

Liberal

The logo of the Nova Scotia Liberal Party, featuring a red shield with a white border and a red lion rampant, set against a white background with a red saltire (X-shape) behind it.

Nova Scotia Liberal Party

2024 Official Party Policies

The following policy resolutions are presented as submitted by Electoral District Associations, Commissions, and the Liberal Caucus. These 19 resolutions have earned majority support as official policy of the Nova Scotia Liberal Party.

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1. Advancing Equality and Eliminating Racism in Nova Scotia Resolution

WHEREAS all individuals have the right to dignity and to enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms without distinction of race, colour, or national origin;

AND WHEREAS despite race being a long-recognized ground protected from discrimination at Canadian law, the historical and current scourge and effect of racism and racial bias continue to taint Nova Scotian institutions and communities, harming and putting at risk racialized persons;

AND WHEREAS a healthy, productive and inclusive society promotes anti-racism and anti-discrimination, and upholds principles of equality, equity, equal access to opportunity, and dignity and safety of person;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party (“NSLP”) urge the Government of Nova Scotia to promote education and public awareness on this issue by: implementing anti-racism education programs in schools and educational institutions, fostering understanding, empathy, and cultural competence; developing comprehensive curricula that include the history, contributions, and experiences of diverse communities, promoting inclusivity and combating stereotypes; and by providing resources and training for educators to address and challenge racial bias in classrooms.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NSLP urge the Government of Nova Scotia to review and strengthen anti-discrimination laws and policies to ensure it effectively protects individuals from racial discrimination across all sectors, including employment, housing, and public services; establish clear guidelines and protocols for reporting and addressing incidents of racism, ensuring a timely and effective response by relevant; and collaborating with community organizations to create safe and accessible reporting mechanisms for instances of racial discrimination.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NSLP urge the Government of Nova Scotia to promote diversity and inclusion by: encouraging businesses, organizations, and public institutions to adopt diversity and inclusion policies, ensuring fair representation and equal

opportunities for individuals from marginalized communities; implementing programs to support minority-owned businesses, providing access to resources, mentorship, and funding; and by celebrate and promoting cultural events, festivals, and initiatives that showcase the diversity of Nova Scotia's population.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NSLP urge the Government of Nova Scotia to foster community engagement and collaboration by: fostering partnerships with community organizations, advocacy groups, and ethnic associations to develop and implement strategies for combating racism; establishing advisory committees or task forces to provide input and guidance on policies and initiatives related to racial equality; and by amplifying the voices of racialized communities through inclusive consultation processes and community forums.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NSLP urge the Government of Nova Scotia to address systemic racism by: conducting comprehensive reviews of provincial government policies, practices, and institutions to identify and eliminate systemic racism and biases; implementing strategies to increase representation of racialized individuals within public sector employment, ensuring diversity at all levels of governance; and investing in research and data collection to identify gaps and disparities, guiding evidence-based policy decisions to dismantle systemic racism.

2. Building a Sustainable and Resilient Nova Scotia: Addressing Climate Change Resolution

WHEREAS climate change represents a serious threat to Nova Scotia's ecology, biodiversity, communities, coastlines, and prosperity;

AND WHEREAS Nova Scotia's average annual temperature is projected to increase by 2.6°C in the next 25 years, and 4.5°C by 2100, making more frequent extreme heat, drought and wildfire more likely, and changing the characteristics of winter in Nova Scotia as temperatures rise;

AND WHEREAS the promotion of sustainable practices and moves toward a carbon-neutral economy will mitigate the effects of climate change and protect and encourage ecological and economic growth in Nova Scotia;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party ("NSLP") urge the Government of Nova Scotia to transition Nova Scotia to renewable energy, by: setting

ambitious targets to increase the generation of renewable energy, aiming for a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by a specified timeline; increasing incentives and support mechanisms to encourage the adoption of renewable energy technologies, such as solar, wind, and tidal power; and by promoting community-led renewable energy projects, fostering local ownership and employment opportunities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NSLP urge the Government of Nova Scotia to promote energy efficiency and conservation, by: strengthening comprehensive energy efficiency programs targeting residential, commercial, and industrial sectors, providing incentives, education, and financing options for energy-efficient upgrades; implementing energy efficiency standards for new construction projects and building retrofits, including an updated provincial building code, reducing energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions; and by collaborating with municipalities and utility companies to provide energy audits and support for low-income households to improve energy and water use efficiency.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NSLP urge the Government of Nova Scotia to promote sustainable transportation, by: encouraging the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) by expanding charging infrastructure, providing financial incentives, and collaborating with the private sector to increase accessibility and affordability; investing in public transportation infrastructure, promoting the use of clean and efficient modes of transportation, such as buses, light rail, commuter ferry and active transportation options; and by designing transportation plans to optimize connectivity, reduce emissions, and support sustainable commuting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NSLP urge the Government of Nova Scotia to protect natural resources and biodiversity by: strengthening comprehensive conservation strategies to protect and restore ecosystems, wetlands, and forests, enhancing carbon sequestration and biodiversity; supporting sustainable forestry practices, utilizing science-based approaches to balance economic development with environmental conservation; and by promoting responsible land use planning, protecting sensitive habitats and encouraging sustainable development practices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NSLP urge the Government of Nova Scotia to promote climate resilience and adaptation, by: developing a comprehensive climate adaptation plan, assessing vulnerabilities, and implementing strategies to protect

communities, infrastructure, and ecosystems from climate-related impacts; developing research and innovation in climate resilience, collaborating with academic institutions and industry experts to develop solutions and technologies; and by providing funding and resources for community-led initiatives that enhance resilience, such as flood management, shoreline protection, and emergency preparedness.

3. Guaranteed Basic Income Resolution

WHEREAS a significant number of Nova Scotians are living in a period of economic insecurity;

AND WHEREAS an unprecedented number of Nova Scotians are experiencing inadequate housing, or are unhoused, and experiencing food insecurity;

AND WHEREAS the current provincial government is experiencing unprecedented increases in new revenues while simultaneously cutting back core supports for marginalized Nova Scotians;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party and Caucus work with the Government of Canada toward developing and implementing a Guaranteed Basic Annual Income (“BIG”) policy for Nova Scotia, drawing on information from BIG programs being implemented in other jurisdictions (including PEI).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that BIG research for Nova Scotia should be assessed as an economic stabilizer for families and local businesses, and in the context of complementing related supports by other orders of government, and to complement other programs aimed at providing adequate housing and social support needs.

Sponsored by: Kings South

4. Affordable Housing Nova Scotia Resolution

WHEREAS there is a lack of affordable housing in Nova Scotia;

AND WHEREAS there is an extremely low vacancy rate of all housing in Nova Scotia;

AND WHEREAS the rate of homelessness in Nova Scotia doubled between 2021 and 2022;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NSLP urge the Government of Nova Scotia to implement a comprehensive plan to increase the supply of affordable housing units across Nova Scotia; collaborate with developers, non-profit organizations, and community groups to expedite the construction of affordable housing projects; and streamline the approval process, reducing bureaucracy and ensuring efficient construction timelines while using climate-friendly building code.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NSLP urge the Government of Nova Scotia to protect residential tenants by: implementing strict rent control measures to prevent excessive rent hikes and protect tenants from unaffordable increases; and by strengthening tenant rights by implementing regulations that safeguard against unfair evictions and provide legal recourse for tenants facing housing-related issues.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NSLP urge the Government of Nova Scotia to incentivize affordable housing by: increasing financial incentives, such as tax breaks and grants, to encourage developers to include affordable housing units in their projects; and by fostering partnerships with private sector entities to create affordable housing opportunities through joint ventures and public-private partnerships.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NSLP urge the Government of Nova Scotia to support non-profit and co-operative housing by increasing funding and resources, such as low-interest loans and grants, to non-profit organizations and housing co-operatives to develop and maintain affordable housing units and to support their initiatives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NSLP urge the Government of Nova Scotia to address homelessness by: developing a comprehensive strategy to address homelessness, focusing on prevention, outreach, and support services; and by fostering

collaboration with community organizations and service providers to ensure vulnerable individuals have access to safe, affordable housing options.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NSLP urge the Government of Nova Scotia to adopt a “Housing First” approach, which prioritizes stable housing for individuals experiencing homelessness or who are at risk of homelessness, and to provide supportive services, including mental health support, addiction counseling, and employment assistance, to help individuals maintain their housing stability.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NSLP urge the Government of Nova Scotia to foster public-private sector collaboration to address the affordable housing crisis including by establishing an arms-length Housing entity, independent of government, consisting of an inclusive board of directors made up of key stakeholder groups, industry experts, and community organizations to focus on action and delivery.

5. Comprehensive Substance Use Disorder Program with Harm Reduction Measures Resolution

WHEREAS the ongoing challenges associated with substance use disorder demand a compassionate, holistic and effective approach to promote physical and mental health and well-being among individuals struggling with addiction;

AND WHEREAS recognizing the success of comprehensive programs in other jurisdictions, particularly the innovative model implemented in Portugal, which has demonstrated positive outcomes in reducing harm and fostering recovery;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party (“NSLP”) will encourage the provincial government to establish a comprehensive and evidence-based substance use disorder program through an inclusive, evidence-based, and compassionate approach, which draws inspiration from successful models, including the harm reduction strategies implemented in Portugal.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such an approach will integrate harm reduction measures, such as supervised consumption sites, needle exchange programs, safe supply and outreach services, to minimize the negative consequences associated with substance use.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such an approach will serve to ensure a continuum of accessible and culturally sensitive treatment services, including detoxification, rehabilitation, counseling, and mental health support, to address the diverse needs of individuals seeking recovery.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NSLP will work with other orders of government to create collaborative policies that prioritize a public health approach over criminal, punitive measures, as demonstrated by the successful decriminalization model in Portugal, to create a campaign to reduce stigma and encourage individuals to seek help without fear of legal repercussions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NSLP will promote the development and implementation of community education programs to raise awareness about the risks of substance use and promote preventive measures. Emphasize evidence-based education in schools and community settings.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NSLP will promote the integration of peer support programs within the continuum of services to leverage the power of shared experiences in aiding recovery and promoting a sense of community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NSLP will promote the establishment of a robust system for collecting data on substance use trends, treatment outcomes, and the effectiveness of harm reduction measures, and support ongoing research to inform program enhancements and policy adjustments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NSLP will promote an approach to this issue that fosters collaborating with healthcare professionals, law enforcement, community organizations, and affected individuals to ensure a coordinated and holistic approach to substance use disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NSLP will promote an approach that recognizes the interconnection between substance use and mental health and ensure the inclusion of mental health services as an integral part of the comprehensive program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NSLP will promote an approach that establishes mechanisms for ongoing program evaluation and adaptability, ensuring that the comprehensive substance use disorder program evolves based on emerging evidence and the evolving needs of the community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be communicated to the other Orders of government and relevant stakeholders, urging their commitment to the implementation and funding of this comprehensive substance use disorder program.

Sponsored by: Dartmouth North

6. Resolution Addressing Housing in Nova Scotia

WHEREAS the escalating housing and rental shortages in Canada and Nova Scotia have reached critical levels, posing a severe challenge to the well-being of its citizens and the overall stability of communities;

AND WHEREAS a collaborative and sustainable solution to this issue is imperative, requiring the active participation and collaboration of all three levels of government and the private sector;

AND WHEREAS the need for deeply affordable housing is paramount to ensuring vulnerable populations have access to safe and dignified living spaces;

AND WHEREAS “deeply affordable housing units” equates to no more than 30% of an individuals’ gross income;

AND WHEREAS recognizing the importance of encouraging and fostering diversity in neighborhoods is essential for creating inclusive and vibrant communities;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party (“NSLP”) promote the allocation of a minimum of 10-15% of all future developments in Nova Scotia to constitute “deeply affordable housing units”, including residential, commercial retrofits, and mixed-use projects.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the financial responsibility for ensuring the sustainability of deeply affordable housing units shall be shared collaboratively among the private developer and all three levels of government and other stakeholders as appropriate (CMHC and other investors).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the collaborative funding model (formula) shall be designed to cover the costs of deeply affordable housing units in perpetuity, ensuring long-term affordability and stability.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that provincial government entities shall implement a range of incentives for developers to encourage and reward their active participation in providing deeply affordable housing, including tax incentives, expedited permitting processes, and other relevant measures.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the design and planning of deeply affordable housing units within developments shall prioritize integration, avoiding concentration and fostering a diverse socio-economic environment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the development process shall involve comprehensive community engagement to address concerns and promote understanding, ensuring that the inclusion of deeply affordable housing units contributes positively to the overall community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NSLP will promote the establishment of relationships with reputable not-for-profit organizations (United Way, Shelter NS e.g.) to oversee the “leased units from the developer”, to create a supportive housing continuum path for the chosen residents (criteria to be decided through consultation), to monitor and

report back system to track the progress and impact of deeply affordable housing initiatives, ensuring accountability and transparency.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be communicated from the Liberal Party of Nova Scotia to relevant housing agencies, and developers involved in housing and real estate projects across Nova Scotia.

Sponsored by: Dartmouth North

7. Child Poverty Resolution

WHEREAS the *Declaration of the Rights of the Child of 1924*¹, and its purpose to protect and promote the well-being of all children, received renewed global direction in 1989 through the United Nations' *Convention on the Rights of the Child*;²

AND WHEREAS a 2023 Report Card on Child and Family Poverty in Nova Scotia³ (the "Report") states that Nova Scotia has the highest rate of child poverty among the Atlantic Provinces, and the second highest in Canada, highly impacting racialized and immigrant children in particular;

AND WHEREAS the UN's definition of "child poverty" extends beyond monetary deprivation and encompasses a multidimensional scale citing "well-being" as the positive opposite of poverty;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party urge the Government of Nova Scotia to implement the recommendations of the Report and develop a Poverty Elimination Plan for Nova Scotia, which emphasizes the multidimensional scale of measures needed beyond monetary supports, including the delivery of services directly to children when possible (such as food, clothing and school supplies to minimize misuse of funds by parents).

¹ *United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child (1989)*: <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/ProfessionalInterest/crc.pdf>

² *Geneva Declaration on the Rights of the Child*: <http://www.un-documents.net/gdrc1924.htm>

³ 2021 Report Card on Child and Family Poverty in Nova Scotia, CCPA: policyalternatives.ca under "Reports and Studies" on page 7.

Submitted by: Nova Scotia Seniors' Liberal Commission, Jane Lowe

8. Establishing a Commission or Chair for the Representation and Advancement of Historically Underrepresented Communities in Nova Scotia Resolution

WHEREAS Nova Scotia is made up of a rich tapestry of cultures, heritage, and communities, among them Mi'kmaq, African Nova Scotians, the Acadians, and new immigrant communities;

AND WHEREAS the representation and active participation of these and historically underrepresented communities in Nova Scotia's socio-economic and political spheres matter, and matter within the Nova Scotia Liberal Party ("NSLP");

AND WHEREAS public policy recommendations based on empirical research, dialogue, and engagement within these communities, work to address historical injustices and present-day disparities within the province and within the political sphere;

AND WHEREAS serving on the NSLP Board of Directors, the proposed Commission OR dedicated chair OR chairs, will facilitate education and awareness within the NSLP to foster greater cultural competency and inclusion among the Party's membership and organization, with particular regard for the diverse histories and cultures of Nova Scotia;

AND WHEREAS member representatives from historically underrepresented communities ought to be elected to the Board, in accordance with the NSLP By-laws, through a transparent and inclusive election process, such process to be determined based on consultation with communities;

AND WHEREAS all NSLP commissions, established and not yet established, are to be provided an operational funding formula and be entrenched within the Party's By-laws;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NSLP recognizes that Nova Scotia’s diverse communities have not been accorded equal representation and opportunities in the NSLP provincial policy-making process.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NSLP recognizes and reaffirms a collective responsibility to remedy historical injustices and systemic barriers faced by equity-deserving, racialized and marginalized communities, and undertakes to facilitate proactive and conscious public policy formulation and implementation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the provincial Board of Directors of the Nova Scotia Liberal Party is directed to begin consultations with historically underrepresented communities to establish a representation mechanism for the broad engagement of these communities and a lasting place at the Board table.

9. Advancing Animal Welfare in Nova Scotia Resolution

WHEREAS enhancing animal welfare standards and promoting responsible stewardship of animals in Nova Scotia contributes to a compassionate and ethical society, and promotes environmental sustainability;

AND WHEREAS climate change represents a serious threat to wildlife and habitat conservation and protection;

AND WHEREAS animal adoption shelters and agencies in Nova Scotia are increasingly reporting capacity challenges due to inflation and the increased cost of living, the surrender of animals brought into homes during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as staff shortages;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party (“NSLP”) urge the Government of Nova Scotia to advance animal protection and welfare by: strengthening animal protection laws and regulations to ensure comprehensive coverage for all animals, including domestic pets, livestock, wildlife, and animals used in research and entertainment; establishing a dedicated Animal Welfare Enforcement Unit within the Nova

Scotia Department of Agriculture to enforce animal welfare laws, investigate complaints, and collaborate with law enforcement agencies to address cases of animal cruelty and neglect; and by promoting the adoption of animal-friendly practices in agriculture, fishing, and other industries involving animals, ensuring their well-being, and minimizing unnecessary suffering.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NSLP urge the Government of Nova Scotia to enhance public education and awareness by: introducing animal welfare education into the public school curriculum, promoting responsible pet ownership, empathy towards animals, and the importance of environmental sustainability; collaborating with animal welfare organizations and community groups to organize awareness campaigns, workshops, and seminars to educate the public about proper care, humane treatment, and the importance of spaying/neutering pets; and by fostering partnerships with veterinary clinics and animal shelters to provide low-cost or subsidized spay/neuter programs, reducing the population of stray animals and preventing animal homelessness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NSLP urge the Government of Nova Scotia to enhance animal rescue and shelter support by: increasing funding and resources for animal shelters and rescue organizations to improve the quality of care provided to abandoned, abused, and neglected animals; promoting the adoption of shelter animals by raising public awareness about the benefits of adopting from shelters and encouraging responsible pet ownership; and by establishing a network of foster homes to provide temporary care for animals awaiting adoption, reducing the strain on overcrowded shelters.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NSLP urge the Government of Nova Scotia to enhance wildlife conservation and protection, by: collaborating with environmental organizations and wildlife conservation agencies to develop and implement programs aimed at preserving and protecting native wildlife species and their habitats; promoting research initiatives to better understand the needs and behaviors of wildlife populations, ensuring informed conservation strategies; and by implementing measures to mitigate human-wildlife conflicts, promoting coexistence and minimizing harm to both humans and animals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NSLP urge the Government of Nova Scotia to promote animal rights and ethics, by: advocating for the recognition of animals as sentient

beings, ensuring their protection from unnecessary pain, suffering, and exploitation; prohibiting cruel practices such as cosmetic testing on animals, fur farming, and the use of animals for entertainment purposes where it involves unnecessary harm or distress; and by promoting alternative methods to animal testing, encouraging the development and use of non-animal testing alternatives in research and product development.

10. Labour Shortage and Greying Population Policy Resolution

WHEREAS by 2030, over a quarter of the population of Nova Scotia will be over 65 years of age;

AND WHEREAS the senior dependency ratio in Nova Scotia is projected to remain well above the national average over the long term;

AND WHEREAS fewer workers will slow provincial economic growth, shrink its tax base, put pressure on health care, pension funds and social infrastructure;

AND WHEREAS labour shortages cost Nova Scotian businesses \$1B in missed opportunities in 2022;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NSLP will promote expansion and increased funding to programs that recruit and retain skilled workers from international markets (at a level that reflects the urgency of the crisis), including an increase in the tax rebates to workers under the age of 30 in specific trades, and that Nova Scotia negotiates for higher immigration quotas to offset the growing number of retired workers in this province.

Sponsored by: Lunenburg West

11. Fostering Multilingualism and Multiculturalism: Maximizing Cultural Diversity in Nova Scotia Resolution

WHEREAS implementation and fostering of language education, accessible language services, cultural exchange, anti-discrimination measures, and economic integration initiatives, create an inclusive and welcoming society that values and celebrates cultural diversity;

AND WHEREAS collaboration among community organizations, cultural groups, and individuals from diverse backgrounds, is essential to designing and implementing effective policies that reflect the needs and aspirations of Nova Scotia's multicultural communities;

AND WHEREAS public policy that promotes and celebrates multiculturalism and multilingualism in Nova Scotia aligns with the guiding principles of the Nova Scotia Liberal Party (“NSLP”), and emphasizes inclusivity, diversity, and equality;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NSLP urge the Government of Nova Scotia to foster multilingual education and support by: developing programs that support the teaching and preservation of Indigenous languages, ensuring their revitalization and transmission to future generations; increase funding and resources for language instruction programs in schools, community centers, and adult education institutions, offering opportunities to learn and maintain languages spoken by diverse cultural communities; and by establishing language proficiency assessment and certification programs to recognize and validate language skills, facilitating employment opportunities, and promoting cultural diversity in the workforce;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the NSLP urge the Government of Nova Scotia to foster cultural exchange and integration by: encouraging cultural exchange programs that facilitate interactions between different cultural communities, fostering understanding, respect, and appreciation for diverse backgrounds; supporting community-led initiatives that promote multicultural events, festivals, and exhibitions, celebrating the rich cultural heritage of Nova Scotia's various communities; and by supporting multicultural community centers to serve as hubs for cultural activities, language classes, and social integration programs, providing spaces for interaction and learning.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the NSLP urge the Government of Nova Scotia to foster accessible language services by: increasing the availability of interpretation and

translation services in public institutions, healthcare facilities, and other essential services, ensuring equitable access for individuals with limited English or French proficiency; collaborating with community organizations and language professionals to provide training and certification programs for interpreters and translators, maintaining high standards of quality in language services; and by promoting the use of multilingual signage and information materials in public spaces and government offices, improving accessibility and inclusivity for individuals with diverse linguistic backgrounds.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the NSLP urge the Government of Nova Scotia to foster inclusion and anti-discrimination by: strengthening anti-discrimination legislation to protect individuals from discrimination based on language, ethnicity, or cultural background, ensuring equal opportunities for all residents of Nova Scotia; establishing a Multiculturalism Advisory Council comprising representatives from diverse cultural communities to advise the government on policies, programs, and initiatives related to multiculturalism and multilingualism; and by implementing public awareness campaigns to promote the importance of cultural diversity, challenging stereotypes, and fostering a culture of inclusivity and acceptance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the NSLP urge the Government of Nova Scotia to foster economic integration and entrepreneurship by: providing support and resources to facilitate the economic integration of immigrants and newcomers, including language training, job placement services, and entrepreneurship support; broadening mentorship programs that connect newcomers with established members of the community or business professionals, fostering networking opportunities and facilitating their successful integration into the workforce; and encouraging the development of culturally diverse businesses and markets, recognizing the economic benefits of multicultural entrepreneurship and promoting cross-cultural economic partnerships.

12. Promoting Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Awareness

WHEREAS the Nova Scotia Liberal Party (“NSLP”) supports organizations and individuals committed to raising awareness about diseases, conditions and illnesses that affect all Canadians;

AND WHEREAS Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) is the most common neurodevelopmental disability in Canada, and yet it remains highly misunderstood by the general population; (1)

AND WHEREAS this lack of understanding can lead to the exclusion of individuals with FASD from community and peers, and result in social isolation for children and parents and tremendous inequities in supports for children, youth, adults and families;

AND WHEREAS FASD is not a diagnosis that is specific to a particular population or group of people;

AND WHEREAS FASD is a lifelong disability that impacts the brain and body of someone who was exposed to alcohol during fetal development;

AND WHEREAS children with FASD often have issues with learning, attention, memory, and problem solving, along with poor coordination, impulsiveness, and speech and hearing impairments, as well as emotional, behavioural, and social problems, which get worse as they age, which exacerbates the mental health challenges they are predisposed to;(2)

AND WHEREAS FASD is an “invisible disability” the stigma and lack of empathy experienced by families are accompanied by a general lack of understanding of the effects by service providers, educators, family members and caregivers;

AND WHEREAS society improperly ascribes blame and shame to mothers, families and communities without giving consideration to the multiple factors that can contribute to Prenatal Alcohol Exposure (“PAE”), which results in a person being born with FASD;

AND WHEREAS people with FASD have the same rights as all others; the right to identity, culture, connection and safety; the right to access education, health care and disability supports; and the right to be heard and be free from discrimination;

AND WHEREAS these rights are not being upheld by service providers and systems currently in place to support children, youth, adults and families with FASD;

AND WHEREAS when unsupported, 90% of people with FASD will experience mental health issues and they are over 20 times more likely to face substance use challenges; (2)

AND WHEREAS 35% of teens with FASD report suicidal ideation, with 13% reporting at least one serious suicide attempt in the past year; (2)

AND WHEREAS individuals with FASD are also disproportionately represented in the child welfare and criminal justice systems; (2)

AND WHEREAS early assessment, diagnosis, and intervention are critical protective factors against adverse outcomes;

AND WHEREAS section 96A of the *Liquor Control Act*, which requires the posting of warning signs, is outdated and has never been enacted; (3)

AND WHEREAS the NSLP recognizes the need to eliminate stigma and blame directed at biological mothers for FASD and the need to support birth moms and families with compassion and empathy;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NSLP will introduce legislation to provide for the education of first responders, health care providers, service providers, educators, family members and caregivers on the harm and cost of PAE.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NSLP affirm the need to eliminate stigma and blame directed at biological mothers and the necessity of embracing birth moms with understanding and empathy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NSLP affirm that people with FASD have the same rights as all other Nova Scotians; the right to identity, culture, connection and safety; the right to access education, health care and disability supports; and the right to be heard and be free from discrimination.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NSLP take legislative steps to provide dedicated support to Nova Scotians with FASD and their families.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NSLP will take steps to update and enact Section 96A of the *Liquor Control Act*, including detailed instructions for the design and locations of signage warning of the harms caused by PAE (3).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NSLP will support Bill S-253 *The National Framework on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Act* (4).

Sponsored by: Lunenburg West

References

- (1) <https://canfasd.ca/topics/basic-information/>
- (2) <https://canfasd.ca/2022/04/20/canfasds-submission-to-the-study-on-childrens-health/>
- (3) *Liquor Control Act*, 1989, c. 260, Regulations respecting alcohol and pregnancy, s. 96A
- (4) <https://canfasd.ca/2023/04/14/update-on-bill-s-253-a-national-framework-for-fasd/>

13. Loneliness and Social Isolation Resolution

WHEREAS seniors constitute 20% of Nova Scotia’s population, a percentage that is projected to grow in the years ahead;

AND WHEREAS many of Nova Scotia’s seniors are isolated within their communities and have a low quantity and quality of relationships with others;

AND WHEREAS keeping older adults socially connected has been described as a major emerging issue facing seniors in Canada;

AND WHEREAS supportive services that prevent isolation are a key determinant of seniors' quality of life, health and independence;

AND WHEREAS promoting the sustained public awareness of programs and services available to counteract social isolation and loneliness will mitigate seniors' isolation and promote the social fabric of Nova Scotia's communities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Nova Scotia ("NSLP") urge the Government of Nova Scotia to launch and maintain an ongoing public awareness campaign to inform all Nova Scotians of the social inclusion programs and services available to counteract social isolation and loneliness (including 211, the annual Aging Directory, the Continuing Care program, Age Friendly Communities, outreach programs of long term care facilities, and many distinctive socially oriented groups across the province).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the NSLP urge the Government of Nova Scotia to mandate the Minister and Department of Seniors and Long-term Care to continually monitor and update programs and services available to counteract social isolation and loneliness, and by promoting social inclusion, particularly of seniors and those living in rural areas and those belonging to marginalized and racialized communities.

14. Hospice/Palliative Care Policy Resolution

WHEREAS Canada has one of the highest costs for care during the last three to six months of life compared with other high-income nations (Canada (US\$21,840), England (US \$9352), the Netherlands (US \$10,936) and the US (US \$18,500) due mainly to the high use of hospitals to deliver end of life care;

AND WHEREAS enhancing end-of-life care services outside of hospital sites would make urgent care in hospitals more available to patients requiring treatment for illness or prolongation of life;

AND WHEREAS end-of-life care in a hospice setting has been proven to be a more cost-effective and patient-centred approach to providing quality palliative care than in a hospital acute care setting;

AND WHEREAS Nova Scotia has the lowest resident-to-hospice bed ratio in the Maritime provinces, and is not equitably available to its residents;

BE IT RESOLVED that the NSLP promote the provision of palliative end-of-life care in a variety of settings, including residential hospices, to be consistently and adequately funded across Nova Scotia, as a cost-effective, compassionate alternative to acute care in a hospital setting.

Sponsored by: Lunenburg West

References

[https://thehub.ca/2023-12-18/a-no-brainer-inside-the-movement-to-promote-hospice-care-as](https://thehub.ca/2023-12-18/a-no-brainer-inside-the-movement-to-promote-hospice-care-as-a-cost-effective-compassionate-alternative-to-overcrowded-hospitals/)

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15. Reducing Poverty and Enhancing Economic Opportunities in Nova Scotia Resolution

WHEREAS in 2022, Nova Scotia was reported to have the fourth-highest child poverty rate in Canada, and the highest in Atlantic Canada;

AND WHEREAS in 2022, the rate of racialized children in poverty was nearly double that of non-racialized children, and the rate of and immigrant children was more than double that of non-immigrant children;

AND WHEREAS the poverty rate in Nova Scotia in 2021 was 8.6%;

AND WHEREAS eliminating poverty in Nova Scotia and creating opportunities for economic advancement, align with the guiding principles of the Nova Scotia Liberal Party;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NSLP urge the Government of Nova Scotia and the Government of Canada to expand education and skills development by: increasing investments in early childhood education, ensuring access to quality education for all children, regardless of socio-economic background; enhancing vocational training and apprenticeship programs to equip individuals with the skills needed for emerging industries; and by providing support for adult education and lifelong learning programs to enable individuals to develop new skills and adapt to changing job markets.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NSLP urge the Government of Nova Scotia and the Government of Canada to foster economic growth and job creation by encouraging entrepreneurship and innovation by providing financial support, mentorship, and streamlined regulatory processes for small businesses and startups; by collaborating with industries to attract investment, promote economic diversification, and create new job opportunities; and by establishing partnerships with educational institutions and industry leaders to align training and education programs with the needs of the job market.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NSLP urge the Government of Nova Scotia and the Government of Canada to strengthen social safety nets by reviewing and reforming social assistance programs, implementing a universal basic income to ensure an adequate safety net while also incentivizing employment and self-sufficiency; by increasing access to affordable housing initiatives, such as rent subsidies and social housing, to reduce housing insecurity and homelessness; and by enhancing access to mental health care and addiction treatment programs to address underlying factors contributing to poverty.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NSLP urge the Government of Nova Scotia and the Government of Canada to promote income equality by: advocating for fair wages and support policies that ensure a living wage for all workers; by implementing progressive taxation measures to reduce income inequality and redistribute wealth; and by encouraging corporate social responsibility by promoting ethical business practices, fair labor conditions, and responsible wealth distribution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NSLP urge the Government of Nova Scotia and the Government of Canada to strengthen community support systems by: better supporting community organizations and non-profit organizations that focus on poverty reduction, providing funding, resources, and capacity-building opportunities; fostering partnerships between the government, private sector, and civil society to develop

comprehensive poverty reduction strategies; and by promoting initiatives that address systemic barriers, discrimination, and social exclusion faced by marginalized communities.

16. Enhancing Elderly Care: Optimizing Care of the Elderly in Nova Scotia Resolution

WHEREAS prioritizing person-centered care, accessibility, affordability, and comprehensive support, helps create a society that values and supports the well-being and dignity of our senior population;

AND WHEREAS collaboration among stakeholders, including healthcare professionals, community organizations, and elderly individuals themselves, is crucial to the development and implementation of effective policies to meet the diverse needs of our aging population;

AND WHEREAS this policy framework aims to optimize and improve the quality of care extended to Nova Scotia seniors, ensuring dignity, respect, and well-being, in alignment with the guiding principles of the Nova Scotia Liberal Party (“NSLP”);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NSLP urge the Government of Nova Scotia to prioritize person-centred care, by: implementing approaches that prioritize the unique needs and preferences of each elderly individual, promoting autonomy, choice, and independence; developing and enforcing guidelines and standards for long-term care facilities and home care services to ensure a safe, supportive, and respectful environment for the elderly; and by enhancing training programs for healthcare professionals and caregivers, focusing on compassionate and empathetic care, communication skills, and recognizing and addressing the diverse needs of the elderly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NSLP urge the Government of Nova Scotia to enhance accessible and affordable care, by increasing investments in home care services, enabling elderly individuals to receive necessary care and support within the comfort of their homes, while alleviating the burden on long-term care facilities; expanding the availability of affordable and accessible respite care services to support family

caregivers, ensuring they have the opportunity to take breaks and maintain their own well-being; and by implementing measures to address wait times for long-term care placements, ensuring timely access to appropriate care for elderly individuals in need.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NSLP urge the Government of Nova Scotia to prioritize age-friendly infrastructure and housing, by: collaborating with municipalities to develop age-friendly communities with accessible infrastructure, including sidewalks, public transportation, and public spaces that accommodate the needs of elderly individuals; encouraging the development of affordable housing options that are suitable for the elderly, including accessible design, proximity to essential services, and social amenities; and by providing financial incentives and support for retrofitting existing housing to make them more accessible and age-friendly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NSLP urge the Government of Nova Scotia to prioritize comprehensive health and wellness, by: increasing funding for geriatric healthcare services, including specialized medical care, rehabilitation, and mental health support for the elderly; strengthening community-based programs promoting healthy aging, including physical activity initiatives, nutrition support, and preventive healthcare services; and by enhancing collaboration between healthcare providers, social workers, and community organizations to ensure holistic care and support for elderly individuals, addressing their physical, mental, and social well-being.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NSLP urge the Government of Nova Scotia to promote the prevention of elder abuse by: implementing comprehensive elder abuse prevention programs, raising awareness and providing training to professionals and community members to identify and address elder abuse cases; enhancing support services for elderly individuals who have experienced abuse or neglect, ensuring they have access to legal assistance, counseling, and protection measures; and by strengthening enforcement and penalties for elder abuse, working closely with law enforcement agencies and justice systems to protect the rights and well-being of the elderly.

17. Enabling a Profitable Renewable Energy Transition Economy in Nova Scotia Resolution

WHEREAS embracing renewable energy sources can drive economic growth, create sustainable jobs, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and strengthen energy independence in and for Nova Scotians;

AND WHEREAS progressive energy public policy will ensure Nova Scotia remains at the forefront of clean energy innovation, while prioritizing the well-being of our communities and environment;

AND WHEREAS a comprehensive strategy that fosters a profitable renewable energy transition economy in Nova Scotia aligns with the guiding principles of the Nova Scotia Liberal Party (“NSLP”);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NSLP urge the Government of Nova Scotia to set ambitious renewable energy targets in Nova Scotia, aiming to derive at least 80% of our energy from renewable sources by 2030, and by continuously reviewing and updating these targets based on technological advancements, market dynamics, and environmental considerations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NSLP urge the Government of Nova Scotia to promote investment in renewable infrastructure by: implementing financial incentives, tax breaks, and grants to attract private sector investment in renewable energy projects, such as wind, solar, tidal, and biomass; and by establishing partnerships with local and international investors to leverage funding opportunities and enhance the economic viability of renewable energy initiatives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NSLP urge the Government of Nova Scotia to encourage research and development in the renewable energy space by: allocating public funds toward research and development programs that focus on advancing renewable energy technologies, energy storage solutions, and grid integration systems; and by fostering collaboration between academia, industry, and government, to drive innovation, develop intellectual property, and attract clean-tech companies to Nova Scotia.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NSLP urge the Government of Nova Scotia to support local renewable energy businesses by: creating a dedicated support program to assist local businesses in adopting renewable energy technologies, encouraging them to

transition away from fossil fuel-based energy sources; and by facilitating access to financing, grants, and technical expertise to help small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in developing and implementing renewable energy projects.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NSLP urge the Government of Nova Scotia to enhance skill development and job creation by: investing in education and training programs to equip Nova Scotians with the skills required for the renewable energy sector, such as engineering, project management, and maintenance of clean energy infrastructure; collaborating with community colleges, universities, and industry leaders to develop curriculum and apprenticeships tailored to the needs of the renewable energy industry; and by promoting job creation by partnering with renewable energy companies and ensuring that project contracts include requirements for local employment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NSLP urge the Government of Nova Scotia to enhance energy storage and grid modernization by prioritizing investments in energy storage technologies to enhance the integration of intermittent renewable energy sources into the power grid; by supporting research and development efforts focused on developing cost-effective and efficient energy storage solutions, such as battery technologies and pumped hydro storage; and by upgrading and modernizing the power grid infrastructure to accommodate increased renewable energy capacity, improve reliability, and enable two-way energy flows.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NSLP urge the Government of Nova Scotia to prioritize environmental considerations, including by: implementing strict environmental regulations and standards to ensure that renewable energy projects minimize adverse ecological impacts, such as wildlife disruption and habitat destruction; encouraging the use of environmentally friendly construction practices, materials, and technologies throughout the lifecycle of renewable energy projects; and by promoting public awareness and education campaigns to highlight the benefits of renewable energy and foster a culture of environmental stewardship.

18. Transportation and Road Safety Resolution

WHEREAS a 2017 study identified Nova Scotia as having the most dangerous driving outcomes in Canada;

AND WHEREAS 76 road fatalities occurred on Nova Scotia roads in 2021 and a further 69 fatalities occurred in 2022;

AND WHEREAS rural and suburban areas in Nova Scotia lack accessible, reliable and affordable transportation options, isolating residents in their homes and communities;

AND WHEREAS the Province of Nova Scotia established the Joint Regional Transportation Agency (“JRTA”) to address the issue of transportation options for areas within an hour of Halifax Regional Municipality (including Bridgewater, Kentville, Musquodoboit, Truro, and others), with a mandate to review active transportation, bus, and rail options for residents in those communities;

AND WHEREAS multiple jurisdictions in Nova Scotia have updated their road design standards to prioritize safety and transportation options, which aim for the reduction of road fatalities to zero (also known as “Vision Zero”);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party (“NSLP”) urge the Government of Nova Scotia to mandate the Department of Public Works to adopt province-wide road design standards and implement widespread safety improvements on provincially owned roads.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NSLP urge the Government of Nova Scotia to expand the mandate of the JRTA in phases to improve transportation alternatives across all of Nova Scotia.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NSLP urge the Government of Nova Scotia to work in collaboration with municipalities to adopt improved road design standards and safety guidelines on municipally owned roads, and hasten the process of adopting improved transportation options, offering financial and expertise support where possible.

Sponsored by: Bedford South

19. Update Provincial Zoning & Regulations Resolution

WHEREAS Nova Scotia is currently experiencing a housing crisis;

AND WHEREAS that housing crisis is principally caused by a shortage of housing across the province;

AND WHEREAS in the past, provincial and municipal housing policies have acted to restrict the growth of our housing supply (and in some instances, discourage that growth);

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party will introduce legislation and regulations to end low-density zoning and regulations that exclude affordable and social housing in residential areas, and to promote and allow mixed-use development and high-density residential development.

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