

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR VOTES 2025

It is estimated that by 2040, 44 per cent of the population in Newfoundland and Labrador will be aged 55 or older. Yet too many older adults are waiting too long for care, struggling to afford daily essentials, or living without the supports they need to remain at home. Support for older adults in their retirement is essential for the health of our communities and our economy. The National Association of Federal Retirees (Federal Retirees) calls on all candidates to prioritize the needs of older adults in Newfoundland and Labrador during this election.

Our priorities

1. **Reliable, timely access to quality health care** – Primary care is essential for sustaining good health and promoting healthy aging, yet too many residents in Newfoundland and Labrador cannot access the care they need when they need it.
 - A poll by the Newfoundland Medical Association found that 30 per cent of provincial residents lack a family doctor. [Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association report – November 2024](#)
2. **Healthy aging with dignity** – Most older adults want to age in the place of their choosing, but home and community care services are limited. When it is needed, safe, quality long-term care must be available.
 - A 2023 report from the Office of the Seniors' Advocate N.L. identified that "supporting seniors with the goal to age well in their home" as a top priority for action among older adults. [N.L. Office of the Seniors' Advocate Report – April 2024](#)
 - According to the Seniors Advocate Seniors Report (2024), on average, there were 362 persons on a wait list for LTC admission in 2022-23. [N.L. Office of the Seniors' Advocate Report – December 2024](#)
 - While better than the Canadian average, seven per cent of new admissions to long-term care in N.L. could potentially have been cared for at home. [N.L. office of the Seniors' Advocate Report – December 2024](#)
3. **The power of pensions** – The rising cost of living puts older residents at risk. Prices have increased for groceries, shelter, transportation and health care, eroding the savings and purchasing power of older adults, who are often living on fixed incomes. Pensions give seniors the steady income they need to manage rising costs. Pensions lead to a strong economy and pick up the slack in communities that have less employment.
 - The recent study, The Power of Pensions, makes it clear that governments benefit from retirees' pension income. Newfoundland and Labrador will see an improved balance of \$228 million because of pensions ([Power of Pensions report November 2024](#)).
 - Older Canadians in N.L. have the lowest median income in Canada at \$27,800 ([CBC News Canada – December 2024](#)).

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- The Office of the Seniors' Advocate 2021 report "What We Heard" indicates that 32 per cent of N.L. seniors do not have enough income to meet their financial needs. [N.L. Office of the Seniors' Advocate Report – December 2024](#)

Questions for candidates

1. Access to health care

Question:

How will your party improve access to quality health care, including better access to family doctors and nurse practitioners? Will your government work with the federal government to implement national pharmacare in N.L.?

Ideal answer:

A strong public health-care system that meets the evolving needs of Newfoundland and Labrador residents as they age is fundamental to health and well-being. This includes investments in the continuum of care and enhanced capacity – to ensure all residents across Newfoundland and Labrador have access to the right care in the right place – including family doctors, home care and personal support workers, nurses and nurse practitioners.

Our government will work with the federal government to implement universal, national pharmacare that works in harmony with existing public and private drug programs.

2. Healthy aging with dignity

Question:

What actions will your party take to enable older Canadians to age with dignity in the place of their choosing?

Ideal answer:

Our party will support investments across health care, home care and housing that recognize and uphold the autonomy and independence of older adults, including caregiver supports. National long-term care standards must be prioritized to ensure high quality care, transparency and accountability.

3. Power of pensions

Question:

How will your party protect and strengthen pensions and act to reduce poverty among seniors in N.L.?

Ideal answer:

Pensions must be safeguarded so seniors can count on stable income in retirement. In Newfoundland and Labrador, pension income helps older adults stay out of poverty. Protecting pensions means older adults can afford essentials like housing, food, and medications, while keeping local communities

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strong. Action to address the housing crisis and ensure seniors have adequate accommodation, along with investments to make life more affordable – such as funding for transit and social programs – is key.

How to use this toolkit

- ✓ At the door: When a candidate or canvasser visits, introduce yourself as a Federal Retirees member and ask one of these questions.
- ✓ At debates or town halls: Use these questions to raise issues important to older adults publicly and respectfully.
- ✓ By email or phone: Contact your local candidates to let them know what matters most to you.
- ✓ Online: Share your concerns respectfully on social media and tag candidates where possible.

Always identify yourself as a member of the National Association of Federal Retirees – there is strength in numbers!

ABOUT FEDERAL RETIREES The National Association of Federal Retirees (Federal Retirees) is the largest national advocacy organization representing active and retired members of the federal public service, Canadian Armed Forces, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and retired federally appointed judges, as well as their partners and survivors. With more than 170,000 members from coast to coast to coast, including 3,465 members in Newfoundland and Labrador, Federal Retirees has advocated for improvements to the financial security, health and well-being of our members and all Canadians since 1963.

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