



2025 Adopted Policy Resolutions

Delegates at the Nova Scotia Liberal Party's 2025 Annual General Meeting voted to adopt the following policy resolutions.

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Healthcare Triage Specialization Resolution

WHEREAS emergency departments across Nova Scotia consistently experience critical congestion, resulting in prolonged wait times and compromised patient outcomes ¹;

AND WHEREAS specialized triage personnel can enhance efficiency, speed of assessment, and patient flow, significantly alleviating strain on healthcare systems ²;

AND WHEREAS evidence from pilot programs such as Rapid Assessment Zones (RAZ) demonstrates that dedicated triage teams effectively improve patient outcomes, reduce wait times, and optimize resource allocation ³;

AND WHEREAS Canadian and international studies show that integrating paramedics, Licensed Practical Nurses, or Physician Assistants into front-end triage cuts wait times by 15-60 % and allows RNs to focus on higher-acuity care ⁴;

AND WHEREAS cost modelling indicates task-shifting triage to a mid-level provider can achieve similar throughput gains at ≈ 30 % lower labour cost than adding additional RNs, provided regulatory safeguards are in place ⁵;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party (NSLP) urge the Government of Nova Scotia to:

1. create distinct Triage-Specialist Career Stream specifically dedicated to emergency triage, such as Triage Attendants and Triage Managers, equipped with specialized, expedited CTAS-certified training designed to complement existing CTAS & RAZ models;
2. review scope-of-practice regulations to enable qualified LPNs, paramedics, or physician assistants to perform defined triage tasks, subject to RN validation for high-acuity cases;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NSLP advocate for province-wide expansion of multidisciplinary Rapid Assessment Zones staffed with these triage specialists under RN or physician supervision, thereby reserving RN resources for interventions requiring the full nursing scope;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NSLP support ongoing investment in training, retention, and workforce planning initiatives to ensure sufficient staffing levels for sustainable specialized triage roles;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NSLP call for rigorous evaluation and data reporting on the effectiveness of specialized triage units, ensuring continuous improvement and accountability within the healthcare system.

Sponsored by Lunenburg West EDA

References

1. Nova Scotia Health Authority. (2024). *Annual accountability report on emergency departments*. Government of Nova Scotia.
<https://novascotia.ca/dhw/publications/emergency-departments-accountability-report-2023-24.pdf>
1. Nova Scotia Health Authority. (2024, March 27). *Six rapid assessment zones enhancing access and reducing wait times* [News release]. Retrieved June 23, 2025, from
<https://www.nshealth.ca/news-and-notice/six-rapid-assessment-zones-enhancing-access-and-reducing-wait-times-emergency-care>
2. Institut national d'excellence en santé et en services sociaux (INESSS). (2023). *Rapid assessment zones in emergency departments: Organizational characteristics and impacts*.
<https://doi.org/10.500.12592/f4mtwp0>
3. Oredsson, S., Jonsson, H., Rognes, J., Lind, L., Göransson, K. E., Ehrenberg, A., et al. (2011). *A systematic review of triage-related interventions to improve patient flow in emergency departments*. *Scandinavian Journal of Trauma, Resuscitation and Emergency Medicine*, 19, 43. <https://doi.org/10.1186/1757-7241-19-43>
4. Kuhner, B., & Al. (2024). *Effect of Paramedics in Emergency Department Triage on Ambulance Patient Off-load Times: A Retrospective Observational Study*. **International Journal of Paramedicine**, 6(2), 19-28.

Increase Physician Productivity Resolution

WHEREAS approximately 93,682 Nova Scotians are on a wait list for a Family Physician/Nurse Practitioner¹;

AND WHEREAS the present estimated shortage is 212 Physicians (108 Specialists, 104 Family Physicians)¹;

AND WHEREAS the wait time for a Specialist is weeks and in many cases months to secure an appointment²;

AND WHEREAS completion of forms already in place and since the COVID-19 pandemic and added forms have increased by 25% to 35% further increasing administrative time;

AND WHEREAS administrative duties consume 6 to 8 hours per week per Physician/Nurse Practitioner;

AND WHEREAS reducing administrative duties by 50% could allow Family Physicians/Nurse Practitioners to see 18 to 24 extra patients per week³.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party urge the Government of Nova Scotia and its appropriate departments (Pharmacare Special Authorizations, Nova Scotia Health Authority Occupational Therapy etc.), and providers to review all requested forms with the purpose to reduce, eliminate and simplify as where appropriate.

Sponsored by Clayton Park West EDA

References:

1 CTV News, April 14, 2025 <https://www.ctvnews.ca/atlantic/nova-scotia/article/just-over-50-people-taken-off-nova-scotias-primary-care-wait-list-in-may/>

2 Meig Campbell CBC News April 25, 2025 <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/author/meig-campbell-1.7179452>

3 College of Physician and Surgeons of Nova Scotia <https://cpsns.ns.ca>

Expanding Access to Traditional Medicines in Hospital Settings

WHEREAS it is recognized that implementing the calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada is an important step in the process of advancing reconciliation and supporting better health outcomes for Indigenous people¹.

AND WHEREAS creating a culturally safe environment for Indigenous peoples to exercise their spirituality aligns with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (Article 12:1), and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms².

AND WHEREAS spiritual care is not only recognized as a part of holistic patient care, multi-faith space is generally offered for patients and families to carry out religious or spiritual practices in a hospital setting for this reason³.

AND WHEREAS Call to Action 22 from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada calls for the recognition of the value of 'Aboriginal healing practices' and access to them as a part of an Indigenous patient's treatment where requested by the patient⁴.

AND WHEREAS more hospitals across Canada are beginning to offer smudging as a part of their spiritual health services, and IWK Health has developed policies and procedures here in Nova Scotia to safely facilitate smudging requests from patients inside and outside of the hospital⁵.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NSLP urge the Government of Nova Scotia to support this Call to Action by requiring the Nova Scotia Health Authority to support all hospitals in the province with putting in place policies, resources and procedures to enable access to Aboriginal healing practices in collaboration with Indigenous Elders and Healers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the NSLP affirm the need to eliminate the stigma directed at incorporating Indigenous healing practices as an important part of a patient's treatment.

Sponsored by Timberlea-Prospect EDA

References

1. [IR4-8-2015-eng.pdf](#)
2. <https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/declaration/about-apropos.html> & <https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/csjsjc/rfc-dlc/ccrf-ccd/>
3. [Spiritual health is health: How Spiritual Care is part of holistic patient care | LHSC](#)
[Patient Perspectives about Spirituality and Spiritual Care - PMC](#)
[Identifying the key components of providing spiritual care in the hospital: a scoping review study | BMC Palliative Care | Full Text](#)
[What is whole person care? Understanding spiritual well being and spirituality in health care | AMA Update Video | AMA](#)
4. [IR4-8-2015-eng.pdf](#)
5. [IWK Creates more equitable access to healthcare](#)

Strengthening Home and Community Care in Nova Scotia

WHEREAS Nova Scotia's aging population, persons with disabilities, persons receiving palliative and end-of-life care, and individuals recovering from surgery or illness increasingly require accessible and person-centered care in their homes and communities;

AND WHEREAS home and community care has been shown to be significantly more cost-effective than acute care in hospitals or institutional settings¹ — helping reduce hospital admissions and easing pressure on long-term care facilities^{2 3};

AND WHEREAS expanding home and community care services enables individuals to maintain independence, remain connected to their communities, and receive care in familiar environments, improving quality of life and health outcomes⁴;

AND WHEREAS the current home care system in Nova Scotia faces challenges in staffing, consistency, and availability across regions, with many rural and underserved communities lacking equitable access to timely and reliable care;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party urge the Government of Nova Scotia to:

1. Prioritize investment in home and community care, including increasing funding for in-home support, nursing, personal care, and rehabilitation services for seniors, persons with disabilities, and those recovering from medical treatment;
2. Advocate for improvements in recruitment, education, training retention, and compensation of all care-giving professionals in home care to ensure workforce stability and continuity of care;

References

¹ Curioni, C., et al., 2023, The cost-effectiveness of homecare services for adults and older adults: a systematic review. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 20, 3373. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph20043373>

² Nix, H. P., Sergeant, M., & Shetty, N. (2023). Policy nudges toward medicalizing death and their impact on planetary health. *Healthcare Management Forum*, 36(1), 1–7. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08404704231134813>

³ Barber, B., Weeks, L., Steeves-Dorey, L., McVeigh, W., Stevens, S., Moody, E., & Warner, G. (2022). Hospital to home: Supporting the transition from hospital to home for older adults. *Canadian Journal of Nursing Research*, 54(4), 483–496. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08445621211044333>

⁴ Grabowski, D. C. (2021). The future of long term care requires investment in both facility and home based services. *Nature Aging*, 1(1), 10–11. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s43587-020-00018-y>

3. Develop equitable province-wide strategy to ensure consistent, high-quality home and community care services, including integration with primary care, mental health, and palliative care supports;
4. Support improved access to caregiver supports, respite care, and navigation services for families providing informal care, recognizing their essential role in sustaining the home care system; and
5. Formally commit to including the expansion and modernization of home and community care as a core health policy priority, recognizing that strengthening these services is key to building a future-ready, person-centered health care system for all Nova Scotians.

Sponsored by Hammonds Plains – Lucasville EDA

Amendments to the Nova Scotia Occupational Health and Safety Act **Resolution**

WHEREAS The Nova Scotia Occupational Health and Safety Act does not specifically restrict the use of Non-Disclosure Agreements⁵

AND WHEREAS Nova Scotia Occupational Health and Safety employs the motto “The Right To Know, The Right To Refuse, The Right To Participate”⁶

AND WHEREAS Non-Disclosure Agreements often serve to prevent victims of workplace harassment or violence from accessing appropriate supports⁷

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party urge the Government of Nova Scotia to amend the Nova Scotia Occupational Health and Safety Act to ensure:

1. No provision in a non-disclosure agreement shall prevent, restrict, or discourage any person from: The Right To Know, The Right To Refuse, The Right To Participate
2. Exercising any rights or fulfilling any duties under the Occupational Health and Safety Act, including reporting a hazard, injury, or incident of harassment or violence in the workplace to an employer, joint health and safety committee, the Occupational Health and Safety Division, or other relevant authority;⁸

⁵ The Nova Scotia Occupational Health and Safety Act

⁶ The Nova Scotia Occupational Health and Safety Act

⁷ The Dangerous Growth of Non-Disclosure Agreements: their reach, impact and the myths that sustain them Dr. Julie Macfarlane* 2025 (Publication to follow)

⁸ Jennifer Graves, Advocate for the Restriction of Non-Disclosure Agreements and Victims of Sexual Harassment.

3. Cooperating with any investigation or inquiry conducted under the Human Rights Act or the Occupational Health and Safety Act, or by any public authority responsible for enforcing human rights or workplace safety⁹
4. Remove any term of a non-disclosure agreement that purports to do so is void and unenforceable to the extent of the inconsistency.¹⁰

Sponsored by Nova Scotia Liberal Women's Commission

⁹ Jennifer Graves, Advocate for the Restriction of Non-Disclosure Agreements and Victims of Sexual Harassment.

¹⁰ Jennifer Graves, Advocate for the Restriction of Non-Disclosure Agreements and Victims of Sexual Harassment.

Operational Assistance for Seniors Centres Resolution

WHEREAS Senior Centres are required to do their own fund raising in order to survive in Nova Scotia either by membership dues, fund raising activities, or by numerous grants from many entities.

WHEREAS Seniors attending Senior Centres are benefitting from the socialization, health benefits, learning new activities, physical fitness benefits, diet education, proper food intake, etc.

WHEREAS Statistics show that social isolation at home leads to early death in seniors.

WHEREAS Nova Scotia has an increasing number of people that are falling into the senior category and statistics show that this trend will be continuing.

WHEREAS Senior Centres offer many supports for seniors as well as being a resource for other supports in the community.

WHEREAS Senior Centres are becoming an integral part of the community with many partnerships such as Nova Scotia Community College, Nova Scotia Health Authority, Mental Health Association, New horizons, etc.

WHEREAS Senior Centres are required to meet operational expenses for any staff, rent, utilities, programs, upkeep, renovations, etc. in order to survive from one year to the next year.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party urge the Government of Nova Scotia to offer operational assistance to all Senior Centres and organizations that support Senior programming in the province that function as non-profit organizations.

Sponsored by, NSLP Seniors Commission

Restrict the use of Non-Disclosure Agreements in Nova Scotia Resolution

WHEREAS Legislation for the restriction of Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDAs) has been enacted in PEI, Ontario and other Canadian Provinces, and it is imperative that Nova Scotia follow these provinces with legislation to protect all Nova Scotians from harms caused by NDAs.

AND WHEREAS NDAs disproportionately harm women, 2SLGBTQ+ people and racialized individuals, especially in matters involving sexual violence, harassment or unequal power dynamics in schools, workplaces and public institutions. Legislation must serve to cover all forms of workplace related misconduct or any matter involving a public institution or systemic abuse.¹¹

AND WHEREAS After the exponential expansion of the use of NDAs over the last 10 to 15 years and the injustices and harms that have followed, there is clear evidence that many employees and litigants do not understand that they can refuse an NDA and can continue to exercise their statutory whistleblowing or health and safety rights or reporting to police.¹²

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party urge the Government of Nova Scotia to enact legislation clarifying the use of Non-Disclosure Agreements. Legislation should cover civil suits as well as workplaces, to prevent the creep of NDAs into settlements over civil sexual violence and harassment, and act to relieve both the individual injustices and harms, and the systemic impact, of contracts of silence.

Sponsored by Nova Scotia Liberal Women's Commission

¹¹ See “Top Ten Clauses in current global legislation” on the *CBMS* website <https://www.cantbuymysilence.com/legislation-top-10> and the more detailed version with examples for legislators at <https://www.cantbuymysilence.com/detailed-information-legislator>

¹² The Dangerous Growth of Non-Disclosure Agreements: their reach, impact and the myths that sustain them Dr. Julie Macfarlane* 2025 (Publication to follow)

Seniors Assistance for Home Upgrades and Repairs to Remain in Home Resolution

WHEREAS Many seniors are trying to stay in their homes but have difficulty affording major repairs and additions such as heat pumps to their homes.

WHEREAS Most repairs or additions such as heat pumps require initial payments in order to begin the process which seniors cannot afford.

WHEREAS Many seniors are living in family homes that they have owned for years and require upgrades to today's standards e.g. heat pumps.

WHEREAS Seniors would benefit from a loan program that would be above any government assistance for repairs or upgrades to their homes as many are living totally from their monthly pensions and do not have savings.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party (NSLP) urge the Government of Nova Scotia to provide low income Seniors aged 65+ financial assistance for repairs and upgrades to their homes in order to remain in their homes.

Sponsored by, NSLP Seniors Commission

Rural Telecommunications Enhancements

WHEREAS many rural and remote communities across Nova Scotia continue to face significant gaps in reliable, affordable, and accessible telecommunications services ¹;

AND WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic underscored the critical importance of robust telecommunications infrastructure for education, healthcare, economic development, and maintaining community connections ²;

AND WHEREAS provincial investment in telecommunications infrastructure can significantly stimulate local economies, enhance public safety, and improve overall quality of life³;

AND WHEREAS successful public-private partnerships in telecommunications have demonstrated the ability to effectively leverage government funding to enhance service delivery, affordability, and infrastructure expansion ⁴;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party (NSLP) urge the Government of Nova Scotia to:

1. Establish a Rural Telecommunications Enhancement Program aimed at installing and maintaining provincially funded telecommunications and infrastructure in underserved rural and remote regions of Nova Scotia; and that such infrastructure investments require telecommunications providers who benefit from these publicly funded enhancements to commit contractually to freezing or reducing current service prices, significantly improving guaranteed service quality, or enhancing coverage standards;
2. Advocate for federal collaboration and support to ensure alignment with national telecommunications objectives and to maximize the financial and technical resources available for this initiative;
3. Support rigorous oversight and transparent reporting mechanisms to ensure telecom companies uphold their obligations and to demonstrate measurable improvements in telecommunications accessibility, affordability, and quality; and
4. Call for ongoing stakeholder engagement, including municipalities, Indigenous communities, local businesses, and residents, to ensure that telecommunications enhancements effectively meet local needs and priorities.

Sponsored by Lunenburg West EDA

References

1. Office of the Auditor General of Nova Scotia. (2021). *Internet for Nova Scotia initiative – Independent auditor's report*.
<https://oag-ns.ca/sites/default/files/publications/2021InternetFullWeb.pdf>
5. Standing Committee on Natural Resources and Economic Development. (2022, November 22). *Rural economic recovery after COVID-19* [Hansard transcript]. Nova Scotia Legislature.
<https://nslegislature.ca/legislative-business/committees/standing/natural-resources-and-economic-development/archive/natural-resources-and-economic-development/ne2022nov22>
6. House of Commons Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology. (2018). *Broadband connectivity in rural Canada: Overcoming the digital divide: Summary* (Report No. RP97-11342-11).
<https://www.ourcommons.ca/Content/Committee/421/INDU/Reports/RP9711342/indurp11/indurp11-e.pdf>
7. House of Commons Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology. (2018). *Broadband connectivity in rural Canada: Overcoming the digital divide* (pp. 27–32) (Report No. RP97-11342-11).
<https://www.ourcommons.ca/Content/Committee/421/INDU/Reports/RP9711342/indurp11/indurp11-e.pdf>

Vision Care Resolution

WHEREAS a fundamental tenet of Canadian society is Universal Health Care;

AND WHEREAS Vision Care is a critical component of an individual's overall health care;

AND WHEREAS currently Nova Scotia only covers the cost of an eye examination for those under ten (10) years of age, those over sixty-five (65) years of Age; and those diagnosed with certain medical conditions;

AND WHEREAS the cost of Vision Care and corrective lenses are creating financial pressures on Nova Scotians; especially those with fixed incomes including seniors, who are more likely to require corrective lenses;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party will urge the Government of Nova Scotia to expand services offered through the provinces insured medical services to include eye exams for all Nova Scotians, and a prorated allowance for corrective lenses that is income tested.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party will urge the Government of Canada to develop a National Vision Care Program.

Sponsored by: Eastern Shore EDA

Universal Pharmacare for Nova Scotia Resolution

WHEREAS Thousands of Nova Scotians are forced to skip or ration prescription medications due to cost, even with existing pharmacare programs;

AND WHEREAS Universal pharmacare improves health outcomes, reduces healthcare costs, and ensures fairness and dignity for all residents;

AND WHEREAS Federal cost-sharing and bulk purchasing mechanisms are now available to support provincial implementation of universal drug coverage;

THEREFORE, BE IS RESOLVED that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party urge the Government of Nova Scotia to implement universal, free prescription drug coverage for all Nova Scotians;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this plan cover all medically necessary drugs as defined by a comprehensive provincial formulary, with no co-pays, deductibles, or income testing;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party urge the Government of Nova Scotia to affirm access to prescription medication as a right for every Nova Scotian, not a privilege based on employment or income.

Sponsored by Yarmouth EDA

Enhancing Youth Participation in Democracy Resolution

WHEREAS Nova Scotia is the birthplace of parliamentary democracy, freedom of the press, and responsible government in North America dating back to 1758

AND WHEREAS youth are an integral part of Nova Scotia's future, with mandatory civics education educating students about the importance of voting and democracy. The average age of Nova Scotians is getting younger, and building an active, informed, and engaged province is crucial to safeguarding our collective future;

AND WHEREAS trust in public institutions and government is falling rapidly, exemplified by the 45% turnout in the 2024 provincial election¹. It is necessary to preserve our democratic values, essential to enhance citizen participation in the electoral process and restore public trust in institutions. Early education on civic engagement must be integrated into individuals' educational journeys to build strong voting habits;

AND WHEREAS democracies around the world have acted to stem the tide of distrust in government, including the United Kingdom's recent move to lowering the voting age to 16² and the 2024 policy resolution by the New Brunswick Liberal Party to commit to lowering the voting age to 16³. Adopting such a resolution would bring Nova Scotia in line with its partners and position the province as a leader in Canada;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party urge the Government of Nova Scotia to lower the voting age to 16 in Nova Scotia, building on our proud tradition of democracy and encouraging the civic engagement of our young adults, which in turn would enable 16 to 18-year-olds to actively contribute to democracy, promote inclusivity and democratic diversity, and acknowledge young people's capacity to shape their own future and contribute to society.

Sponsored by Halifax Citadel-Sable Island EDA

References

1. <https://globalnews.ca/news/10892744/ns-election-2024-voter-turnout-low/>
2. <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/sn01747/>
3. <https://nbliberal.ca/wp-content/uploads/amedned-2024-resolutions-eng.pdf>

Seniors in Nova Scotia Require Accessible and Affordable Housing
Resolution

WHEREAS Most housing for seniors that is presently available is not accessible for any disabled seniors.

WHEREAS There is an acute shortage of affordable housing for seniors in the province of Nova Scotia.

WHEREAS A high number of seniors are using canes, walkers, and wheelchairs In Nova Scotia and require accessible housing

WHEREAS Emphasis has been placed on building high rise apartments which statistically require about three years to build, therefore, does not meet the immediate need for affordable housing.

WHEREAS Single or duplex housing or no more than three level facilities can be built within a year and are a fast way to provide affordable housing for seniors.

WHEREAS There are an increasing number of seniors that are homeless in Nova Scotia that need affordable accessible housing.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party (NSLP) urge the Government of Nova Scotia to build accessible and affordable housing for low income Seniors in Nova Scotia as quickly as feasible.

Sponsored by, NSLP Seniors Commission