



Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Technology Industries
391 Empire Avenue
St. John's, NL A1A 1W7

September 29, 2011

Re: Technology sector in Newfoundland & Labrador

Dear Mr. Dubé,

I have read your letter dated September 16th and I am happy to provide answers to your questions highlighting issues in our province's technology sector. Technology continues to be an important and growing industry in our province, and the Liberal Party is happy to work with NATI to explore ways by which to forward the industry's interests and goals. I hope the following adequately addresses your queries.

1. Post non-renewable resource socioeconomic sustainability

Our province's economy is being largely driven by non-renewable resources. Approximately one-third of current provincial revenues are coming directly from offshore oil royalties; however, both production and royalties are forecasted to decrease in coming years, and our province is expected to post regular deficits and accumulate significant debt over the course of the next decade.

The long-term vision of the Liberal Party of Newfoundland & Labrador sees our province moving towards a knowledge-based economy that will lead us into the future. We have highlighted this in the Education section of our policy platform, and we would be happy to work with NATI to find ways to pursue this agenda. We have also committed to working with companies in the resource sector to research and develop new technologies here in the province, as well as partner with educational institutions. As part of our drive towards a knowledge-based economy, a New Liberal Government would be happy to work with NATI in finding ways to see that the resource sector benefits local technology companies, including mandatory investments as part of IBA's.

2. Broadband accessibility

Improvement of broadband accessibility has been a longstanding issue for the Liberal Party. Access to broadband is required as essential infrastructure for the reasons you have already outlined in your letter. In our province, the same geography that makes it difficult to make broadband available also serves as the reason why it is so vitally needed.

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A New Liberal Government is committed to improving broadband availability through a strategic plan to expand access to all areas of the province through the most economic means available on a region-by-region basis. We would be happy to collaborate with NATI to establish a minimum acceptable bandwidth speed as part of this strategy.

3. Government use of information and communication technology (ICT)

Given our geographically dispersed population it is important to ensure that government maximizes use of ICT in order to effectively deliver services from all departments to all regions of the province.

The Liberal Party is committed to the best possible level of service delivery for all residents of our province, wherever they might reside. Effective ICT use will be central to this mandate. As set out in our policy platform, a New Liberal Government will take a focus on electronic medical records in order to enhance the quality of patient care, coordinate care and prevent duplication of services. We will work with all appropriate stakeholders to develop an electronic medical records system for our province, which we believe will significantly improve medical service deliver throughout Newfoundland & Labrador. The Liberal Party, for example, is also committed to ICT services including continuing and improving the province's online geosciences portal, camera appearances by accused in provincial court, and improving distance education and additional health services.

I hope the answers provided above are adequate in replying to your queries. Thank you for your letter and the questions you have raised. Promotion of the technology industry as we move towards a knowledge-based economy is an important sector deserving of government focus. Should you have any follow-up, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Kevin Aylward
Leader of the Liberal Party, NL