

The Anti-Racism Coalition Newfoundland & Labrador



The **Anti-Racism Coalition Newfoundland and Labrador** (ARC-NL) is a grass-roots, non-profit coalition of community members whose main objective is to promote and support a culture of anti-racism within the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador (NL). Visit our Facebook page (@arcofnl) and group (current membership in excess of 2.8K) for further information on our efforts to counter all forms of racism.

Election 2021: Calling It Out

ARC-NL calls on the candidates and leaders of all parties to tackle the structural inequality experienced by racialized communities. In particular, we ask that you respond to the **five themes** in this statement with clear plans and commitments. Please email your responses to antiracismcoalitionnl@gmail.com as soon as possible; answers will be published via ARC-NL's social media as they roll in.

ARC-NL will [only] publish answers which speak to explicit anti-racist policy and practice.

We will also be encouraging ARC-NL supporters to approach riding associations and candidates ***in their districts*** to pose these same questions.

The Anti-Racism Commitments We Need

A) On Hate Speech, Racism, Xenophobia and White Nationalism in NL

There have been some very public cases of in-person and online hate in Newfoundland and Labrador in 2020. For example:

- ***White settler politicians and candidates in NL have expressed racist ideas (in one specific case stating anti-Indigenous views) in situations they thought were private.***
- ***Young Black Newfoundlanders have provided powerful stories about their experiences of anti-Black racism in public education in NL, and have made calls for an anti-racism education curriculum—without any response.***
- ***An Asian-Newfoundlander was chased by white teens around a public pond – and slurs were shouted at her.***

Given that hate is under-reported and inadequately sanctioned, we are interested in hearing about the tangible steps you and your party have taken, and also, what you intend to do in the following areas:

1. What specific steps and policies have you taken and will you take, to ensure that hate speech, online and in-person, is addressed in Newfoundland and Labrador?
2. What measures has your party undertaken to vet candidates prior to being elected, and to sanction those who reveal their racist beliefs once in office?

B) On Supporting 'Newcomers' to Newfoundland and Labrador

Evidence that 'newcomers' add to the province's financial and social wellbeing is undeniable. However, at 2.4%, NL is the Canadian province with the lowest proportion of people born outside of the country. Government officials often make broad statements about the need for 'newcomers', but racism on individual and institutional levels makes it difficult for them to make this province their home. For example, international students often leave NL due to difficulties

finding employment and training opportunities. And aside from developing lengthy ‘complaints-driven’ processes that, across the country, have proven to have limited success in supporting migrants’ claims, racist harassment continues to occur in many workplaces.

3. What will your party do to protect the health and welfare of migrant workers and students in NL workplaces?
4. What sort of measures does your political party have or plan to promote this sense of entrepreneurship within the already existing newcomer population in the province?

C) On Addressing Racism in the Political Process

We believe that all residents pay taxes and add value to their communities and therefore deserve the right to vote. We trust that rural communities, in particular, which struggle to find individuals to serve in political positions would benefit from including all residents in the municipal governing process.

5. What efforts and plans do you have to engage members of Indigenous, racialized and migrant communities in the political process?
6. What concrete measures will you implement to build anti-racist capacity in political processes?
7. Does your government believe that all residents deserve the right to vote at the municipal and provincial level? And if so, how would you make changes to current legislation which limits voting to Canadian citizens?

D) On Indigenous Sovereignty and Reconciliation

Working in a spirit of Truth and Reconciliation, we acknowledge this election is taking place on the land of K’taqmkuk (Newfoundland), the unceded, traditional territory of the Beothuk and Mi’kmaq peoples, and Labrador, the traditional and ancestral homelands of the Inuit of Nunatsiavut and NunatuKavut, and the Innu of Nitassinan.

8. When and how will your government implement the Calls to Action of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission (TRC), and the Calls for Justice in the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG2S) inquiry report?
9. With Canada’s adoption of UNDRIP in 2016, when and how will your government implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples?

E) On Provincial Funding and Resources for Anti-Racism Action

In lieu of suitable Provincial Government resources to support anti-racism education, both in the provincial education system and in the community at-large, numerous non-governmental organizations in Newfoundland and Labrador expended a great deal of time and effort to meet the January 2020 deadline for the federal *Anti-Racism Action Program (ARAP)*. To our knowledge, only one organization here was funded.

10. What will your party do to ensure a greater array of urgently-needed anti-racism and equity-building work by diverse organizations will be funded and launched throughout this Province?
11. What specific resources will your party employ to increase the capacity to deliver anti-racism curriculum in our schools, particularly in relation to addressing anti-Black racism, anti-Indigenous racism, anti-Semitism and Islamophobia?