



Special Policy Meeting – Adopted Policy
Resolutions

October 23, 2021

These are the 18 Policy Resolutions passed by Registered Liberals at the Special Policy Meeting, held virtually on October 23, 2021.

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1 - Plastic Bag Reduction Strategy

Whereas environmental and pollution control are issues of public concern;

Whereas plastics are a major contributor to negative environmental issues;

Whereas blue and clear recycling bags have negative implications in the recycling processes; (1)

Be it resolved that per the Environmental Act the Nova Scotia Government in concert with the Municipalities amend the Nova Scotia Waste Management Strategy by reducing plastic bag usage by replacing the currently used plastic blue bags with reusable blue bins similar to the currently used green bins for organics and garbage collection services; (2) (3)

Be it further resolved that the Nova Scotia Government in concert with the Municipalities replace the second blue bag with a reusable bin for paper and cardboard recycling. (3)

Notes

- (1) There have been issues of worker injury, having more difficulty to process paper mixed with plastics and can cause lags or stoppages at recycling facilities:
Example BC <https://www.osoyoos.ca/content/recycling-blue-bags-no-longer-accepted-july-1-2020>
- (2) PART IX Waste-resource Management, Agreements 95 The Minister may enter into agreements or co-operate with a municipality or other persons to: (a) establish cost sharing arrangements or provide other financial incentives to encourage source reduction, reuse, recycling and composting;
(b) implement policies to recycle waste materials, to promote energy conservation and to purchase products made from recyclable materials.
<https://nslegislature.ca/sites/default/files/legc/statutes/environment.pdf>,
And Renewal of Nova Scotia's Solid Waste Resource Management Strategy. (2009). Nova Scotia Environment
<https://novascotia.ca/nse/waste/docs/SolidWasteStrategy.2009.Renewal.pdf>
- (3) Example from halifax.ca/recycle

*Nova Scotia Liberal Party
Sponsor: Clayton Park West
Contact: Allan Snook*

2 - Digital Medicine

Whereas the Nova Scotia medical system has been struggling with increasing costs for many years and it is the largest government expenditure; (1)

Whereas health care is one of Nova Scotians first priority and need capital plan to invest in the next generation of health care service delivery;

Whereas in 2020 Nova Scotia successfully expanded the use of telemedicine during the COVID-19 epidemic, both reducing time and costs for individual medical visits, as well as providing appropriate compensation for medical professionals; (2)

Be it resolved that Nova Scotia medical professionals be able to use digital means to diagnose and treat patients when appropriate and be compensated through the Nova Scotia Medical System. (3) (4)

Notes

(1) Karen Casey (March 7, 2019

<https://novascotia.ca/news/release/?id=20190307001>) "The largest expenditures category was in health at \$4,334 per capita and social protection at \$4,137 per capita. These two categories are almost 50 per cent of total expenses."

<https://www.novascotia.ca/finance/statistics/news.asp?id=11716#:~:text=The%20largest%20expenditures%20category%20was,and%20safety%2C%20and%20defense%20spending>.

(2) For example, Dr. Mike Wadden "was one of the early adopters of virtual care. His patients span hundreds of kilometers from Halifax to Annapolis Royal, including many rural communities. The system, which is attached to electronic medical records, allows him to securely message, call and video chat any of his patients, including those with spotty connections. It also allows them to share photos, which Wadden said has proved useful for diagnosing things like rashes. "The photos that we can take on our cellphones now are excellent, he said."

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/covid-19-nova-scotia-patient-visits-virtual-appointments-1.5560143>

(3) Issues of patients paying out of pocket: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/selling-access-to-doctors-online-canada-health-act-1.4400915>;

Issues of doctors not being paid with MyHealth NS

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/myhealth-doctors-online-patient-communication-payment-problems-1.4192978>

(4) Addition: Section 3: Service Reporting and Claims Submission & Section 5: Claim Submission Assessment

<http://www.medavie.bluecross.ca/static/MSI/PhysicianManual.pdf>

*Nova Scotia Liberal Party
Sponsor: Lunenburg West
Contact: Keith Sullivan*

3 - Online Learning in Nova Scotia

Whereas face-to-face classroom learning is not always available, because of school closures, illness, etc.;

Whereas Nova Scotia has developed a platform for teaching online courses (Nova Scotia Virtual School) and has provided all teachers with access to Google Apps for Education for creating, sharing, and accessing files;

Whereas in 2018-19, 81% of students were enrolled in K-12 blended learning programs, which is the highest percentage across Canada; (1) (2)

Whereas online learning can provide opportunities for continuous learning, upskilling, and reskilling;

Whereas lack of internet access negatively affects some Nova Scotia students and therefore increases the inequality of learning opportunities;

Be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party urge the Government of Nova Scotia to do the following:

- That the Government of Nova Scotia make online learning accessible and affordable for all students;
- That the use of such programs such as Nova Scotia Virtual School (NSVS) and educational resources such as Google Apps for Education (GAFE) be expanded to be an additional education tool and support network for all students in all programs on an on-going basis; (3)
- Support teachers to establish lines of online communication with students, to provide individual help, maintain support and engagement, and, if appropriate, to deliver curriculum.
- To evaluate the impact and social implications of online learning.

Notes

(1) Flirting with learning innovation, Page 8-11 https://www.aims.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/AIMS-16003PP_ELearning_F1.pdf

(2) State of Nation: K-12 E-Learning in Canada <https://k12sotn.ca/ns/>

(3) NSVS Launchpad

<https://nsvs.ednet.ns.ca/launchpad/launchpad37/mod/page/view.php?id=4510>

*Nova Scotia Liberal Party
Sponsor: Lunenburg West
Contact: Keith Sullivan*

4 - Personal Protective Equipment

Whereas Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is a necessity for many occupations and quantities are procured and stocked for normal use with some contingency for emergencies;

Whereas PPE is a critical necessity for certain occupations during an extended hazardous emergency and normal stock levels are not adequate thus requiring governments to make urgent purchases;

Whereas most PPE has a finite shelf life and some designs are proprietary to offshore companies or are manufactured offshore resulting in long lead times for delivery;

Whereas during emergencies jurisdictions around the world are competing for the available PPE creating uncertain price and delivery;

Be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party will urge the Government of Nova Scotia to develop a PPE contingency program that manages inventory and and supports companies that provide essential products.

Be it further resolved that a plan will be developed to enable and encourage increased domestic production of essential PPE supplies and equipment when they are urgently required.

Be it further resolved that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party will urge the Government of Nova Scotia to include an ongoing plan to ensure quick action in the future and to work with other provinces and the federal government to ensure we are well prepared.

*Nova Scotia Liberal Party
Sponsor: Lunenburg West
Contact: Keith Sullivan*

5 - Environmentally Sustainable Roadways

Whereas there is a need to lower maintenance cost of roads;

Whereas there is a use for new economic and environmentally sustainable materials for building roads; (1)

Be it resolved The Nova Scotia Liberal Party, by and with the advice and consent of the party, to promote the implementation of environmental and economical material that can be used in new road construction. (2)

Notes

(1) As an example, there is a material mix of rubber from recycled tires and asphalt to provide an excellent use of recycled tires with noise reduction on roads, low maintenance cost due to cracking resistant Rubber material, and excellent surface grip. This material is proven in Arizona, California, Florida, and South Carolina USA. Significant advances have proven the product for Nova Scotia's climate. Reference <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/144147543.pdf>

(2) Currently A Halifax company is using this material for residential and commercial use with great success. Reference <https://arpaving.ca>

Nova Scotia Liberal Party

Sponsor: Argyle

Contact: Dwayne Robichaud

6 - Homes for Special Care Act Amendment to Accommodate a Bill of Rights for Residents of Long-Term Care Facilities

Whereas every resident of a long-term care facility should have rights guaranteed by law;

Whereas every resident has the right to respect and dignity, no abuse or neglect, a safe, clean, meaningfully active environment, and retention of all citizen's rights;

Whereas every resident has the right to have adequate and appropriate staffing at all times, and to know the job identification of all their caregivers;

Whereas every resident has the right to have their participation in decision making respected, and their participation in their plan of care guaranteed, and to bring in any other persons to assist them in these matters, as needed;

Whereas every resident has the right to maintain full autonomy, up to their capability of doing so, over such things as the right to manage their own money, visits and communications in private, personal possessions and interests, friendships, intimacy, and wherever possible a single room for both personal privacy and infection control reasons;

Be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party will urge the Government of Nova Scotia to amend the Homes for Special Care Act to establish a Residents' Bill of Rights for all Long-Term Care Facilities in Nova Scotia, both private and publicly funded; (1)

Be it further resolved that this Bill of Rights be publicly displayed and made clear and unambiguous to residents and all of their care providers; (2)

Be it further resolved that an inspection system be developed that would annually inspect all long-term care facilities for compliance and to ensure all rights are being followed, as a means of accountability. (2)

Notes

(1) 2016 Nova Scotia proposal for LTC Residents' Bill of Rights
https://nslegislature.ca/legc/bills/62nd_3rd/1st_read/b034.htm

(2) Every Resident-Bill of Rights for people who live in Ontario long-term care homes (example of what should be proposed for Nova Scotia)
<https://www.cleo.on.ca/en/publications/everyres#>

(3) The rights of older persons: Protection and gaps under human rights law, from the Centre for Public Policy, Australia

<https://social.un.org/ageing-working-group/documents/fourth/Rightsolderpersons.pdf>

(4) Protecting the rights of older persons-University of Ottawa March, 2017

<https://policyoptions.irpp.org/magazines/march-2017/protecting-the-rights-of-older-persons/>

(5) Canada's Aging Population: Seizing the Opportunity - PSNO

www.psno.ca/uploads/aging_final_report_jun0209

Nova Scotia Liberal Party

Sponsor: Nova Scotia Seniors Commission

Contact: Robert Read/Jim Carwardine

7 - Sustainable Affordable Housing

Whereas even prior to COVID-19, affordable housing inventory has not come on-stream at the pace of increasing demand and not distributed as needed across the Province;

Whereas cross-jurisdictional issues affect cooperation between all levels of governments that impede development of policies addressing sustainable affordable housing concerns; (1)

Whereas there are no provincial caps on rent increases, nor strong eviction laws, that leave individuals and families vulnerable to being forced out of current residences; (2) (3) (4) (5) (6)

Whereas advocating for a rent cap will better assist Nova Scotians with managing their cost of living; (7)

Whereas legislation does not specifically state that rental increase percentages or guidelines are based on Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Nova Scotia; (8)

Be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party will urge the Government of Nova Scotia to work with all levels of government and private sector leaders to:

- Evaluate and address current jurisdictional overlaps and/or roadblocks to allow the creation of additional affordable housing inventory;
- Develop actions leading to the increased availability and affordability of housing, non-market and market, that would produce affordable, safe housing for Nova Scotians of all income levels;
- Implement legislation fair to tenants and landlords that provides caps on rent increases and clearer rules on evictions;
- Develop an action plan that will provide sustainable and predictable tax measures to support the development of market rental housing;
- Ensure that existing affordable housing investments are permanent.

Notes

(1) Provincial Government has developed a 3 year action plan (2019-2022) to address affordable housing in partnership with the Federal Government (via Housing Nova Scotia and the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation), through existing and new programming, with the following commitments (<https://liberal.ns.ca/ensuring-access-to-safe-affordable-energy-efficient-housing-options/>)

- \$88 million investment to improve access to safe, affordable housing options;
- reduce housing needs for nearly 3000 households through new programming and upgrades with a \$394 million total cost;

- an additional \$158 million over the next 3 years is being contributed to provide housing to the most vulnerable citizens; and
- \$11 million being allocated to improve energy efficiency in affordable housing

(2) Annual Nova Scotia rent increase information from CMHC-SCHL: <https://www03.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/hmip-pimh/en/TableMapChart/Table?TableId=2.1.23.2&GeographyId=12&GeographyTypeld=2&DisplayAs=Table&GeographyName=Nova%20Scotia>

(3) For example, Income Assistance increases of 2 to 5% per annum (<https://novascotia.ca/coms/employment/standard-household-rate/index.html>) is not raising shelter rates comparably to rent increases of up to 20 to 50%. Across Halifax, similar stories are being reported with persons on income-assistance, students and seniors becoming at risk in affording rent in current housing situations with very limited options for finding alternative affordable housing.

Information on local Halifax Atlantic rent increases of 20-50% were reported from affected tenants to Halifax Atlantic Constituency Office.

(4) Ontario Rent Control Law: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/rent-increase-guideline>

(5) <https://www.msn.com/en-ca/news/canada/rent-increase-pushes-halifax-woman-toward-homelessness/ar-BB17ev3E?ocid=msedgdhp>

(6) The Land Lords can increase their rent by any amount <https://beta.novascotia.ca/sites/default/files/documents/1-1764/residential-tenancies-guides-renting-en.pdf>

(7) Current issues of COVID-19 affecting rent <https://www.thechronicleherald.ca/news/provincial/nova-scotia-urged-to-freeze-rents-extend-tenant-eviction-ban-448298/>

(8) Example of CPI guidelines in Ontario [http://www.sjto.gov.on.ca/documents/lrb/Brochures/2019%20Rent%20Increase%20Guideline%20\(EN\).html](http://www.sjto.gov.on.ca/documents/lrb/Brochures/2019%20Rent%20Increase%20Guideline%20(EN).html)

Nova Scotia Liberal Party
Sponsor: Halifax Atlantic
Contact: Neil Ross
Endorser: Halifax Citadel Sable Island
Contact: Dominick Desjardins
Endorser: Clayton Park West
Contact: Allan Snook

8 - EIBI & Early Intervention techniques delivered to school age children

Whereas all students regardless of their neurodiversity have gone without formal schooling since March 2020 and have formed new routines and habits; (1)

Whereas Early child support has been unavailable through the Health Authority's Early Intensive Behavioural Intervention Program (EIBI) program and Early Intervention during the COVID pandemic leaving these children and families without core skills needed to ensure a successful & inclusive educational experience; (2)

Whereas the support and therapies provided by EIBI and EI programming is evidence based; (3) (4)

Whereas Autism support is not consistent across all centers of education in Nova Scotia;

Whereas many Nova Scotia children go undiagnosed until school age leaving them without any neurodiverse early education support;

Be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party urge the Government of Nova Scotia to consult with Autism Nova Scotia, the Health Authority of Nova Scotia along with Nova Scotia Early Childhood Development to implement a province wide Neurodiversity strategy;

Be it further resolved that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party urge the Government of Nova Scotia to consult with all Regional Centres of Education and all other relevant stakeholders to develop a comprehensive provincial autism policy to deliver the strategy to school aged children;

Be it further resolved that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party urge the Government of Nova Scotia to implement an emergency accessibility standard in education response to address children attending school;

Be it further resolved that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party urge the Government of Nova Scotia to implement an emergency delivery of EIBI and Early Intervention In-classroom services to school age children.

Notes

(1) Updates on NS public school closures

<https://www.hrce.ca/news/2020/03/16/covid-19-update-families>

(2) <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/early-intervention-autism-program-wait-list-1.5162108>

- (3) <http://www.nshsc.nshealth.ca/?q=speech/preschool-services/speech-and-language/autism/early-intensive-behavioural-intervention-program>
- (4) <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6494600/>

Nova Scotia Liberal Party
Sponsor: Hants East
Contact: Shannon MacWilliam

9 - Comprehensive Hearing Aid Coverage for Nova Scotians

Whereas hearing is a fundamental part of communication and inclusion;

Whereas there is currently limited coverage for Hearing Aid assistance available to Nova Scotians; (1)

Whereas hearing aids can be a financial burden to Nova Scotians on a fixed income; (2)

Be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party urge the Government of Nova Scotia to implement opportunities to include hearing aids under the Nova Scotia Formulary under Nova Scotia Pharmacare Program.

Notes

- (1) <http://www.nshsc.nshealth.ca/sites/default/files/Hrg%20Aid%20Assistance%20Brochure%20Final.pdf>
- (2) <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/seniors-urge-hearing-aid-subsidies-for-nova-scotia-1.1356995#:~:text=Only%20Nova%20Scotia%20and%20Manitoba,one%20of%20the%20province's%20clinics.>

*Nova Scotia Liberal Party
Sponsor: Hants East
Contact: Shannon MacWilliam*

10 - Seasonal Camping

Whereas Nova Scotia Provincial Parks are a branch of the Department of Lands and Forestry, and are vital to the Nova Scotia tourism industry; (1)

Whereas Nova Scotia should actively try to expand their tourism sector as this industry positively can affects many aspects of the Nova Scotia economy; (2)

Whereas currently, Provincial parks lose approximately 4 million dollars annually, and to ensure the more robust financial health of Provincial parks, we must find an alternate way to generate revenue; (3)

Whereas seasonal campsites could be used as an additional consistent revenue stream to ensure the survival of the parks and surrounding area's economy that the parks are located;

Whereas these seasonal campsites could bring people from across and outside the province to the parks to help the surrounding area's tourism sector to bring consistent tourism revenue to the area;

Whereas the current limit for a camping permit in a provincial park is 14 days; (4)

Be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party will urge the Government of Nova Scotia to commit to the creation of seasonal campsite areas at appropriate provincial parks by allowing these campsites to having an increased length for their camping permit. (5)

Notes

(1) In reference to provincial parks being part of the Department of Lands and Forestry and vital to tourism <https://parks.novascotia.ca>

(2) In reference to Nova Scotia should expand the tourism sector <https://tourismns.ca/research/tourism-statistics/2019-tourism-performance>

(3) In reference to provincial parks losing 4 million dollars each year <https://novascotia.ca/natr/strategy/parks/today.asp>

(4) In reference to the camping permit limit at Provincial parks <https://parks.novascotia.ca/content/rules-regulations>

(5) The Yarmouth EDA would recommend the province build these campsites use for seasonal camping in order not to limit other weekend camping, as short-term camping is still valuable

*Nova Scotia Liberal Party
Sponsor: Yarmouth
Contact: Dwayne Robichaud*

11 - Electric Vehicles Incentive

Whereas we need to reduce our carbon footprint to combat climate change and CO2 levels are on the rise and can have extreme negative effects on our economy; (1)(2)(3)(4)

Whereas a typical passenger vehicle emits about 4.6 metric tons of carbon dioxide per year; (5)

Whereas the promotion of electric vehicles is an effective way to reduce carbon emissions and there currently are no provincial incentives to buy an electric vehicle; (7)

Whereas a good mix of federal and provincial incentives to buy an electric vehicle would encourage more Nova Scotians to buy them and a provincial grant program for municipalities would allow municipalities to invest in an electric public transit system;

Whereas essential public transit in municipalities should also move to electric buses and cars; (8)

Whereas a grant program would allow municipalities to alleviate some of the higher up-front cost and benefit from the long-term cost savings and environmental savings as well; (9)

Whereas Nova Scotia could take a leadership role in Canada on the environment with an Electric Vehicles being one piece of the plan to help us stay to our provincial cap-and-trade limits; (10)

Be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party will urge the Government of Nova Scotia to commit to the creation of an incentive program for electric vehicles, fuel cell and other future renewable fuel technology to complement the federal incentives and create a Provincial grant program with municipalities to invest in electric transit across the province.

Notes

- (1) Why we need to reduce our carbon footprint <https://sciencing.com/the-importance-of-reducing-a-carbon-footprint-5229039.html>
- (2) In reference to the 1.5 degrees <https://www.climaterealityproject.org/blog/why-15-degrees-danger-line-global-warming>
- (3) In reference to carbon levels rising <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/jan/25/worrying-rise-in-global-co2-forecast-for-2019>

- (4) Reference to Climate Change effect on economy
<https://blogs.ei.columbia.edu/2019/06/20/climate-change-economy-impacts/>
- (5) In reference to the amount of carbon a typical passenger vehicle emits
<https://www.epa.gov/greenvehicles/greenhouse-gas-emissions-typical-passenger-vehicle>
- (6) In reference to Electric vehicles being an effective way to reduce carbon emissions
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/mar/23/electric-cars-produce-less-co2-than-petrol-vehicles-study-confirms>
- (7) In reference to there being no provincial incentives
<https://evassist.ca/faq/>
- (8) Why public transit in municipalities should also move to electric busses and cars
<https://electricautonomy.ca/2020/06/26/electric-public-transit-post-pandemic/>
- (9) In reference to the higher up-front cost but long term savings of electric busses
<https://www.publicpower.org/periodical/article/electric-buses-mass-transit-seen-cost-effective>
- (10) Reference to our Cap-and-Trade limits
<https://climatechange.novascotia.ca/nova-scotias-cap-trade-program>

*Nova Scotia Liberal Party
Sponsor: Yarmouth
Contact: Dwayne Robichaud*

12 - Financial Literacy in Nova Scotia Policy Strategy

Whereas more and more Canadians and Nova Scotians find themselves lacking financial literacy and collecting an increasing amount of debt;

Whereas in 2017, the average Nova Scotian carried over \$22,000 in non-mortgage consumer debt with the highest delinquency rate in the country; (1)

Whereas right after graduating, 58% of Nova Scotians join the labour force with student debt, with the average bachelor's graduate accumulating \$37,000 in student debt, the second highest student debt rate in the country; (2)

Whereas with debt growth not being matched by increase in disposable income, as well as the additional hardship of COVID-19, and student debts; many young Nova Scotians and families are finding themselves woefully unprepared to manage their finances;

Whereas the province of Ontario just announced the addition of financial literacy into their elementary school math curriculum starting in grade one and students in British Columbia have learned financial literacy in a re-designed math curriculum since 2015; (3)(4)

Whereas adding financial literacy to the Nova Scotia education curriculum would better prepare young Nova Scotians with the knowledge, skill and confidence they need to make informed choices about money, and can contribute to Nova Scotia's economic stability;

Be it resolved the Nova Scotia Liberal Party strongly encourages the Government of Nova Scotia, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development with the support of FCAC work to redesign the following:

- Mathematics and social studies curricula to include financial literacy in schools.
- Program should include topics such as budgeting, understanding debt, saving, and basic economic principles related to personal finances.

Notes

- (1) <https://globalnews.ca/news/3548933/canadian-provinces-ranked-by-average-consumer-debt-equifax-report/>
- (2) https://www.novascotia.ca/finance/statistics/archive_news.asp?id=15269&fbclid=IwAR0TI5ARNgShUgLkzZz3mP6A_fpccryx8fe3WTZ1IDfRk1DaFfg3QIS7lhg
- (3) http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/financial_guide.html, <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/surveyliteracy.html> and <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/investing/personal-finance/article-financial-literacy-classes-welcomed-in-schools-experts-suggests/>

(4) <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/globe-investor/globe-advisor/how-bc-children-are-learning-financial-literacy-from-k-to-12/article37032057/>

Nova Scotia Liberal Party
Sponsor: Nova Scotia Young Liberals
Contact: Owen Savage

13 - Mental Health

Whereas poor mental health places a burden on all Canadians, particularly those living in poverty and/or working in positions with no provision of health care insurance. As well, an estimated 1.2 million children and youth in Canada are affected by mental illness yet less than 20% will receive appropriate treatment. (1)

Whereas one in five Canadians experiences a mental health illness or disorder at some time in their lives and by age 25, 20% of Canadians will have developed a mental illness; (1) (2)

Whereas examples of effective community based mental health services exist and have demonstrated promise and indicated reduced costs for mental health services for children over hospital-based services; (2) (3) (4)

Whereas educational settings have been advocated as critical venues to partner with community based mental health services to support healthy functioning of students (4) (5) and offer promise in fostering student mental health (6), (7);

Be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party urge the Government of Nova Scotia to establish a pilot program in three areas of the province to evaluate the effectiveness of community based mental health services and programs involving school personnel, community partners, and mental health and primary care professionals for up to a 5 year period with annual reports to the Legislative Assembly on effectiveness, cost and outcomes.

Notes

- (1) (Mental Health Commission of Canada, 2014-2015)
<https://mentalhealthcommission.ca/English/annual-report-2014-2015>
- (2) (CMHA, 2019) <https://cmha.ca/>
- (3) (Baer & Garland, 2005)
<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.5127/jep.014011>
- (4) (Atkins et al, 2010) <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2874625/>
- (5) (Harrington et al, 2000)
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0003999300105787>
- (6) (Benningfield & Stephen, 2015) <https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/child-and-adolescent-psychiatric-clinics-of-north-america/vol/24/issue/2>
- (7) (Sulkowski & Lazarus, 2017)
<https://www.taylorfrancis.com/books/9781315818221>

Nova Scotia Liberal Party
Sponsor: Bedford Basin
Contact: Fred French

14 - Sustainable Environment

Whereas successive environmental assessments of Nova Scotia's environmental policies have recommended that Nova Scotia's environmental acts, regulations, policies and procedures documents be reviewed, updated, and strengthened; (1)

Whereas several Nova Scotia acts and regulations have not been updated for some time despite constant changes to Nova Scotia ecosystems, coastal erosion, the destruction of species habitat; (2)

Be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party urge the Government of Nova Scotia to assess the current status of the various Nova Scotia environmental acts, regulations, and related policies and procedures;

Be it further resolved that environmental assessment of the province is needed to better understand the province's environmental needs and resources and how they impact the peoples, geographic areas, and ecosystems that exist throughout the Province of Nova Scotia.

Notes

- (1) *State of the Nova Scotia Environment Report*, 1998;
<https://novascotia.ca/nse/surface.water/docs/StateOfTheEnvironmentReport1998.pdf>
Toward a Sustainable Environment, 2003;
<https://novascotia.ca/nse/airlandwater/docs/GreenPlan.pdf>
Adoptive Policy Analysis of Nova Scotia: Selected Policies and Programs on Nova Scotia Environment, 2014)
https://www.iisd.org/sites/default/files/publications/adaptool_nova_scotia.pdf
- (2) *Endangered Species Act*, 1990;
https://nslegislature.ca/legc/bills/57th_1st/3rd_read/b065.htm
Greenhouse Gas Emissions Regulations, 1994,
<https://www.novascotia.ca/JUST/REGULATIONS/regs/envgreenhouse.htm>
Wilderness Areas Protection Act, amended 2011;
https://nslegislature.ca/legc/bills/61st_3rd/1st_read/b045.htm
Water Resource Protection Act, 2000;
<https://nslegislature.ca/sites/default/files/legc/statutes/waterres.htm>

Nova Scotia Liberal Party
Sponsor: Bedford Basin
Contact: Fred French

15 - African Nova Scotians

Whereas there has been a long history in this province of systemic racial discrimination against African Nova Scotians;

Whereas the Nova Scotia Government has a responsibility to overcome the effects of this history on African Nova Scotians;

Whereas education is the most effective public policy tool available to the Nova Scotia Government to overcome social disparities and systemic racism among our citizens;

Whereas previous initiatives, in particular the Black Learners Advisory Committee Report on Education, identified mechanisms for removing barriers to ending systemic racism, but their findings were not implemented; (1)

Be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party urge the Nova Scotia Government to commit to resources to a long-term campaign to ensure that the education outcomes realized at all levels by African Nova Scotians be at least equal the Nova Scotia population, while showing appropriate respect for the race, culture and communities of African Nova Scotians.

Notes

- (1) BLAC Report on Education: <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/docs/blac-report-education-redressing-inequity.pdf>

*Nova Scotia Liberal Party
Sponsor: Halifax Needham
Contact: Shawn Nicholson*

16 - Provincial Police Service

Whereas there have been recent and historic events concerning the RCMP which calls into question their effectiveness as a policing partner in Nova Scotia;

Whereas the Nova Scotia Government has a responsibility to assist all municipalities in effectively enforcing the law and preserving the peace of all Nova Scotians;

Whereas recent world events have called into question the traditional roles and practices of policing and law enforcement; (1) (2)

Whereas the current Provincial Police Service Agreement creates a law enforcement structure that is answerable to the Federal Government while being paid for by Nova Scotians;

Be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party will urge the Government of Nova Scotia immediately put under review the Provincial Police Service Agreement with the RCMP; (3)

Be it further resolved that the Nova Scotia Government study the viability of a new Provincial law enforcement structure.

Notes

- (1) The death of George Floyd in the United States and the subsequent response and protests globally, including protests in Nova Scotia against anti-black racism and police brutality: <https://globalnews.ca/news/7035470/hundreds-protest-police-brutality-systemic-racism-at-black-lives-matter-rally-in-truro/>
- (2) Shooting deaths of Indigenous people, Rodney Levi and Chantel Moore in New Brunswick by police: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/indigenous/police-relations-indigenous-community-rodney-levi-1.5611241>
- (3) Nova Scotia Provincial Police Service Agreement unavailable, link to fact sheet: https://novascotia.ca/just/global_docs/NSRCMP_Fact_Sheet.pdf

Nova Scotia Liberal Party
Sponsor: Halifax Needham
Contact: Shawn Nicholson

17 - Nova Scotia Green Farming Incentive

Whereas the agriculture, agri-food and beverage industries are economic drivers in Nova Scotia; (1)

Whereas there are new regenerative agricultural practices that could be used to reduce our carbon footprint and help combat climate change; (2), (3)

Whereas it will help Nova Scotia businesses meet their cap-and-trade limits; (4)

Whereas regenerative agricultural practices such as no-tillage, diverse cover crops, in-farm fertility, no pesticides or synthetic fertilizers, and multiple crop rotations can help reduce our carbon footprint 25 to 50 tons per acre over ten years; (5)

Whereas it has been recommended that Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and Natural Resources Canada work with provincial and territorial counterparts to enhance services related to adaptation in agriculture; (6)

Be it resolved the Nova Scotia Liberal Party, by and with the advice and consent of the Party, is committed to the creation of a tax incentive for regenerative agricultural practices in small or all business farms

Notes

- (1) Reference to the Agriculture, Agri-food and beverage industry
<https://www.novascotiabusiness.com/business/agri-food>
- (2) Reference to why we need to reduce our carbon footprint
<https://sciencing.com/the-importance-of-reducing-a-carbon-footprint-5229039.html>
- (3) Reference to why we need the Agriculture, Agri-food and beverage industry to reduce the carbon footprint
<https://www.npr.org/sections/thesalt/2019/08/08/748416223/to-slow-global-warming-u-n-warns-agriculture-must-change>
- (4) Reference to Nova Scotia's cap and trade
<https://climatechange.novascotia.ca/nova-scotias-cap-trade-program>
- (5) Reference that Regenerative agricultural practices can reduce carbon footprint
<https://www.drawdown.org/solutions/regenerative-annual-cropping>
- (6) Senate committee on agriculture and forestry 2018, page 11
https://sencanada.ca/content/sen/committee/421/AGFO/reports/Climate-Change_E_web.pdf

Nova Scotia Liberal Party
Sponsor: Nova Scotia Young Liberals
Contact: Owen Savage

18 - Election Campaign Signs

Whereas Provincial elections occur every few years resulting in a number of candidate campaign signs;

Whereas These signs have a negative effect on the environment by:

1. Using non-renewable resources to manufacture the signs, including petroleum products to manufacture the sign board plastic;
2. Burning fossil fuels to distribute, maintain and retrieve signs;
3. creating storage and disposal problems;
4. creating roadside litter by not collecting all signs after elections;

Whereas the high cost and large number of volunteer hours used for purchasing, preparing, distributing, maintaining, collecting, storing and/or disposing of signs for each riding association could be used more efficiently and effectively;

Whereas large numbers of signs may cause the NSLP to be viewed negatively during campaigns because of their visual clutter, view obstructions, risk of damage and injury as a result of unintended or intended movement;

Whereas some towns have either restricted or completely banned election signs; (1)

Whereas modernizing election sign practices is an opportunity for the NSLP to take a leadership role.

Be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party will urge the Government of Nova Scotia to encourage all Provincial Political Parties to adopt policies that:

1. Find ways to reduce or eliminate the number of election campaign signs and to find more effective, efficient and environmentally friendly ways to communicate with the electorate;
2. Promote the recycling of unusable election campaign signs;
3. Collaborate with other political parties to explore ways of mutual benefit to modernize election sign practices;
4. Collaborate with municipalities within ridings to establish approved locations for signs on public property, to the exclusion of all other public locations within said municipalities;

Notes:

(1) Bridgewater and Yarmouth, NS

*Nova Scotia Liberal Party
Sponsor: Lunenburg West
Contact: Keith Sullivan*