



**Progressive Conservative Association  
Of Newfoundland and Labrador Inc.**

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Secretary/Treasurer  
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Dear Mr. Jenkins,

Thank you of your letter regarding the policy positions of the Progressive Conservative Party of Newfoundland and Labrador. As you may know from following the news coverage, your inquiries have actually helped to shape the policies of our Party as they have focused attention on needs that we believe ought to be addressed. Let me answer your questions in turn.

***1) What are your parties' thoughts on the best way to deliver prehospital care in Newfoundland and Labrador?***

As stated in our Blueprint: "We will improve ambulance services and enhance the role of EMS professionals." We have also stated: "A Paul Davis PC Government recognizes that delivery of health care services should be undertaken through a process of continuous improvement." And "We will continue the program of reforms to primary

health care.” And “We will become a world leader in rural health care, capitalizing on our experience and strengths.” All of these include a role for the professionals your association represents. We are ready and eager to work collaboratively with the Paramedic Association of Newfoundland and Labrador and our Emergency Medical Services (EMS) professionals on reforms that will enhance the delivery of prehospital care in Newfoundland and Labrador. On November 16, in announcing our commitments to presumptive clauses for compensation for first responders, I stated: “They are only the beginning. There are many other things we need to do and are prepared to do, and I am signaling with these announcements that we want to bring all our emergency responders to the table to hear their concerns on these and other issues.”

***2) Is your party committed to seeing that all the recommendations outlined in the Fitch Ambulance Report are completed in a timely manner according to the time lines that were set out in the report?***

As I made clear in a statement on November 16, as posted on our Party website (Davis15.ca): “We are prepared to work in partnership with PANL to complete the implementation of the 10 recommendations of 2012 review of the provincial road ambulance program, which was completed by the Fitch-Helleur partnership. In collaboration with PANL and its members, we will deliver a high-performance EMS system for the benefit of the people of Newfoundland and Labrador. We are prepared to do even more to benefit those who serve to keep us safe.”

***3) Is your party committed to recognizing the EMS profession as an essential service, where it has never been before?***

Yes. Our Party is committed to recognizing the EMS profession as an essential service, where it has never been before.

***4) What is your party’s stance on providing compensation for workers who have been diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)?***

As stated in our Blueprint: “We will enact legislation containing a presumptive clause with respect to Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder for people employed in various frontline emergency services professions.” In fact, our policy on compensation is spelled out in further detail in the following table that we released in infographic form via social media.

|                                       | PAUL DAVIS PC POLICY  | DWIGHT BALL LIBERAL POLICY                             |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| CANCER                                | Presumptive cancer clause for ALL firefighters – both career and volunteer firefighters                                   | Presumptive cancer clause for only career firefighters |
| CARDIAC                               | Presumptive cardiac clause for all firefighters, emergency responders and policy  | Nothing  |
| POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER (PTSD) | PTSD clause for frontline emergency response professions – coverage for all firefighters, emergency responders and policy | Nothing  |

Let me spell out our policy in even greater detail by quoting the information our Party has just provided to the First Responders of Newfoundland and Labrador in addressing three specific issues, which I will also quote:

“A PC Government will bring forward legislative amendments that contain presumptive clauses for first responders – a cancer clause for both career and volunteer firefighters, and cardiac and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) clauses for first responders, including both career and volunteer firefighters, RNC officers and EMS professionals (Paramedics).”

***Issue 1. Are you aware that the first responders may receive a reduction in salary of up to 50% if they are injured while performing their duties? PC RESPONSE:***

“We believe it is time to rectify this injustice and ensure that first responders do not receive a reduction in pay if they are injured while performing their duties. This commitment is based on the principle behind the promised presumptive clauses: that first responders face particular dangers in protecting the public and should not be left on their own when those dangers take their toll on them.”

***Issue 2. Do you believe that first responders should be compensated to 100% of net compensable earnings (their regular take home pay) if they are injured during the execution of their duties?*** PC RESPONSE: “For the same reason, we believe that first responders should be compensated to 100% of net compensable earnings (their regular take home pay) if they are injured during the execution of their duties.”

***Issue 3. If elected, how would you address the issue of first responders receiving 80% of their net earnings to a MCAE of \$61,615 if they are injured while performing their mandated, lawful duties?*** PC RESPONSE: “Again, and for the same reason, we will address this issue by ensuring that first responders receive 100% of their net earnings, without a ceiling on those earnings, if they are injured while performing their mandated, lawful duties.”

***5) Is your party committed to seeing that EMS personnel are seen and treated as health care professionals that are a vital part of the health care sector?***

Yes. Absolutely. As stated in our Blueprint: “We will improve ambulance services and enhance the role of EMS professionals.” Further, as I made clear in a statement on November 16, as posted on our Party website (Davis15.ca): “The Emergency Medical Services profession is represented in this province by the Paramedic Association of Newfoundland and Labrador (PANL). As they have pointed out, it is time to recognize EMS personnel as health care professionals that are a vital part of our health care sector.” Again, as I stated on November 16: “There are many other things we need to do and are prepared to do, and I am signaling with these announcements that we want to bring all our emergency responders to the table to hear their concerns on these and other issues.” We will work with your association to discuss any further initiatives we can take to ensure that EMS professionals in our province are seen and treated as health care professionals that are a vital part of the health care sector.

Thank you for seeking our responses to these important matters. Best wishes as you continue to serve us in your important roles as first responders.