

Blue Book 2003

Key Commitments - The Fishery:

- Aggressively pursue the establishment of a joint management regime with the federal government.
- Organize an extensive campaign aimed at pushing the federal government to secure custodial management of the Nose and Tail of the Grand Banks.
- Increase opportunities in aquaculture by committing \$2 million in new funding for scientific research to identify potential new locations, develop technologies, and cultivate robust stocks of existing and new species, so that the industry can produce better quality products and receive higher prices.
- Establish a Fisheries Science and Management Institute at MUN that will provide scientific, technical and economic support for sustainable development of the Newfoundland and Labrador marine fishery and aquaculture.
- Work with industry to develop and implement a comprehensive, long-term marketing strategy aimed at promoting the Province's seafood industry with a goal of increasing sales in world markets.
- Undertake research and establish links with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, other federal and provincial agencies, fish harvesters, and experts around the world to provide decision-makers with the research-based information they need to develop sound fishery management policy.
- Require value-added processing where it is economically feasible.
- A Progressive Conservative government will upgrade the Quality Assurance Program to include a mandatory quality control system for handling fish and seafood products intended for export that meets the highest international standards for food quality and safety.
- Promote the utilization of a variety of marine species in food processing, as well as new industrial uses of marine products in pharmaceuticals, biomedicines, and other chemical products.
- Form partnerships with industry to implement an international procurement program to secure primary seafood products for local seafood processing plants.

Key Commitments - Agriculture and Agrifoods:

- Design and implement a comprehensive agrifoods strategy that addresses the future growth and sustainability of this important industry in the province.
- Invest \$1 million over four years in research and development to foster the diversification and commercialization of livestock and crops.
- Increase forage and grain production as an effective way to lower costs and encourage higher dairy and meat production.
- Invest \$1 million to increase and improve the number of cold storage facilities, to enable producers to store and sell fresh Newfoundland and Labrador produce year round.
- Develop financing products that provide assistance to farmers for improvement and expansion of farms, and to agrifood enterprises for processing, distribution and marketing of products.
- Provide training opportunities for farmers and workers through workshops, seminars and farm exchange programs.
- Create an economic climate that encourages private sector venture capital.
- Equip producers with the tools and market information they need to sell their products at home and abroad.
- Significant agricultural opportunities exist in Labrador, yet are undeveloped. We will work with industry in Labrador to identify real opportunities for growth in that region and commit to the growth and development of agriculture in Labrador.