

May 10, 2019

Allison Coffin
P.O. Box 5275, Station C
St. John's, NL A1C 5W1

Dear Ms. Coffin,

Autism Society, Newfoundland & Labrador (ASNL), is a provincial charitable organization dedicated to promoting the development of individual, lifelong, and community-based supports and services for people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), their families and caregivers. As children age, families are presented with new challenges. Our role is to ensure their concerns are understood and met with services and supports that reflect individualized differences, needs and preferences.

As leader of the Newfoundland & Labrador NDP, we are seeking your response to four key questions. Please give the following questions consideration. Prepared responses can be sent to scrocker@autism.nf.net by e-mail. We will share a copy of this letter and your response with our membership and publicly.

Your platform states your party will,

“Address inclusion. Fairness of opportunity and a lessening of inequality are key values for the NL NDP. We will work with the disability community to bring in legislation to remove barriers and enforce rights. The NL NDP will add diversity to the criteria for appointments to agencies, boards, and commissions.”

To follow up on these important points, we have the following questions:

Use of IQ 70 to Determine Service Provision for Adults with ASD

We believe the current practice of using a person's IQ score as a criterion for determining the need for support services and programs is exclusionary and discriminatory.

Q: Do you have a timeline in mind for the removal of IQ70 and how will accommodate the needs of those who have been denied services for years?

Screening, Timely Referral and Early Identification.

We believe early identification is paramount to the outcomes for individuals with ASD and, therefore, evidence-based screening and surveillance practices must be implemented provincially.

Q: What is your position on additional tools for developmental screening to ensure those flagged for early signs of ASD receive timely and appropriate referrals? Further, would your party consider allocating funding for a Public Information Campaign about early signs of autism?

Autism Society
Newfoundland & Labrador



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Accountability with ISSP/IEP process

We believe students with ASD need enough appropriate supports to thrive in the learning environment. This must include those who are struggling, as well as those who are gifted.

Q: How do you plan to increase accountability with the ISSP and IEP process?

Employment Equity

We believe all those on the autism spectrum, with a goal of employment, should have the opportunity to obtain and maintain 'real work for real pay'.

Q: What steps would you take to improve access to the workforce for those with ASD?

To learn more about what ASNL and the autism community identified as 'Issues That Matter', please refer to our 2018 Position Statement Booklet.

Yours sincerely,



Scott Crocker
Chief Executive Officer



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