



Newfoundland and Labrador
New Democratic Party

P.O. Box 5275, Stn. C
St. John's, NL A1C 5W1

Dr. Janine Hubbard, Communications Director
Association of Psychology of NL
P.O. Box 26061, RPO
St. John's, NL A1E 0A5

May 14, 2019

Dear Dr. Hubbard:

Thank you for your questionnaire on issues of concern to the APNL. Our responses are below.

1) What is your party's position on improving access to psychological services?

There are not enough psychologists in the public health care system, which means long wait times, and many people do not have private insurance to access these services.

The NL NDP initiated the process of creating the All-Party Committee on Mental Health and Addictions. Travelling for consultations with individuals and stakeholders made us acutely aware that many people need more than walk-in short-term counselling. They need psychologists for treatment and are suffering without this treatment. We will continue to work for more government investment in these services.

2) Does your party platform contain anything related to matching the Federal Government's announcement by increasing the amount covered for psychological services from \$500 to at least \$2000 for all provincial employees?

Increasing the coverage is an important goal that we would support.

3) What will your party do to ensure Timely Access to Psychology Services for those who need lengthier (e.g.12-20 session) evidence-based psychological interventions for more complex psychological issues.

We would as a first step provide more psychological services in the public health care system, in hospitals and as part of primary health care teams located in community health centres around the province.

4) Does your party platform contain measures that will ensure ongoing funding & support for the PsyD Program at Memorial University?

The NDP would support the continuation of programs to educate and train more psychologists in this province.

5) What is your party's commitment to improving access to psychological services, particularly gaps in Health Psychology such as Diabetes, Oncology and Bariatric Surgery?

People facing serious illness sometimes need the services of psychologists. See the answer to Question 3.

6) Does your party plan to improve access to psychological services for adolescents and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)?

Services should be available for those with ASD who need them (see answer to Question 3).

7) Will your party commit to meeting National ratio Standards for Educational Psychologists in Newfoundland & Labrador's Schools?

The NL NDP has for many years called for the ratio of educational psychologists to be at the national standard of 1:1,000 so they can treat the numbers of students who need it.

Thank you for your interest in the policies and positions of the NL NDP.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alison Coffin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alison Coffin, Leader
NL New Democratic Party