

1. If your party forms the next government, how will you ensure that all students suspected of having Learning Disabilities have access to a timely comprehensive diagnostic assessment?

In 2018, our Liberal Government put forward the Education Action Plan with Inclusive Education as the first of nine focus areas. To date we have accomplished most of the recommendations. By 2022, we will have in place recommendation 13, that the Departments of Education and Health and Community Services will work with the Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Health Information (NLCHI) and the Office of Information and Privacy Commissioner (OIPC) to develop an early identification data repository by applying a child development perspective to existing data being collected in electronic health and medical records, NL Pharmacy Network, and the Client Referral Management System, that can then be linked with electronic records at EECD.

2. If you are the Premier after this election, how will you ensure that students with Learning Disabilities and/or ADHD have their entitled accommodations delivered consistently throughout their education and what is your plan to bridge the gap between policy and implementation in the K-12 education system?

By the opening of this school year there were an additional 350 teachers in schools under the Education Action Plan and the ongoing implementation of a new Student Support Services Policy. We have added 200 Teacher Learning Assistants; 104 Reading Specialists; 39 Learning Resource Teachers; and 8 English as a Second Language teachers. Teachers are now able to collaboratively design learning experiences for students and consider the most appropriate level of intervention whether it be in the regular classroom, small group or pull-out services. The idea is to be most responsive to the needs of the students.

We have offered considerable extra support to the education system during the pandemic in anticipation of possible issues with students surrounding protocols and their ability to cope. We have added an additional 25 guidance counsellors; 15 administrators; and, 10 teaching positions dedicated to remote learning. We have also provided funding to hire 70 substitute teachers to work in schools as needed.

The Liberal Government under Premier Furey commits to supporting the Education Action Plan's findings on inclusive education and to keep education as a top priority of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador.

3. If your party forms the next government, how will you ensure that adults with suspected Learning Disabilities have access to free assessment and support in order to improve their lives?

Our Adult Literacy Plan has committed to work with service and training providers to increase academic supports and accommodation options within adult literacy programming for people with identified learning disabilities and other difficulties recognizing that some people have learning difficulties or disabilities that makes learning a challenge. The K-12 education system provides academic supports and accommodations to support successful outcomes. We will work to make sure similar supports are available within the ABE program.

4. If your party is in power after the election, how will you ensure that students with Learning Disabilities have a free and equitable education?

As noted in question 2, by the opening of this school year there were an additional 350 teachers in schools under the Education Action Plan and the ongoing implementation of a new Student Support Services Policy. It is our goal that students will receive all necessary supports within the school system for free. Teachers are now able to collaboratively design learning experiences for students and consider the most appropriate level of intervention whether it be in the regular classroom, small group or pull-out services to make the service model more equitable. The idea is to be most responsive to the needs of the students.

5. What is your plan to address the issues around the equitable allocation of core funding for non-profit organizations in the province to meet their day-to-day operating costs?

Funding for non-profit organizations is reviewed on an ongoing basis.

Phase 1 of multi-year funding is coming to an end, at which point, the pilot will be evaluated to inform next steps.

The community sector plays a vital role, delivering significant and lasting social and economic value to communities across the Province. It employs more than 16,000 Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, and delivers wide-ranging support to our people and communities.

The Furey Government will work with high-potential organizations whose impact can be scaled, harnessing their economic and social benefits. Building on proven models across Canada, the Furey Government will help create an incubator and accelerator to spark, grow, and enhance our community sector, and drive social innovation. This initiative will be complemented by the holistic support of the community sector.

A Furey Government will work with the community sector and leading incubators from across Canada to develop the social infrastructure that will allow our community organizations, to grow, contributing to better social outcomes and increased economic activity in the Province.

Under Premier Furey's leadership, the Government will launch a request for proposals to create an incubator and accelerator to maximize the social and economic impacts from our thriving community sector.