

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

AN EQUAL VOICE PROVINCE SNAPSHOT, 2026

Newfoundland and Labrador (N.L.) has had one woman serve as premier, and its legislature has not yet achieved gender parity by having women make up at least half of its MHAs. The House of Assembly of Newfoundland and Labrador seats 40 members, of which 10 are women (25%). N.L.'s last election took place in October 2025.



Population
548,557



Female to Male
51.1% : 48.9%



GDP
\$30.7+ billion

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

N.L. has a unicameral legislature, with one chamber: the **House of Assembly of Newfoundland and Labrador**. As a parliamentary democracy, N.L. has 40 constituencies which are each represented by an elected **Member of the House of Assembly (MHA)**.

The political party with the most elected MHAs forms government, and their leader becomes the head of government, called the **Premier**. The Premier selects MHAs to serve as Cabinet Ministers.

The **Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland and Labrador** is appointed by the Governor General of Canada and represents the King, Canada's Head of State.



CURRENT EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATION

(as of Oct 2025)

Premier: Toney Wakeham (M)
Assumed office: 29 Oct. 2025
Party: Progressive Conservative Party of N.L.
14 Cabinet Members
3 women (21.4%) : 11 men (78.6%)

Notable portfolios currently held by women:

- Health & Community Services
- Mental Health & Addictions
- Indigenous Relations & Reconciliation
- Women & Gender Equality
- Justice & Public Safety
- Responsible for the Human Rights Commission

CURRENT LEGISLATURE

(as of Oct 2025)

40 MHAs total
10 women (25%) : 30 men (75%)

MHAS PER PARTY

Progressive Conservative Party of N.L.:
21 MHAs

3 women (14.3%) : 18 men (85.7%)

Liberal Party of N.L.: 15 MHAs

6 women (40%) : 9 men (60%)

N.L. New Democratic Party: 2 MHAs

1 woman (50%) : 1 man (50%)

Independent MHAs: 2 MHAs

0 women : 2 men

PAST PREMIERS

(as of Oct 2025)

16 Premiers since 1949
1 woman : 15 men

Kathy Dunderdale, 3 Dec. 2010 - 24 Jan. 2014



LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS

(as of Mar 2025)

15 Lieutenant Governors since 1949
2 women : 13 men

Current Lieutenant Governor:
Joan Marie J. Aylward (W)

MILESTONES

1930

Helena Squires was the first woman MHA elected in N.L. pre-Confederation.

1975

Hazel McIsaac was the first woman MHA elected in N.L. post-Confederation.

1979

Lynn Verge and Hazel Newhook were the first women named to Cabinet in N.L.

2010

Kathy Dunderdale was the first woman premier of N.L.

2010

Each of N.L.'s primary three political parties had a woman leader: Kathy Dunderdale (PC), Yvonne Jones (Liberal), and Lorraine Michael (NDP).

2015

N.L.'s 2015 election saw a record proportion of women win seats in the province's legislature, with 10 women MLAs out of 40 (25.0%). This is the highest proportion of women and gender diverse MLAs in N.L.'s history.

2018

2018 - Judy Foote was the first woman to be appointed Lieutenant Governor of N.L.