



Dear Florian, Johanna, and the techNL team,

Thank you for sharing the *2025 Provincial Election Brief*. We greatly appreciate the time, thought, and collaboration that went into preparing this document. The growth of Newfoundland and Labrador's tech sector is impressive, and it is clear that the industry plays a vital role in driving innovation, creating high-quality jobs, and strengthening economic resilience across the province.

We recognize the significant contributions the sector has already made, from generating \$1.8 billion in GDP to employing nearly 10,000 people, and we are encouraged by the bold vision of reaching \$2.5 billion by 2030. Your brief highlights the critical opportunities for continued growth and underscores the importance of partnership between government, industry, and communities.

We envision a strong, innovation-driven economy. By working with industry groups, businesses, and innovators, we can make this province a top choice for investment and job creation. We will support a culture of collaboration and help local tech start-ups grow into larger companies that attract international attention.

To encourage the technology industry to prosper, a Wakeham PC government will:

- **Work with industry** to promote tech-driven solutions to challenges in traditional industries. We will host networking sessions so innovators can showcase their technologies across the economy and collaborate with other sectors to solve problems.
- **Establish a new process for the procurement of innovation** by government and government-funded entities, ensuring terms and conditions do not prevent local companies from accessing capital investment. Procuring innovation is not the same as procuring goods. We will take a *local-first* approach to ensure that local innovators have an advantage.
- **Expand the technology talent pool** by training more computer scientists and providing upskilling opportunities for unemployed and underemployed individuals seeking new careers in the tech industry.
- **Create an Intellectual Property Office** to assist local businesses and innovators in protecting their intangible assets.



- **Re-establish Newfoundland and Labrador as a world leader in ocean technology** by restarting our ocean strategy, supporting research, and building on our strengths in fisheries, marine science, offshore energy, and Arctic exploration.
- **Expand opportunities for students** to learn new technologies in our K-12 school system.

Following the election, we remain committed to engaging with techNL and the broader technology community. Your insights will help shape the dialogue on how Newfoundland and Labrador can build a stronger, more diversified economy, while positioning the province as a leader in the global tech ecosystem.

We thank you again for your leadership and for bringing forward the voices of your members. We look forward to continuing this important conversation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tony Wakeham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tony" and last name "Wakeham" clearly legible.

Tony Wakeham  
Leader  
Progressive Conservative Party of Newfoundland and Labrador