



Newfoundland and Labrador  
New Democratic Party

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

Scott Crocker, CEO  
Autism Society of NL  
P.O. Box 14078  
St. John's, NL A1B 4G8

May 14, 2019

Dear Mr. Crocker:

Thank you for your questionnaire outlining the concerns of the Autism Society of NL. Our responses are below.

**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?**

The Autism Action Plan contains a commitment to eliminate IQ 70 in services offered by HSC and RHAs by 2021. This is long overdue. The NL NDP will monitor the Action Plan to make sure it happens. All government programs should discontinue the use IQ 70 to deny services to those with ASD.

**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?**

The wait times for initial assessment have been creeping up in most parts of the province. Delayed therapy results in poorer outcomes. The Autism Action Plan has promised more diagnostic tools and clinics, and reduced wait times for diagnosis. We will monitor the Action Plan to ensure this happens, because we need to do everything possible to ensure children with ASD get the best intervention as early as possible.

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

The NDP would ensure that the ISSP/IEP process is made more accountable and effective as promised in the Education Action Plan. We will work to make sure all students with ASD have sufficient access to Instructional Resource Teachers and Student Assistants, and to bring Occupational Therapists into our schools to help children with ASD adjust to the school environment.

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

The most important thing is for young adults with ASD to have access to programs that can move them into real jobs suitable to their abilities. The Department of Advanced Education, Skills and Labour must revise its supportive employment services to stop using the IQ70 cut-off to prevent people with ASD from accessing services. AESL must use a functionality assessment to determine what supports an individual with ASD needs to get and keep a real job.

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