

CONVENTION 2021 MINUTES



Newfoundland and Labrador NDP Convention October 16 & 17, 2021

Hosted virtually – broadcast from Memorial University’s Emera Innovation Exchange (EIX), Signal Hill Campus, St. John’s

Saturday, October 16, 2021 - 9:30 am

1. Welcome and Call to Order

Party President and Convention Chair Kyle Rees called the meeting to order and welcomed delegates. Kyle welcomed online delegates as well as guests and organizers on site at the broadcast venue for the Party’s first virtual Convention.

2. Convention Rules of Order

Kyle pointed out that a Rules of Order document was part of delegates documents. These rules govern how proceedings will be managed, including debate and points of order, etc.

3. Blessing and Land Acknowledgement

Jenelle Duval of First Light St. John’s Friendship Centre delivered greetings and a blessing to delegates for a Convention that brings forward good ideas and recognition of the importance of dialogue and respectful relations and a commitment to working in a spirit of truth and reconciliation.

Kyle Rees called upon delegates to recognize the land on which we gather as the ancestral home land of the Beothuk whose culture has been lost forever and can never be recovered - and acknowledged the territory of Newfoundland and Labrador as the land of the Inuit of Nunatsiavut and NunatuKavut, the Innu of Nitassinan and the Mi’kmaq of Miawpukek and Qualipu.

4. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved by Mary Shortall (St. John’s Centre), seconded by Bill Hynd (Windsor Lake), to adopt agenda.

CARRIED

5. Approval of the Minutes

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Moved by Mona Rossiter (St. John's East-Quidi Vidi), seconded by Eddy St. Coeur (St. John's East-Quidi Vidi) to approve the 2018 Convention minutes.

CARRIED

6. Credentials Report

Kathleen Burt (Carbonear-Trinity-Bay de-Verde) reported 116 delegates registered for Convention (15 executive members, 14 former candidates, 2 MHAs, Party leader, 2 affiliates, 82 district representatives). The 116 registered delegates have credentials and are eligible to vote. 73% of provincial electoral districts are represented, with urban and rural districts represented.

Moved by Kyle Rees (Topsail-Paradise), seconded by Jordan Brown (Labrador West) to accept Credentials Report.

CARRIED

7. Affirmation of Committees and Chairs

Kyle presented the committees and their chairs.

- Kyle Rees, Convention Chair
- Kyle Rees, Constitution Chair
- Kelly Codner, Resolutions Chair
- Kathleen Burt, Credentials Chair

Moved by Mary Shortall (St. John's Centre) seconded by Alison Coffin (St. John's Centre) to affirm committees/chairs

CARRIED

8. Anti-Harassment Statement

Jean Graham (Waterford Valley) read the policy concerning exchanges at convention that ensure that all are free from harassment and discrimination and members treat one another with respect and dignity.

9. Executive Committee Report - President, Kyle Rees

Kyle submitted a report and commented on the political landscape and work of the Party since 2018, noting the following: since Convention 2018 – which was a Leadership Convention – there were two provincial elections, two Party Leaders and an interim leader, all of whom guided the party through successes and challenges. Add to that a pandemic that has impacted and changed so many aspects of life and delayed the Party's 2020 regularly scheduled Convention. Lynn Moore who was elected as Party President in 2018 had to step aside from that role and the Party Vice President was tasked with serving as President. The Party celebrated the election of three MHAs in 2019, but faced another election in 2021 – an election plagued with election participation issues and is now contested in court. The Party's main goals were to build on NDP values, strengthen the connection between the Party and labour, use the Party's position in the House and in a minority government to put pressure on governments to enact policies that build a fair world, and to build the party's finances. This is the work that the Executive has pursued.

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Moved by Jean Graham (Waterford Valley) seconded by Kelly Codner (Cape St. Francis) to adopt the Report of Executive.

10. Address - Mary Shortall - NL Federation of Labour

Mary Shortall brought greetings from the 70,000 members of the Federation of Labour, noting that the relationship between labour and the NDP has been an important one for more than 60 years. Mary noted in her remarks that the challenges facing workers and the province are systemic and the solutions need to be bigger than what a union can negotiate in a collective agreement. The labour movement has always been a central part of a broader movement to make our society more democratic and more secure for working people. In the House of Assembly, it is only ever the NDP MHAs who consistently support the issues that impact workers in our province. The Liberals and the PCs are on record many times unanimously voting against issues like anti-scab legislation, minimum wage and other progressive workers' rights issues.

11. Order of the Day – Speech from the Leader

Alison Coffin welcomed New Democrats to Convention. She commented that this is her first Convention as Leader. In the two years since becoming leader a lot has happened. She thanked NDP MHAs Jim Dinn and Jordan Brown for their fight against privatizing public services, working for a living wage, and protecting labour laws. She shared stories from individuals about the affordability crisis facing many. Alison thanked and recognized the commitment and work of Jack Harris, Earle McCurdy, Lorraine Michael, and Gerry Rogers in building a fair future for the next generation. She concluded with thanks to the Party and Executive to support the court challenge for the unfair 2021 election and recognition of the Executive and other volunteers who work to support the vision of a fairer and more equitable world.

12. Panel - Organizers and Activists

Delegates heard from local organizers and activists fighting for fairness and justice. The panel was moderated by Paul Rowe, NL NDP Provincial Secretary. The panelists shared how they got involved in activism and /or organizing, their experiences and perspective, and pathways delegates can explore to get involved at the community level. There was general agreement that while activism and organizing overlap – organizing requires some longer term sustained efforts. Change requires activists and organizers working together. It can be political work or it can be through the labour movement or other social justice issues and causes.

Alyse Stuart – Chair of Common Front NL/15 and Fairness NL. Union organizer, feminist, and fair labour advocate.

Travis Inkpen – Political Organizer and Activist. President of the St. John's Centre District Association. Past involvement with the Global Citizenship Initiative, Social Justice Co-op & the Coalition for a Green New Deal NL.

Allison Doyle – Labour and Community Activist. Serves in elected roles in unions. Advocate for a living wage and democratic reform.

13. Leadership Review Vote – Kelly Codner

Kelly Codner (Cape St. Francis), Chief Electoral Officer for Convention, asked for a Credentials report before explaining how the Leadership Review vote would work and the process for voting.

Kathleen Burt (Carbonear-Trinity-Bay de Verde) reported that there were 116 registered delegates - not all 116 were online – but 116 had credentials and are eligible to vote.

Kelly Codner explained that the Party's Constitution requires that a leadership review vote take place every two years at Convention. Kelly reviewed the ballot question: vote no, if you don't want a leadership election to be

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held, vote yes, if you want a leadership election to be held. For the vote to pass it will require 50% plus 1 of voting delegates. So, if 50% plus 1 of delegates vote “Yes” a leadership election will happen. If 50% plus 1 of delegates vote “No” the current leader remains and no leadership election will be held.

Kelly advised delegates that voting would be open until 2:00 pm Newfoundland time and 1:30 pm Atlantic time. Kelly invited Jamie the representative from the online voting platform Data on the Spot (DOTS) to explain the process for logging on to the voting platform to cast a ballot. Slides on the voting process were presented and how to vote using the credentials that were sent out in advance of Convention.

14. Introduction of guest speaker Jessica McCormick

Scott Fleming (Cape St. Francis), Northeast Avalon representative on the provincial executive, introduced Jessica McCormick, Co-Facilitator of the People’s Recovery initiative. Jessica works as a researcher with the Newfoundland and Labrador Association of public and private employees (NAPE) and has more than a decade of experience working in the labour and social justice movements with Unifor and the Canadian Federation of Students.

15. Guest Speaker – Jessica McCormick - *Building a Community-Centered, Equitable, Economic Recovery*

Jessica thanked the NDP for the invitation and spoke about working as an organizer with the Party in 2018. Jessica shared insights into the work undertaken by the People’s Recovery against the austerity agenda of the Green Report and the Liberals. She remarked on the initiative being one of the most collaborative, community driven responses she has ever had the privilege of being involved in. She outlined what a roadmap to a fair recovery could look like and how it will take all of us together to chart the course for the province where no one is left behind.

16. Constitutional Amendments

Kyle introduced one Constitutional amendment which was made available to members in advance of Convention as required by the Constitution. Kyle pointed out that changes to the Constitution can only occur at Convention. There can be no constitutional amendments from the floor here today. In order for a Constitutional amendment to be passed, it must receive a two-thirds majority vote. Once the amendment is passed, it is effective as of the moment that the change is made.

Amendment #1: submitted by Mona Rossiter (St. John’s East -Quidi Vidi)

Article 8, Section 6.c.ii

Kyle explained the proposed Constitutional amendment was to correct the gender language for the Table Officer Associate President role. The amendment is proposed to correct wording that was added previously to ensure that cis gender men did not occupy both the position of President and Associate President. It however, created the issue that an equity seeking group such as women could not occupy both the role of President and the role of Associate President. This provision excludes qualified women who wished to offer themselves for election for President and Associate President.

Motion to amend, seconded by Debbie Wiseman (Mt. Scio).

John Whelan (Grand Falls -Windsor-Buchans) spoke in favour of the proposed amendment.

Jim Dinn (St. John’s Centre) spoke against the proposed amendment, indicating that he thought the amendment served to exclude rather than include. He suggested the Party needed to find another way to say this so that it

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avoids the situation of the last Convention that saw two qualified females not able to take the office. On principle he stated he supported the motion but not as written.

Lorraine Michael (St. John's East-Quidi Vidi) spoke in favour of the proposed amendment. She noted that the proposed language leaves it so you can have a transgender woman, for example, and that's one of the positives of this amendment.

Shawn Drover (Conception Bay East-Bell Island) spoke in support of the proposed amendment noting that it was more inclusive as it opens it up to more options.

Melissa Samms (St. George's Humber) spoke in favour of the proposed amendment noting that while the language was not perfect, it improves the current situation and more work can be done on this in the future.

CARRIED

17. Resolutions

The Resolutions Committee was chaired by Kelly Codner, labour representative on the provincial executive and comprised Bill Hynd, Vice President Labour, Matt White, Labrador regional representative, Holly Pike Western regional representative, and Jim Gill, Central region representative. Kelly advised delegates that a total of 53 Resolutions were submitted. The Resolutions were put into a priority order by the Resolutions Committee. Resolutions that do not get addressed at this convention will be passed on to the new executive to address. A vote of 50% plus 1 is required for a resolution to pass.

Resolution 1: Reconciliation

Be it resolved that the NL NDP commits to implementing the portions of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People that are within the jurisdiction of the Provincial government, such as ensuring the free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources; and that Indigenous people have an equal right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health; among others.

Be it further resolved that the NL NDP commits to implementing the portions of the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada that are within the jurisdiction of the Provincial government such as providing cultural competency training to all medical professionals and social workers in the province, among others.

Be it further resolved that the NL NDP commits to implementing the portions of the Calls to Justice from the Inquiry into Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls that are within the jurisdiction of the Provincial government, such as fundamentally transforming current child welfare systems so that Indigenous communities have control over the design and delivery of services for their families and children, among others.

Be it further resolved that the NL NDP commits to prohibiting all future hydroelectric development on the Churchill River unless this development receives the free, prior, and informed consent of Indigenous communities in Labrador.

CARRIED

Resolution 2: Green New Deal

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Be it resolved that the NL NDP, both through advocacy while in opposition and implementation while in government, support a Green New Deal for Newfoundland and Labrador. The goal of such a plan would be the social, economic, and environmental betterment of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Be it further resolved that through consultation with community groups and stakeholders, such a plan would explore the most effective approach to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, provide a just transition for workers in affected industries - particularly in the fossil fuel industry - strengthen environmental protections, update and strengthen the province's labour laws, and other actions with the goal of building a more just and equitable society, while working to protect our environment and play our part in combating climate change.

CARRIED

Resolution 3: Universal School Food Program

Be it resolved that the NL NDP, both through lobbying while in opposition and implementation while in government, commit to the introduction of a universal, accessible school food program. The intent will be to provide all students in Newfoundland and Labrador who decide to make use of the program with nutritious food for breakfast, lunch, and recess breaks at no cost to students or their families.

CARRIED

Resolution 4: Sustainable Land-Based Aquaculture

Be it resolved that the New Democratic Party of Newfoundland and Labrador call for the end of funding and the end of expansion plans for net pen use in Newfoundland and Labrador and that it develop a responsible plan to transition to a land-based, zero effluent, RAS-based finfish aquaculture industry in the province within 5 years.

CARRIED

Resolution 5: PERT Report

Be it resolved that the NL NDP adamantly oppose the dismantling of our public services and selling off of our public assets.

CARRIED

Resolution 6: Protecting our Pensioners

Be it resolved that the NL NDP lobby the Federal government to reform the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act, ensuring workers and pensioners' benefits are protected above other creditors.

Be it further resolved that the NL NDP review the PENSION BENEFITS ACT to ensure that workers and pensioners interests are protected.

CARRIED

18. Leadership Review Announcement

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The results of the vote were announced: 56.6% voted yes to a leadership review and 43.4% voted no to a leadership review. President Kyle Rees spoke to delegates regarding the vote results, noting that it triggers a leadership nomination process.

SUNDAY, October 17, 2021 - 9:30 am

19. Welcome and Call to order by President Kyle Rees

20. Credentials Committee Report

Kathleen Burt (Carbonear-Trinity-Bay de-Verde) reported 116 delegates registered for Convention (15 executive members, 14 former candidates, 2 MHAs, Party leader, 2 affiliates, 82 district representatives). The 116 registered delegates have credentials and are eligible to vote.

Moved by Kyle Rees (Topsail-Paradise), seconded by Mona Rossiter (St. John's East Quidi-Vidi) to accept.

CARRIED

21. Treasurer's Report

Angela Heffernan, Party Treasurer, presented a motion to adopt the Party's audited financial statements, as part of the required business of Convention. The 2020 statements were produced by the Party's auditors - MNP - and approved by Elections NL.

Motion seconded by Mary Shortall (St. John's Centre).

CARRIED

Angela reported that the Party has about \$45,000 with some revenue and expenses to come for the 2021 election and Convention. Angela advised that there are encumbered funds that the Treasurer holds in trust for the Helen Fogwill Porter Fund, District Associations, and the Democratic Defense Fund. She added that the annual revenue is approximately \$36,000 (from the monthly contribution plan) and annual costs of approximately \$30,000 which does not provide much capacity without fundraising efforts. Angela thanked Allan Gouling for managing the monthly donations and the membership database. Angela reported on some of the key accomplishments since the last Convention, the first being that the Party ran two elections without incurring debt. She reported that the party moved to a locally managed online donation platform from the federal platform, streamlined the tax receipt process to deliver receipts to donors electronically, established a contract for access to Populus the voter data management system, and implemented a new accounting system.

Angela moved that the Treasurer's report be adopted, seconded by Andrew Adams. Questions taken.

CARRIED

22. In Memoriam

Kathleen Burt introduced a slide presentation with the names of the NDP members and supporters who passed away since the last Convention in 2018.

23. Address, Sherry Hillier President, CUPE Newfoundland and Labrador

Sherry thanked the NDP for the invitation. She spoke about the challenging time for workers with Covid 19 and the work CUPE engages in every day to prioritize members' health and safety in the workplace. Sherry remarked on CUPE's commitment to supporting candidates who understand the needs of workers and unions. She commented on the need to protect public services, health care, and long-term care, to fight for truth and reconciliation and to fight austerity measures that will hurt working people. Sherry reported that at the recent CUPE convention in Corner Brook a resolution unanimously passed to continue the union's commitment to the New Democratic Party – the only provincial and national political party to consistently support workers and support public funding for services and infrastructure.

24. Emergency Resolution

An emergency motion was tabled by Kelly Codner to send a message of support to the locked-out workers of the town of Grand Falls-Windsor from the NL NDP Party.

Motion moved by Kelly Codner and seconded by Bill Hynd.

CARRIED

25. Panel – Your NL NDP MHAs

Panel Moderator, Amanda Will introduced Jordan Brown, MHA Labrador West and Jim Dinn, MHA, St. John's Centre and invited each of them to share with delegates issues facing their districts and what can be done to help build a fair future in our province. Jim spoke about the crisis in health care and the shortage of doctors as well as the demands for housing facing families, seniors, and young people. Jordan spoke about the affordability issues in a mining extraction region such as Labrador West, especially housing affordability and cost of living as well as gaps in health care and mental health and additions services. Each of the MHAs talked about the need for government to develop focused long-term strategies to tackle issues like the recruitment of nurses and doctors, and issues of affordability such as basic income and increases to minimum wage.

26. Tribute - Jack Harris, former MP and Provincial Leader

Don Davies, MP Vancouver-Kingsway on behalf of the federal NDP Caucus and Don Rowe, former provincial NDP candidate and long-time NDP member and friend of Jack Harris, introduced Jack recounting Jack's early political activism as a student, his time as leader of the NL NDP and as MP for St. John's East. Jack Harris spoke about his work as a provincial and federal NDP politician over the past 30 years and some of the initiatives the party tackled during that time. He thanked the many voters, campaign volunteers and encouraged others to get involved and take up the cause to fight for a better world.

27. Panel - Meet the Candidates

Delegates heard from a panel of provincial and federal candidates about why they decided to run and their ideas on how to build a fair future. Some of the challenges and issues the panelists spoke about: differences running as a candidate in rural parts of the province and Labrador versus urban areas; the need for election financing reform and electoral reform; the need to engage more members in the party; and the need to fight for a living

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wage, not just a minimum wage. The session was moderated by Holly Pike, Western Regional Representative, NL NDP Executive. The panelists were:

Melissa Samms - St. George's-Humber Provincial District
Amy Norman - Lake Melville Provincial District, Labrador
Gavin Will - Conception Bay East - Bell Island Provincial District

28. Introduction of Jagmeet Singh by Mary Shortall

Mary introduced Jagmeet Singh, recounting that this was the third time in as many months that she has had the pleasure to introduce Jagmeet. Mary noted that Jagmeet has been in Newfoundland and Labrador a couple of times fairly recently and she's observed first hand just how people connect with his energy, his values and the commitment he shows to equality and fairness.

29. Address Jagmeet Singh, Leader of Canada's NDP

Jagmeet thanked all delegates for taking the time to attend Convention. He thanked all the candidates who ran for the NDP in the federal election and the volunteers who supported their efforts. Jagmeet recognized the outstanding work of Jack Harris as a trusted stalwart of the federal caucus and congratulated him on his retirement. He spoke about the things the country needs to do as we emerge from Covid 19 to ensure a recovery that is centred on people - such as paid sick leave, fair wages, investments in health care, and building infrastructure that can create new jobs. He emphasized the need to be caring and focused on building a better future for everyone.

30. Election of Provincial Executive

Elections Chair, Kelly Codner explained the election process and elections proceeded.

President

Kyle Rees accepted his nomination
No further nominations
Kyle Rees was acclaimed as President

Associate President

Holly Pike accepted her nomination
No further nominations
Holly Pike was acclaimed as Associate President

Treasurer

Angela Snow accepted her nomination
No further nominations
Angela Snow was acclaimed as Treasurer

Secretary

Paul Rowe accepted his nomination
No further nominations
Paul Rowe was acclaimed as Secretary

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Membership Secretary

Beth Ryan accepted her nomination
Kathleen Burt declined her nomination
Jamie Ruby accepted his nomination
No further nominations
Voting took place and Jamie Ruby was elected as Membership Secretary

Federal Liaison

Beth Ryan accepted her nomination
Mona Rossiter declined her nomination
Gavin Will declined his nomination
Amy Norman accepted her nomination
No further nominations
Voting took place and Amy Norman was elected as Federal Liaison

Labrador

Matthew White accepted his nomination
No further nominations
Matthew White was acclaimed as Labrador Representative

Western

Melissa Samms accepted their nomination
No further nominations
Melissa Samms was acclaimed as Western Representative

Central

Jim Gill accepted his nomination
No further nominations
Jim Gill was acclaimed as Central Representative

South Coast

Noel Joe accepted his nomination
No further nominations
Noel Joe was acclaimed as South Coast Representative

Northeast Avalon

Scott Fleming accepted his nomination
No further nominations
Scott Fleming was acclaimed as Northeast Avalon Representative

Eastern

Kathleen Burt accepted her nomination
No further nominations
Kathleen Burt was acclaimed as Eastern Representative

At-large representatives

Nominees: Patricia Johnson-Castle, Beth Ryan, Randy Andersen, Travis Inkpen, Anne Marie Anonsen

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Voting took place and Travis Inkpen, Beth Ryan, and Patricia Johnson-Castle were elected as At-large representatives.

Kelly called upon Mary Shortall, President of the NL Federation of Labour to announce the Labour Representatives to be appointed to the NL NDP Executive.

Mary reported that Bill Hynd would be Associate President, Labour and that Alley Doyle and Jason Tarbett would be the other Labour representatives to serve on the NL NDP Executive.

Kelly advised that the Youth, Women, and Indigenous Caucuses will have representation on Executive. The Youth Caucus has identified its representative as Glenn Day. Representatives of the other Caucuses will be announced to members on the Party website once they are selected.

31. Motion to refer Resolutions to new Executive

Kelly Codner moved and Mary Shortall seconded a motion to forward outstanding Resolutions to the new Executive to address.

CARRIED

32. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

NL NDP President Kyle Rees delivered closing remarks and thanked organizers and delegates. He reminded delegates that following adjournment a Workshop on how to build a District Association will take place for delegates.

Motion to adjourn - Duly moved and seconded

CARRIED – Convention ended