

Provincial Policy #1

Promotion of Circular Economy via Recycling of Plastic Waste into New Products

WHEREAS plastic waste can be environmentally toxic causing many adverse effects on the environment and human life; and (1)

WHEREAS plastic waste collection and recycling remains costly as plastic is a unique class of material, which requires sorting to be performed manually, and can only partially be effective in reducing environmental pollution; and (1), (2)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party (NSLP) urge the Government of Nova Scotia to implement legislation to promote the use of plastic waste that can be further reused or recycled into a finished product; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NSLP urge the Government of Nova Scotia to provide incentives to organizations and businesses to create a circular uses for plastic to create such material as: plastic bricks, plastic patio stones, plastic housing materials to help create circular economic benefits and returns on the investment of waste collection in the Province of Nova Scotia. (3), (4)

Nova Scotia Liberal Party
Sponsor Yarmouth
Contact Dwayne Robicheau

Notes:

- (1) <https://www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2018/04/23/five-ways-that-plastics-harm-the-environment-and-one-way-they-may-help/?sh=7d3712d967a0>
- (2) <https://www.novascotia.ca/nse/waste/epr/docs/2004-March-5/FredEdgecombe.pdf>
- (3) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mib3ZM-RBEE>
- (4) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iFcPqXxAUWM>

Provincial Policy #2

Listen to the Forests

WHEREAS Nova Scotia’s forests are among the most, intensively harvested in Canada currently and historically. “more land is harvested per unit of product in Nova Scotia compared to the rest of Canada”; and (1)

WHEREAS we can reduce emissions in the atmosphere by protecting, managing and restoring green lands, wetlands, forest ecosystems, and biodiversity; and

WHEREAS the Nova Scotia Natural Resources Strategy developed in 2011, called *The Path We Share*, mandated reduction of clear cutting; and (2)

WHEREAS the independent review of Forest Practice in Nova Scotia, referred to as *The Lahey Report*, provides recommendations that include both private and Crown land; and (2)

WHEREAS The Lahey Report identified that there had been no change from the 2011 position, and a 2021 progress report showed Nova Scotia is not acting fast enough on clear cutting; and (3)(4)

WHEREAS the Government of Nova Scotia has committed to move to a triad model of ecological forestry for how Nova Scotia manages its Crown land with new draft Forest Management Guide, however in review of ecological matrix, the Ecology Action Centre (EAC), is unconvinced that the Nova Scotia Department of Land and Forestry (DLF) is committed to ecological forestry and better management of supply on Crown land; (5) (6)

BE IT RESOLVED The Nova Scotia Liberal Party (NSLP) urge the Government of Nova Scotia to review the recommendations from EAC and elevate much needed improvements to meet public expectations which were set out in the Lahey Report; and (2)(3)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED The NSLP urge the Government of Nova Scotia to call for an immediate major reduction of clear cutting on Crown Lands. The reduction should be in place until such time as the Government develops a more comprehensive and responsible mandate regarding “Ecological Forestry”, with clear, specific and manageable goals, and evaluating practices in keeping with the direction proposed in the Lahey Report; and (3)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED The NSLP of urge the Government of Nova Scotia to develop an on-going advisory committee to assess, assist, and recommend to the Department of Natural Resources areas of concern and recommendation submitted through the public consultation that closed in February 2021. (6)

Nova Scotia Liberal Party
Sponsor Nova Scotia Senior Liberals Commission
Contact Barbara Hart

Notes:

- (1) Canadian Leaders Back Nature as a Climate Solution – So does Science - June 05,2021
- (2) https://novascotia.ca/natr/strategy/pdf/Strategy_Strategy.pdf
- (3) The Lahey Report - An Independent Review of Forest Practices in Nova Scotia
https://novascotia.ca/natr/forestry/forest_review/Lahey_FP_Review_Report_ExecSummary.pdf
- (4) <https://globalnews.ca/news/8413866/nova-scotia-forestry-practices-clear-cutting/>
- (5) <https://novascotia.ca/natr/consultation/docs/Draft-SGEM-Jan-2021.pdf>
- (6) <https://novascotia.ca/natr/consultation/forest-management-guide-public-consultation.asp>

Provincial Policy #3

Policy Resolution to Limit the Use of Non-Disclosure Agreements to Silence Victims of Sexual Misconduct

WHEREAS the purpose of a non-disclosure agreement (NDA) is to prevent the disclosure of confidential information not to protect against prosecution for crimes committed including crimes of harassment or discrimination; and

WHEREAS the ME TOO movement and high profile scandals have resulted in several states **and the Province of Prince Edward Island** developing legislation to limit the use of non-disclosure agreements; and (1)

WHEREAS there is often a power imbalance or undue influence on the person who made the allegations and NDA's allow for offenders and repeat offenders to stay hidden, or cause barriers to allow victims to move on; and

WHEREAS Over time, the network of complicity typically is supported and enabled by the passivity of bystanders, which becomes powerful and entrenched in workplaces, organizations, and institutions and can cause considerable harm to victims and organizations; (2)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party (NSLP) will urge the Government of Nova Scotia to enact legislation that would provide a mechanism for indecencies or cases where an NDA is necessary that the bill would allow parties to enter such an agreement in cases of harassment or discrimination only if it's in accordance with wishes of the person who made allegations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NSLP will urge the Government of Nova Scotia to enact legislation that would provide a mechanism for those who enter an NDAs to waive their confidentiality in the future and develop support for organizations to remove networks of complicity.

Nova Scotia Liberal Party
Sponsor: Lunenburg West Liberal Association
Contact: Kathy Sullivan

Notes:

- (1) <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/prince-edward-island/pei-legislature-passes-nda-sexual-misconduct-bill-1.6251559>
- (2) <https://www.saltwire.com/atlantic-canada/opinion/commentary-banning-non-disclosure-agreements-isnt-enough-to-stop-unethical-workplace-leader-behaviour-100670545/>

Provincial Policy #4

Universal Basic Income (UBI) Pilot for Nova Scotia

WHEREAS 12.1% of Nova Scotians lived below the poverty line before the pandemic, and; (1)

WHEREAS in the Ontario UBI Pilot 95.6% of people who received the UBI and were unemployed before the pilot, were motivated more or the same to find a job, and; (2)

WHEREAS in the Ontario UBI Pilot 97% of people who received the UBI and were employed before the pilot, were motivated more or the same to find a higher paying job, and; (2)

WHEREAS in the Ontario UBI Pilot 18.2% of people who received the UBI and were unemployed before the pilot found a job, and; (2)

WHEREAS in the Ontario UBI Pilot 79.4% of people had a better health status than before the pilot, and; (2)

WHEREAS implementing an UBI program could help to reduce costs associated in bureaucracy and administration of our current income and social service programs, and;

WHEREAS UBI program could help reduce social and economic income equalities that have further widened due to the pandemic;

BE IT RESOLVED The Nova Scotia Liberal Party urge the Government of Nova Scotia to implement a UBI pilot for Nova Scotia with the possibility of it becoming a permanent program.

Nova Scotia Liberal Party
Sponsor Nova Scotia Young Liberals Commission
Contact Bradly Verran

Notes:

- (1) Nova Scotia Poverty Stats https://www.novascotia.ca/finance/statistics/topic_news.asp?id=16662&fto=24x&rdval=2021-03
- (2) Ontario UBI Pilot results <https://labourstudies.mcmaster.ca/documents/southern-ontarios-basic-income-experience.pdf>

Provincial Policy #5

Free Transit for Students

WHEREAS utilization of public transit could help reduce Co2 emissions; and

WHEREAS housing within walking distance of university, college or other post-secondary education campus' can be expensive; and

WHEREAS the rising cost of tuition, living, and being a student make additional costs, such as daily public transit difficult while students attend school;

BE IT RESOLVED the Nova Scotia Liberal Party urge the Government of Nova Scotia to work with municipalities, and educational institutions to implement year-round free public transit for post-secondary students.

Nova Scotia Liberal Party
Sponsor Nova Scotia Young Liberals Commission
Contact Bradly Verran

Provincial Policy #6

Food Security

WHEREAS approximately 87% of food consumed in Nova Scotia comes from outside the province; and (1)

WHEREAS Nova Scotia has one of the highest rates of food insecurity in Canadian households at 15.4%, and 1 in 6 children; and (2)

WHEREAS before the COVID-19 pandemic, Halifax had the highest rate of food insecurity of 33 Canadian cities; and (3)

WHEREAS food insecurity disproportionately affects some of the most vulnerable groups in Canadian homes, such as single female parents, Indigenous, Black, low income; and (4) (5)

WHEREAS ever rising food prices place an even greater burden on those experiencing food insecurity and the agencies, services and programs supporting them; and

WHEREAS COVID-19, natural disasters and other significant economic issues, resulted in the disruption of the operation of supply chains for many products; and

WHEREAS the Government of Nova Scotia's last Health Communities Food Costing report was in 2007; (6)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party urge the Government of Nova Scotia to develop an updated food security strategy to ensure that all Nova Scotians have access to healthy, nutrient-rich food and that any such strategy also include, but not necessarily be limited to measures to address food production, processing, distribution, waste; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party urge the Government of Nova Scotia that any such strategy should be developed with the participation and in consultation with required stakeholders, such as food producers, labour groups, food insecure populations, academia, and thought-leaders.

Nova Scotia Liberal Party
Sponsor Halifax Chebucto
Contact Jane A. Spurr

Notes:

- (1) Halifax, Regional & Community Planning <https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/regional-community-planning/halifax-food-action/community-food-assessment-toolkit-0>

- (2) https://ecologyaction.ca/sites/default/files/images-documents/EAC-FoodARC_CHBPresentation_Feb2018_FINAL.compressed.pdf
- (3) The Halifax Food Policy Alliance; A Social Return on Investment (SROI) Study, August 2016 <https://www.ecologyaction.ca/sites/default/files/images-documents/file/Food/SROI%20Report%20HFPA%2016Aug2016.pdf>
- (4) <https://proof.utoronto.ca/food-insecurity/>
- (5) [https://foodsecurecanada.org/2020-growing-resilience-equity -](https://foodsecurecanada.org/2020-growing-resilience-equity-)
- (6) <https://novascotia.ca/dhw/healthy-communities/healthy-eating-security.asp>

Provincial Policy #7

Affordable Housing

WHEREAS as housing is a human right, a social determinant of health and a strategic sector for the province of Nova Scotia; and (1), (2), (3)

WHEREAS there is an insufficient supply of affordable housing in Nova Scotia which has created an affordable housing crisis, particularly in the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM); and

WHEREAS the long-term solution of this crisis requires the involvement of all three (3) levels of government and immediate action; and

WHEREAS in November, 2020 the Government of Nova Scotia established the Nova Scotia Affordable Housing Commission (NSAHC) which presented its report in May, 2021 entitled *Charting a New Course for Affordable Housing in Nova Scotia* which brought forward 17 recommendations a timeline of actions; and (4)

WHEREAS the Government of Nova Scotia on November 25, 2021 appointed a Panel specifically on housing in HRM to focus on faster planning and development approvals for large residential projects; and (5), (6)

WHEREAS the Panel's mandate and focus does not abrogate the Government of Nova Scotia of the responsibility to address the findings of the NSAHC report which are not limited to planning and development issues in HRM; and

WHEREAS the Government of Nova Scotia currently has a Rent Supplement Program which supports only a small fraction of households in core need; and (7)

WHEREAS eligible recipients for the Rent Supplement Program must meet guidelines for income, residency, core need and be on a public housing wait list;

BE IT RSOLVED the Nova Scotia Liberal Party (NSLP) urge the Government of Nova Scotia to immediately implement the recommendations and actions of the NSAHC report (May 2021); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NSLP urge the Government of Nova Scotia to immediately broaden eligibility requirements to promote greater accessibility to and use of the current Rent Supplement Program.

Nova Scotia Liberal Party
Sponsor Halifax Chebucto
Contact Jane A. Spurr

Notes:

- (1) <https://beta.novascotia.ca/sites/default/files/documents/1-2679/charting-new-course-affordable-housing-nova-scotia-en.pdf>
- (2) <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>
- (3) <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hpb20180313.396577/full/>
- (4) <https://beta.novascotia.ca/sites/default/files/documents/1-2679/charting-new-course-affordable-housing-nova-scotia-en.pdf>
- (5) https://nslegislature.ca/legc/bills/64th_1st/3rd_read/b063.htm
- (6) https://novascotia.ca/exec_council/letters-2021/ministerial-mandate-letter-2021-MAH-EMO-MR.pdf
- (7) <https://housing.novascotia.ca/programs/public-housing-and-other-affordable-renting-programs/rent-supplement-program>

Provincial Policy #8

Mental Health

WHEREAS 1 in 5 Nova Scotians suffer from a mental health disorder or addiction, and; (1)

WHEREAS mental illness is the number one cause of disability in Canada and those with mental illness are more likely to die prematurely, and; (2)

WHEREAS the Government of Nova Scotia launched a 5 year strategy in May, 2012, called *Together We Can: The plan to improve mental health and addictions care for Nova Scotians*, and; (3)

WHEREAS the Department of Health and Wellness implemented Standards for Mental Health Services in Nova Scotia in 2009 and implemented System Level Standards for Concurrent Disorders in 2012 and that these standards have not been reviewed since, and; (4)

WHEREAS the Department of Health and Wellness last reviewed Inpatient Services Standards, Outpatient and Outreach Services Standards and Community Supports Standards in 2013, and; (5)

WHEREAS in 2016 *Together We Can* was reviewed and a report entitled *Blueprint for Mental Health and Addictions* released in October, 2019, and; (6)

WHEREAS the standards and reports referenced above address the assessment of the efficiency of the programs and individual client/patient satisfaction with same, and;

WHEREAS there is no requirement to assess the effectiveness of treatment on individual client/patients in bringing about a real reduction in symptoms and, further, the absence of such data undermines the ability to fully ensure that the most effective programs and services are offered;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party urge the Government of Nova Scotia to implement standards to assess the effectiveness of treatment on individual clients/patients for all programs and services delivered by the Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness to address mental health and addictions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NSLP urge the Government of Nova Scotia these effectiveness standards should include, but not be limited, to the following symptoms: depression, anxiety, targeted maladaptive behaviours (eg. eating disorders, antisocial behaviours, substance abuse), healthy level of function (eg. return to work, community integration, maintaining relationships).

Nova Scotia Liberal Party
Sponsor Halifax Chebucto
Contact Jane A. Spurr

Notes:

- (1) Nova Scotia Mental Health Services <https://novascotia.ca/dhw/mental-health/>
- (2) <https://novascotia.cmha.ca/documents/general-facts-statistics/>
- (3) Together We Can: The plan to improve mental health and addictions care for Nova Scotians <https://novascotia.ca/dhw/mental-health/reports/Mental-Health-and-Addictions-Strategy-Together-We-Can.pdf>
- (4) <https://novascotia.ca/dhw/addictions/standards.asp>
- (5) <https://novascotia.ca/dhw/mental-health/reports.asp>
- (6) Blueprint for Mental Health and Addictions, October 2019: <https://novascotia.ca/dhw/mental-health/reports/Blueprint-for-Mental-Health-and-Addiction.pdf>

Provincial Policy #9

Provincial Small Business Tax Deduction

WHEREAS the federal unemployment rate was 6.7% and the Nova Scotia unemployment rate is 8.3% as of October 2021; and (1)(2)

WHEREAS some regions in Nova Scotia experienced unemployment rates as high as 13.1% in 2021; and (3)

WHEREAS small business (1-99 employees) made up 98% of businesses in Nova Scotia in 2019; and (4)

WHEREAS the business closure rate in Nova Scotia during the COVID-19 pandemic reached as high as 13.6%; and (5)

WHEREAS updated Provincial Corporate tax rates came into effect in April, 2020, prior to Nova Scotia first wave of the pandemic, where many businesses lost revenue due to shutdowns and restrictions; and (6)

WHEREAS many pandemic support programs required significant drops in revenue and are no longer in effect even though many small businesses are still dealing with problems from the pandemic; (7)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party urge the Government of Nova Scotia to reduce the rate that it charges to small businesses on first \$500,000 on revenue they earn on operations.

Nova Scotia Liberal Party
Sponsor Antigonish
Contact Miles Tompkins

Notes:

- (1) <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/211105/dq211105a-eng.htm?HPA=1&indid=3587-2&indgeo=0>
- (2) (<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/211105/dq211105a-eng.htm?HPA=1&indid=3587-2&indgeo=0>)
- (3) (<https://srv129.services.gc.ca/rbin/eng/eastns.aspx>)
- (4) https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/061.nsf/eng/h_03126.html
- (5) <https://novascotia.ca/finance/statistics/news.asp?id=16931>

- (6) <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/businesses/topics/corporations/provincial-territorial-corporation-tax/nova-scotia-provincial-corporation-tax.html>
- (7) <https://huddle.today/2021/11/19/restaurants-and-small-businesses-worried-about-finances-as-winter-looms/>

Provincial Policy #10

Nutritional Learning

WHEREAS overweight and obesity in Nova Scotians poses long term health risks, such as heart disease, cancer, stroke, and Type 2 diabetes that could further be affected by COVID-19, and; (1)

WHEREAS in addition to significant human cost, such as lower life expectancy there is a large economic burden to obesity in Canada, which was estimated to be between \$4 to 7 billion in 2011, and; (1)

WHEREAS the Maritime Provinces have the highest rate of obesity, with over 60% of adult Canadians being either overweight or obese, and; (1)

WHEREAS childhood overweight and obesity has been rising steadily in Canada in recent decades, with statistics showing overweight and obesity among those aged 2 to 17 years increased from 23% to 34%, and; (1)

WHEREAS without intervention, overweight infants and young children will likely continue to be overweight during childhood, adolescence, and adulthood, and;

WHEREAS many children have not had access to healthy eating and nutritional programs offered through their schools and the Nova Scotia Education system, due to school shutdowns and closures resulting from the pandemic, and;

WHEREAS both the food safety outlines for breakfast programs were developed by the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture, as well as the Nutrition Policy for Nova Scotia Public Schools by the Department of Education and Health Promotion and Protection in 2006, before the COVID-19 pandemic; (2)(3)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party (NSLP) urge the Government of Nova Scotia to review the safety and policy requirements for Provincial Breakfast Programs to ensure that children can still gain access to these programs during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NSLP urge the Government of Nova Scotia to review the standards set in these programs to ensure the promoting, learning, and understanding of school age children to help reduce the risk of obesity with measurable results over the next ten years or two Canadian Census periods, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NSLP urge the Government of Nova Scotia to promote the use by these educational institutions to use products and agriculture grown and produced locally in Nova Scotia to further promote an understanding and healthy lifestyle.

Sponsor Clayton Park
Contact Allan Snook

Notes:

- (1) <https://childhoodobesityfoundation.ca/what-is-childhood-obesity/statistics/>
- (2) <https://novascotia.ca/dhw/healthy-development/documents/Food-safety-guidelines-for-breakfast-programs.pdf>
- (3) <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/docs/foodnutritionsummarybackground.pdf>

Provincial Policy #11

Single Parent Home Ownership and Rental Income Program

WHEREAS employment compensation in Nova Scotia has declined during the pandemic and a significant portion of Canadians' income is going towards rent, rather than home ownership; and (1) (2)

WHEREAS women in Nova Scotia make only 77% of the average full-time salary of men and women who are BIPOC, and other minorities make even less; and (8)

WHEREAS the divorce rate in Nova Scotia is 209 per every 100,000 individuals, and the number of the divorce cases jumped 30% during the pandemic; and (3) (4)

WHEREAS the updated changes to the Parenting and Support Act that were made in 2021, did not consider impacts to property division due to the pandemic; and (5)

WHEREAS children of homeowners have better home environments, higher cognitive test scores, and fewer behavioral problems, even when controlling for economic, social, and demographic variables; and (6)

WHEREAS many lenders do not recognize universal child tax rebates in assessing mortgage eligibility; and (7)

WHEREAS Nova Scotia's population has growing and has surpassed one million people, and there is an affordable housing crisis; (9) (2) (11)

WHEREAS 58% of court-ordered child support is in arrears and Nova Scotia has the second highest sole parent families in Canada behind Saskatchewan; (12) (13)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party urge the Government of Nova Scotia to work with the Federal Government to create a housing mortgage program for any divorced or widowed parent; who requires assistance; has sole custody or guardianship of a child or children, and is required to care for a child or children to:

1. Receive a low interest mortgage to purchase a primary dwelling which includes a rental unit, or;
2. Renovate the current dwelling if it can provide rental income, and;
3. Explore the feasibility of a government agency working with the homeowner to place tenants through an existing provincial agency, and;
4. Incorporate a rent-cap program into the rental space for a specified number of years to address the housing crisis in Nova Scotia.
5. Work with the federal government to explore the feasibility of working with lenders to accept Universal Child Tax Credit as income.

Nova Scotia Liberal Party
Sponsor Nova Scotia Liberal Women Commission
Contact Heather Peters/Liz Healy
Endorsers & Contacts:
Cape Breton East
Heather Peters
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Inverness
Claude Poirier
Sydney Membertou
Derek Mombourquette
Richmond
Matt Haley
Northside Westmount
John Higgins
Glace Bay Dominion
Nick Sinclair

Notes:

- (1) <https://novascotia.ca/finance/statistics/news.asp?id=17236>
 - (2) <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/real-estate/the-market/article-demand-for-rental-housing-in-canada-now-outpacing-home-ownership/>
 - (3) <https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/fl-lf/famil/stat2000/p2.html>
 - (4) [The pandemic has kept divorce lawyers busy | SaltWire](#)
 - (5) <https://novascotia.ca/news/release/?id=20210407003>
 - (6) [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/228180025_The_Impact_of_Home_Ownership_on_Child_Outcomes#:~:text=One%20recent%20study%20found%20that,Parcel%20and%20Haurin%2C%202001\)%20.](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/228180025_The_Impact_of_Home_Ownership_on_Child_Outcomes#:~:text=One%20recent%20study%20found%20that,Parcel%20and%20Haurin%2C%202001)%20.)
 - (7) <https://www.craignickerson.com/index.php/blog/post/15/can-i-use-child-tax-credit-income-towards-qualifying-for-a-mortgage>
 - (8) <https://www.zumper.com/apartments-for-rent/halifax-ns>
 - (9) <https://globalnews.ca/news/8413242/halifax-nova-scotia-housing-crisis-day-1-global-series/>
 - (10) https://women.novascotia.ca/sites/default/files/Publications/4%20Women%27s%20economic%20security_Earnings_web_FINAL.pdf
 - (11) <https://novascotia.ca/news/release/?id=20211216003>
 - (12) <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/deadbeats-in-nova-scotia-owe-nearly-65m-in-parental-spousal-support-1.2783103>
- <https://novascotia.ca/finance/statistics/news.asp?id=16284>

Provincial Policy #12

Improving the Shortage of Family Physicians in Nova Scotia

WHEREAS access to healthcare is a basic human right; and

WHEREAS the Nova Scotia wait-list to acquire a General Practitioners (GP) or Family Physician has hit a record high, topping 81,000 and is one of the longest wait-times in Canada; and (1) (2) (5)

WHEREAS the Canadian Institute for Health Information shows that GPs practicing in the province of Nova Scotia earn \$10,000 - \$100,000 less than GPs in other provinces and they report feeling overworked and underpaid; and (3) (4) (5)

WHEREAS the Immigrant Settlement Association of Nova Scotia (ISANS) has several programs developed and is continuing to support and work with immigrants to help their integration into communities, and they are working with more than 100 internationally educated immigrant physicians who are permanent residents in Nova Scotia, but due to restrictions on recognition on qualifications they are limited in the ability to practice; and (6)

WHEREAS Dalhousie University Medical School only has 2 MIII clerk positions available for international medical graduates (IMGs); and (7)

WHEREAS Nova Scotia requires a 24-month training in Family medicine or General Practice, plus minimum 8-week training rotation completed, in addition to the 13 month Practice-Ready Assessment (PRA), while other Canadian provinces required less time for GPs to be able to train, and be certified, and practice in that province; and (8)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party urge the Government of Nova Scotia review the following:

1. Review MSI billing structure for GPs in Nova Scotia to ensure that is in line with other provinces;
2. Provide incentives for current GPs or Family Physicians to accept more patients;
3. Review support for GPs or Family Physicians and ways the Government can offset some of the costs of running their practices;
4. Review of financial assistance programs for all Nova Scotia Medical School Students to encourage them to stay and practice in the province of Nova Scotia;
5. Review the number of spots available for students to train at Dalhousie Medical
6. Provide additional funding to Dalhousie Medical School to develop additional MIII clerk positions for international medical graduates (IMGs)

7. Help establish shadowing or training programs with the time being able to count towards the requirements to practice for IMGs that are already permanent residents in Nova Scotia;
8. University and placements for residency programs in Nova Scotia Health Authority medical system;
9. Review programs and incentives to encourage GPs to provide services to community walk-in clinics across Nova Scotia.
10. Incentivize medical specialists to practice in hospitals outside of the Metro Halifax area where there are critical shortages.

Nova Scotia Liberal Party

Sponsor Cape Breton East

Contact Heather Peters/Liz Healy

Endorsers & Contacts:

Halifax Atlantic

Neil Ross

Nova Scotia LiberaWomen Commission

Heather Peters

Cape Breton Canso

Bryan Kelloway

Cape Breton Centre-Whitney Pier

Jill Horwath

Inverness

Claude Poirier

Sydney Membertou

Derek Mombourquette

Richmond

Matt Haley

Northside Westmount

John Higgins

Glace Bay Dominion

Nick Sinclair

Halifax West

Fred French /Nargess Kayhani

Notes:

- (1) <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/nova-scotia-doctor-waitlist-primary-health-care-1.6254210>rd high, topping 81,000 | CBC News
- (2) <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/nova-scotia-health-authority-wait-list-family-doctor-patients-1.4190077>
- (3) <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/family-doctors-health-care-the-search-pa-y-models-1.4520132>
- (4) <https://atlantic.ctvnews.ca/video?clipId=1493368>
- (5) <https://www.saltwire.com/atlantic-canada/news/sydney-walk-in-clinic-to-close-1006619> 19/
- (6) <https://isans.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/International-Qualifications-Recognition-August-2021.pdf>
- (7) <https://www.dmss.ca/international-students.html>
- (8) <https://cpsns.ns.ca/resource/pathway-to-licensure-for-international-medical-graduates-via-a-practice-ready-assessment-family-medicine/>

Provincial Policy #13

Lyme Disease Protocol and Clinics

WHEREAS many Nova Scotians have been misdiagnosed or under treated for Lyme disease; and

WHEREAS all land in Nova Scotia is considered an at-risk area for black legged ticks, and;(1)

WHEREAS a significant percentage of emergency room visits which are near areas known as “hot spots” are related to tick bites/Lyme disease; and (2)

WHEREAS many emergency rooms and outpatient services in the Province of Nova Scotia have been further congested and overwhelmed by COVID-19 and the additional protocols, which means patients leave the facility without seeing a primary care provider; and

WHEREAS many emergency rooms and outpatient services are understaffed and require the use of locums due to often shortage of primary care providers; and

WHEREAS successful treatment of Lyme disease is dependent on early detection and timely treatment, which includes continued treatment by Pharmacists being time sensitive requires follow up on patient’s primary care visit; and

WHEREAS pharmacists do not have the authority to diagnose or treat Lyme disease even with implementation of the free pharmacies tick-bite assessment; (3)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party (NSLP) urge the Government of Nova Scotia to develop a mandatory Lyme disease protocol for diagnosing and treatment, in every primary care facility, emergency room and out-patient facility in the Province ; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NSLP urge the Government of Nova Scotia to provide “hotspot regions” with a part-time Lyme disease focused clinics , served by trained nurse practitioners to help relieve congestion and stress on already taxed emergency rooms.

Nova Scotia Liberal Party
Sponsor Lunenburg
Contact Suzanne Lohnes-Croft

Notes:

- (1) <https://www.yourdoctors.ca/blog/general/what-you-really-need-to-know-about-lyme-disease-in-nova-scotia>

- (2) <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/lyme-disease-nova-scotia-lunenburg-county-diagnosis-1.4202213>
- (3) <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/nova-scotia-covers-cost-of-tick-bite-assessments-at-pharmacies-1.6229996>

Provincial Policy #14

Full Year Respite Care for Households with Autism

WHEREAS following diagnosis with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) children up to the age of 6 or when the child enters grade primary, services are provided by the Nova Scotia Department of Health, once the child enters the education the system, services are provided by the Nova Scotia Department of Education; and (1)

WHEREAS Early Intensive Behavioural Intervention (EIBI) is a specialized treatment to develop functional social-communication skills in preschool children; and

WHEREAS the earlier a child begins EIBI, the better the outcomes and to be eligible preschool children must have a clinical diagnosis of ASD; and (1)

WHEREAS early child support has been unavailable through the Health Authority's EIBI program during the COVID pandemic leaving these children and families without core skills needed to ensure a successful & inclusive educational experience; and (2) (3) (4)

WHEREAS respite funding for Autism households happens through the "Summer Respite" program, which provides funding so that children in the Direct Family Support for Children program who have Autism and other disabilities can participate in out-of-home activities; and (1)

WHEREAS Autism support is not consistent across all centers of health and education in the Province of Nova Scotia; and (4) (5)

WHEREAS due to school closures as a result of the pandemic Autistic households have required support during other times similar to the support being provided through summer respite, as students may not be able to attend school as regularly scheduled limiting access to in-school care services; (6)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party urge the Government of Nova Scotia to remove the "summer" eligibility from the Summer Respite program, making it eligible year-round, and increase funding per child to \$1,500/year for children under 12, and \$3,000/year for ages 12-19;

Nova Scotia Liberal Party
Sponsor Truro Bible Hill Millbrook Salmon River
Contact Evan Price
Endorser Yarmouth
Contact Dwayne Robicheau

Notes:

- (1) <https://novascotia.ca/autism>
- (2) <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6494600/>
- (3) <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/early-intervention-autismprogram-wait-list-1.5162108>
- (4) “Our Direct Family Support for Children is a respite program that provides eligible families up to \$2,200 a month for respite services. We have an enhanced program for people who are experiencing greater needs, and that amount is up to \$3,800 a month. In February, we were able to eliminate the wait-list for this program, so there is actually *now no longer any cap for the program. If a family needs that support, we are able to provide it.*” - Hansard, May 9, 2018, Public Accounts Committee.
<https://nslegislature.ca/legislative-business/committees/standing/public-accounts/archive/public-accounts/pa2018may09>
- (5) “I have to say this is the most witnesses I have ever seen appear before committee. There are more witnesses than committee members here today. On the one hand, I guess that is a good indication of the seriousness of it. The thing that scares me is, *how could a family possibly know where to turn* if it takes this many witnesses to come before committee to answer questions?” Hansard, May 9, 2018, Premier Tim Houston.
<https://nslegislature.ca/legislative-business/committees/standing/public-accounts/archive/public-accounts/pa2018may09>
- (6) Pilot project through DCS for increased respite programming, local participant Mallory Fowler, in support of this amendment as her child experienced more respite care and saw improvements in her household ability to care for her child’s needs

Provincial Policy #15

Sustainable Green Economy Through Business Partnerships

WHEREAS the *Nova Scotia Greener Economy Strategy* suggested focus areas and strategic priorities are directly related to greening Nova Scotia's economy, and; (1)

WHEREAS incentives provide support for Canadian and Nova Scotian businesses in transitioning to meet COP26 promises and conform to the new legal restrictions outlined in recent federal policy and law changes, as well, Nova Scotia's *Sustainable Development Goals Act* require a 53% reduction of Green House Gasses (GHG's) below the 2005 levels by 2030 and Net zero emissions by 2050., and; (2) (3)

WHEREAS the *Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act (EGSPA)* directly references the partnership of economy and environmentalism as one of its primary goals, and; (4)

WHEREAS the goals in the *N.S. Greener Economy Strategy* are intended to target the creation of new opportunities for job creation to boost the Nova Scotia economy by encouraging responsible industry and technology sector growth and expansion, thereby creating economic benefits and increasing economic growth and social equality by reducing financial risk and decreasing environmental harm, and; (5)(6)

WHEREAS a link between business and policy encourages cooperative partnership working towards a more environmentally and economically sustainable Nova Scotia with competitive socially responsible opportunities for employment. As mentioned in target goals and objectives in (4) and other recent strategic documents, and; (5)

WHEREAS the creation of a reward system for lower emissions and improved environmental standards of operation, along with incentivising the reduction of harmful impacts and pollution risks increases sustainable business opportunities within Nova Scotia thereby generating new opportunities for current and new business ventures and increasing loyalty from existing business in Nova Scotia. Such contributions facilitate momentum towards a more socially, environmentally, and financially sustainable economy and make Nova Scotia an attractive place for new eco-friendly endeavors, and;

WHEREAS incentives have been shown to effectively increase business participation in corporate social responsibility undertakings and encourage pre-emptive action to improve the impact of operations and production on the environment, and;

WHEREAS in tandem with the incentive plan, it would be necessary and in the best interest of Nova Scotia for businesses to have detailed environmental action plans that outline their long-term goals, implementation strategies, and monitoring processes. Businesses currently must also demonstrate, thought reporting, that they engage in ethical business practices and are in

compliance with current environmental laws;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party urge the Government of Nova Scotia to provide incentives for businesses and industries based in Nova Scotia to implement or expand their socially responsible environmental action plans in order to reform current business practices and or build on existing achievements that enhance sustainability and exceed simply meeting current laws.

Nova Scotia Liberal Party
Sponsor Bedford Basin
Contact Fred French/Alexandra French

Notes:

- (1) #3 (energy and resources efficiency as enablers of economic growth) and #4 (accelerate the greening of companies, products, and services)
<https://www.novascotia.ca/nse/dept/docs/greener-economy-strategy.pdf>
- (2) (e.g. *Canadian Net Zero Emissions Accountability Act*, that mandates Canada reach net zero emissions by 2050, and *international climate agreements* that propose a 45% reduction in emissions from 2005 level by 2030).
- (3) <https://novascotia.ca/government/accountability/2021-2022/Environment-and-Climate-Change-2021-2022-Business-Plan.pdf>
- (4) <https://novascotia.ca/nse/egspa/>
- (5) <https://www.novascotia.ca/nse/dept/docs/greener-economy-strategy.pdf>
- (6) <https://novascotia.ca/government/accountability/2021-2022/Environment-and-Climate-Change-2021-2022-Business-Plan.pdf>

Provincial Policy #16

Comprehensive Strategy on Aging

WHEREAS Nova Scotia established an action plan for an aging population in 2017, known as *Shift*, the plan set three goals; and (1)

WHEREAS the action plan is a positive collection of activities, supports, funding opportunities and, selected mechanisms to support change, but it lacks a comprehensive financial and legislative plan to support its implementation; and

WHEREAS the action plan references a variety of services and supports through a range of agencies, government departments, and short-term grants for individual projects, that while positive, these often lead to services that are challenging to maintain, lack clear requirements for service providers, and raise expectations that are difficult to enforce; and

WHEREAS repeated reports and documents address the need for a comprehensive strategy on aging ,but this strategy should not be just about persons living in long term care facilities and should include a range of diverse and complex circumstances of aging persons with different strengths, resources, and needs at different stages along the aging continuum; and (2)(3)(4)(5)(6)

WHEREAS senior strategies need to speak to the five principles of access, equity, choice, value, and quality that should underlie a comprehensive approach for aging persons, and; (7)

WHEREAS the advantages in undertaking a comprehensive strategy on aging with a continuum of supports and services to address differing needs and stages in the aging process can result in more effective and less expensive age friendly communities, and; (8)

WHEREAS dental hygiene and treatment is an important part of Seniors physical health and wellbeing, on the eligible Dental Programs provided by the Government of Nova Scotia there are none to help seniors on a fixed income living in Nova Scotia; (9)

WHEREAS recent studies examining community options for long term care found cost savings and improved quality of life when people stay in their community easily outweighing the cost of a bed in a long-term care facility, and; (10)

WHEREAS Nova Scotia has already taken important first steps in its Action Plan for an Aging Populations including its single point of access for continuing care and other initiatives;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party (NSLP) urge the Government of Nova Scotia to undertake a review of its supports and services for aging persons to develop a comprehensive strategy on aging, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NSLP urge that the Government of Nova Scotia further develop a strategy to address the following:

1. Embellish existing responses to the needs of aging persons to ensure and enable a continuum of supports and services;
2. Base such a strategy on best practice models that are inclusive, diverse, relevant, and accessible;
3. Provide a program for senior's to coverage their basic dental needs;
4. Require a publicly transparent accountability process with measurable outcomes to monitor the implementation and progress of the strategy;
5. Clearly articulate standards of care with individual rights at the forefront coupled with increased professional development and best practice standards for service providers.

Nova Scotia Liberal Party
Sponsor Bedford Basin
Contact Fred French, Policy Chair
Endorsers and Contacts
Lunenburg West
Kathy Sullivan/John Muise
Nova Scotia Senior Liberals Commission
Barb Hart

Notes:

- (1) <https://novascotia.ca/shift/>
- (2) http://nationalseniorsstrategy.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/NSS_2020_Third_Edition.pdf
- (3) https://www.who.int/ageing/publications/Global_age_friendly_cities_Guide_English.pdf
- (4) <https://policybase.cma.ca/en/permalink/policy14441>
- (5) <https://www.cma.ca/meeting-care-needs-canadas-aging-population>
- (6) <https://munkschool.utoronto.ca/publicpolicy/2019-ageing-well-policy-implications-of-changing-demographics-and-increasing-longevity-in-uk-and-canada/>
- (7) http://nationalseniorsstrategy.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/NSS_2020_Third_Edition.pdf

- (8) https://www.cma.ca/sites/default/files/2018-11/9228_Meeting%20the%20Demand%20for%20Long-Term%20Care%20Beds_RPT.pdf
- (9) <https://novascotia.ca/dhw/dental-programs/>
- (10) <http://nationalseniorsstrategy.ca/>