenge: an aging labor pool and significant retirements. BuildForce estimates that by 2034, up to 6,100 workers (about 29% of the current workforce) will retire, and there will be a **hiring gap of approximately 3,800 workers** even accounting for new entrants—highlighting a serious long-term recruitment challenge [BuildForce Canada](#).

Recommendations:

- **Expand skilled trades** training in high schools, colleges, and apprenticeship programs to address shortages locally, and develop a provincial skilled trades strategy co-led by government, industry and education.
- **Strengthen immigration** pathways tailored to bringing in construction workers to fill essential roles.
- **Promote diversity** by supporting the entry of women, Indigenous peoples, and newcomers into construction careers [BuildForce Canada](#).
- **Provide funding and supports** for small- and medium-sized firms to access training and upskilling programs.

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3. Placemaking and Provincial Building

Construction is about far more than building structures—it's about crafting vibrant communities that thrive. In Newfoundland and Labrador, construction of major engineering and institutional projects continues to fuel significant economic activity and employment. Over the decade ahead, the province is **projected to see strong employment growth, particularly in non-residential construction sectors**. Overall construction employment is expected to **rise by approximately 20%**, helping to offset declines in residential activity. [BuildForce Canada](#)

Recommendations:

- Ensure **local contractors and suppliers** are actively engaged to retain economic benefits within the province.
- **Invest in community-focused projects**—civic buildings, waterfronts, cultural spaces, and public realm improvements—that foster livability and cohesion.
- **Promote innovation, technology, and sustainable materials** in construction.

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Conclusion

The construction industry is the backbone of Newfoundland and Labrador’s economy and its communities. With more than 550 member firms and thousands of workers poised to build a better future, NLCA stands ready to partner with the next provincial government to meet workforce needs, bridge infrastructure gaps, and shape vibrant, resilient places across the province.

Together, we can build for growth—and build for the future.