

## **QUESTIONNAIRE**

for the leaders of Newfoundland and Labrador's  
three provincial parties in the 2011 election

**In the nearly two decades since the Moratorium in 1992, our province has experienced dramatic economic growth, but the very richest among us have harvested most of that growth. The poor and the middle class have not seen much benefit. The gap between the incomes of the very rich and the poor has grown dramatically. We have become a “Have” province, but the plight of our have-nots has lagged behind. Our food banks are seeing growing demand from working families and students. Middle-income families tell us they are increasingly being squeezed by costs that rise faster than wages.**

1. What do you propose to do to close the growing gap between rich and poor in Newfoundland and Labrador?
2. Would you create an accountability mechanism – including an independent Provincial Fairness Commissioner to report annually on progress in closing the gap between rich and poor in Newfoundland and Labrador?
3. Will you use tax policies to close the gap between the wealthiest and the rest of us? Specifically, would you repeal recent tax cuts on the richest individuals with taxable income over \$250,000 a year and add a surtax on incomes over \$500,000?

**We believe that Newfoundlanders and Labradorians who work should not be poor. Unfortunately, many working families are forced to come to our food banks to make it from paycheque to paycheque.**

4. Would you pass a Living Wage Law that would require all provincial and municipal contracts and subcontracts to pay every worker enough income to live on and support a child?
5. Would you raise the Minimum Wage (and index it) so that full-time workers can live and support their families above the poverty line?
6. Will you index pensions to keep up with rises in the cost of living?

**The oil and gas that lie under the sea belong to all of us. Unfortunately, the royalty revenues are not yet being used to provide important services that can close the gap between rich and poor by improving education, health care and housing.**

7. Will you use oil revenues to create a universal Early Education/Child Care program?

8. Will you use oil revenues to create Universal Pharmacare as a good way to strengthen health care, reduce health care costs and fight poverty?

9. Will you use oil revenues to phase out all postsecondary tuitions over the four years of your mandate?

10. What will you do to make housing more affordable for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians?