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What worries you about the future of NL? What gives you hope?

04 Dec 2020

What do you see on the horizon for our province? good and bad. What keeps you up at night, or makes you worry or wonder about the future - 10, 20, 50 years down the road? What are the things that give you hope? What are the bright spots that you can see that, with a little focus and planning, can provide a solid footing for a prosperous future?



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MSamms, almost 2 years ago

[Alert moderator](#)

I see a difficult future on the horizon, however, I think that's common around the world at this point in time. I think (not just hope!) we have peoples and a place that can come through the forthcoming difficulties stronger than ever before - if we apply the knowledge and skills we have ethically and efficiently.

One brightening spot I've seen that gives me hope is a change in tone from young people, as well. The question asked is still, "Why should we stay in NL?" but the tone today seems more like, "I don't want to leave, really, so give me a reason to stay."

The biggest thing I see that can improve the stability in our province is our agricultural industry (or lack thereof). We have a chance to build a sustainable food system from the ground up - by and large, industrial-scale agriculture doesn't have a big foothold in the province. We already have an agricultural land grant system that was put in place under the Liberals, but it's only geared towards large-scale systems. We can broaden the scope of accessibility in the program, or make one for small-scale allotments to small farms to start building a network of small, local food producers and family farms. To help them grow, we can invest in co-operatives and regional farmers markets. Programs to fund these markets already exist (for example, the Culture Economic Development Program, as food and culture are inextricably intertwined) they just need smart implementation.

We also have an opportunity in the sector to emphasize the need to grow and raise things besides food - flax for linen, sheep for wool, animals or plants for fat to make things like soap, and the list goes on. If we can start doing our secondary processing locally, especially as primary production increases, it would have a massive effect very quickly.

By investing in agriculture and its related industries, we can greatly reduce our carbon footprint and look towards land remediation and improvement. Emissions from transporting food and processed goods onto the island would drop, biodiversity would increase, and residents could reduce their fuel use by not having to drive as far to buy things. I'm curious about how much it could have an effect on ferry service frequency and rates, too. With fewer tractor trailers coming across the Cabot Strait, the ferry may reduce crossings or opt for smaller vessels, which are usually more energy efficient.

REPLY

Do you agree?  1  Hide reply (1)



Shealah, over 1 year ago

[Alert moderator](#)

Hi! As a youth myself, I agree with the changes you have witnessed in tone regarding young people's willingness or want to stay here in the province

opposed to moving elsewhere. I know that both myself, and many peers, have said the same thing- we want to stay, but there need to be things here for us. There are many youth who want this province to be more sustainable, to have careers and make their livelihoods here at home. Hopefully, we will be able to work towards making that happen.

REPLY

Do you agree?  

vn.paliath, almost 2 years ago

[Alert moderator](#)

Today's session on Climate Change Impacts & Actions in NL further explained the gravity of impacts that the province would face. From provincial resources available on Coastal erosion & sea level rise, vulnerability of Coastal communities is very evident. It is this fact that makes me worried about NL's future.

However, I believe that the strength in community is our way out of the crisis. Though from limited experience, I have always felt that resident's in NL have a strong community feeling and they express this ownership in some way or the other in their life. It may be in the form of loyalty to a local bakery/retail shop/product, restaurants giving away food for front-line workers or a random person calling out those who forgot to wear a mask. Community resilience exist as an emotion in NL and that is the hope for building resilience against changing climate.

REPLY

Do you agree?  

drbrake, almost 2 years ago

[Alert moderator](#)

Another thing that both concerns me and gives me hope - overall, defined narrowly, climate change could be a net benefit to much of Newfoundland (less so to Labrador?) as long as we adapt to increased variability and tackle specific issues that arise. This is not a good reason not to act to mitigate though since we have a

duty to the rest of the world, and not all will welcome the changes that might come when NL becomes one of the places people who have been driven out of other areas turn to to live. I am thinking in particular of this study of mean temperatures and human habitability which shows Newfoundland becoming significantly more habitable and Labrador staying largely the same (though this does not factor in the many second-order shifts that may be negative)

<https://www.pnas.org/content/117/21/11350>



REPLY

Do you agree?  

drbrake, almost 2 years ago

[Alert moderator](#)

On the one hand, NL has some of the world's highest per capita greenhouse gas emissions. On the other, because of its small population size it has the potential to rapidly change its behaviour if the will is there. We do have large potential to help address the climate crisis especially through providing clean electricity to other jurisdictions via hydro and offshore wind. Sadly we are well behind best practices eg from Europe but taken together we have the opportunity to be a model to the rest of the world of how rapidly a "dirty" region can adapt and improve... if we make that choice! (And we would benefit greatly from the employment and skills that would come out of that).



REPLY

Do you agree?  

John, almost 2 years ago

[Alert moderator](#)


For me personally since we all live on an island, if all the on land ice (which there is plenty of) all melts, I'm concerned that all of NL will be underwater leaving half a million people homeless on this island alone, let alone other places in the world that would be affected by this. I believe this could all be fixed with an increase in carbon

tax and more regulations on carbon emissions in not only Newfoundland alone but the rest of Canada and the world!

REPLY

Do you agree?   Hide reply (1)



 The Harris Centre, almost 2 years ago

[Alert moderator](#)

Great points, John. We're going to hear from experts on coastal erosion and sea level rise in the near future. Others have been posting about these concerns in the Topics forum, so we can already start to see that these are major concern for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians!

REPLY

Do you agree?  



Craig, about 2 years ago


[Alert moderator](#)

Test seems my first try did not work??

REPLY

Do you agree?   Hide reply (1)



 Mandy Rowsell, about 2 years ago

Hi, Craig! I think you're right about your first try--this is the first comment I can see in this forum from you. But it looks like you've got it working. Give us a shout if you're having any further technical problems.

REPLY

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