



WHAT IS A JUST TRANSITION?

- A transition to a low-carbon global economy is necessary due to the changing climate. A just transition is one that centres on economic, environmental, and social policy that works to ensure that no workers or communities are left behind. A just transition can instead build a prosperous and equitable future for workers in a low-carbon economy that makes use of the participation, know-how, and innovative ideas of everyone [1].
- A just transition must offer a future that workers can believe in, look forward to, support, and commit to bringing about [2].
- The Paris Agreement on climate change calls for a just transition [3].
- Regardless of what action is taken to respond to climate change, a transition will take place in the future; there is a choice in whether this transition will be a violent scramble for jobs and resources, using last-minute measures that dismiss human rights and social protection, or if it will be a just transition that is planned in advance to respect and protect present-day workers and create new opportunities in sustainable industries [2].



Addressing climate change requires a fundamental restructuring of the energy supply sector to move away from a fossil-fuel based system to one that relies on clean and renewable sources. This transition will have both positive and negative impacts on employment, as employment in low-carbon industries grow while employment in fossil-fuel intensive industries stagnate [5].

Without any just transition legislation implemented by government, 50-75% of Canadians employed in the oil and gas sector are at risk of losing their jobs [4].

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Canadians employed in the oil & gas sector at risk of losing their jobs

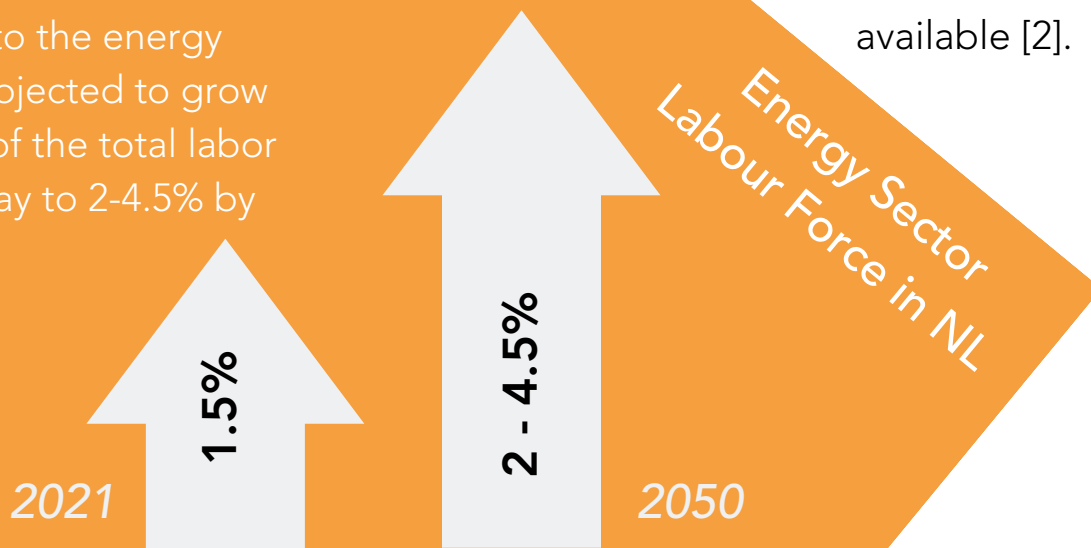
Why is a Just Transition So Important?

WHAT SHOULD A JUST TRANSITION LOOK LIKE?

- When workers are displaced from unsustainable industries, a just transition aims to ensure that the **workers impacted will be placed in new decent jobs** in areas that may include new energy technologies, building retrofitting for energy efficiency, and restoration and rehabilitation of mining areas and industrial sites, for example [2].
 - New jobs in **sustainable industries** should be made available to workers who lose their jobs in unsustainable industries [2].
 - A just transition policy must include **a retraining and upskilling framework** that identifies the skills needed in clean energy sectors [4].
 - Early **retirement** or bridging to pensions for older workers should also be available [2].

Energy Sector Growth

Even as the global community moves away from fossil fuels, the labor force dedicated to the energy sector is projected to grow from 1.5% of the total labor market today to 2-4.5% by 2050 [4].



A JUST TRANSITION IN NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR

A just transition might include expanding employment insurance, retraining and education, and grants to communities to help develop new jobs [2].



80%

A poll conducted in 2021 by the Atlantic Quarterly and commissioned by the Council of Canadians, Sierra Club Canada Foundation, and the Ecology Action Centre found that 80% of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians want to see the province move away from fossil fuels and towards renewables and efficiency programs throughout post-pandemic recovery [6].

In the past, Newfoundland and Labrador's population has been very neatly tied to the boom and bust cycles of the oil industry; a just transition presents an opportunity to create good jobs in the future (in renewable energies, retrofits, etc.) that are localized and exist in many communities, reducing the need for people to work far from their homes [7].

Considering that Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Newfoundland and Labrador account for nearly two-thirds of mining, oil, and gas employment in Canada, the impact of transitioning to a low-carbon economy will be not be evenly felt across the country [5].



SOURCES

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