

A better deal for today's families



7 key commitments to you.

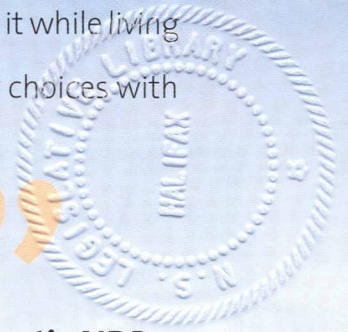


“ The NDP is working for practical solutions that add up to a better deal for you and your family — from the lowest car insurance rates to better public health care, to fair treatment for Nova Scotia seniors, to more resources in our classrooms. We'll do it while living within our means by making better choices with the right priorities.

That's my commitment to you. ”

~ Darrell Dexter

Leader of the Nova Scotia NDP



NS
324.
271607
N532
2003-
C.1

7 key commitments

1 Ensure the lowest and fairest car insurance rates



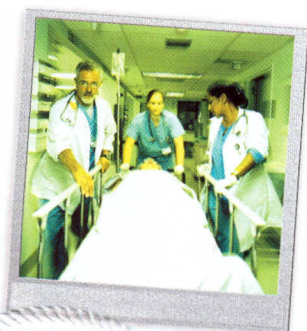
Nova Scotia car insurance rates shot up by 65% in one year. The NDP plan will turn that trend around with the lowest, fairest rates for Nova Scotia drivers. Period. The Liberals' and Tories' answer is to take money from drivers' benefits and give it to big insurance companies. That plan has been tried in other provinces and it only led to higher rates and lower benefits. Only the NDP's driver-owned, non-profit insurance plan is proven to give drivers the lowest, fairest rates — 30% to 50% lower.

2 Immediately cover health care costs in nursing homes



Seniors shouldn't have to give up their life's savings just to get the health care they need. Darrell Dexter and the NDP will end the harsh assessment policy started by the Liberals and enforced by the Tories. We'll make sure nursing home residents have the same health coverage as everyone else. Our plan will mean residents pay only for room and board based on what they can afford.

3 Reduce waiting lists for surgery and diagnostic tests



Too many Nova Scotia families face long waits for badly needed treatment. The Liberals closed 1600 hospital beds, and the Conservatives closed 337 more. The Tories made costly renovations to the surgical unit in Middleton, then left the hospital without a surgeon. Darrell Dexter and the NDP will reduce waiting lists for surgery and diagnostic tests. Our plan will make better use of operating rooms and diagnostic equipment like MRIs. We'll introduce centralized wait lists so the most urgent cases can go to the front of the line and we'll train and hire more skilled staff to help ease the bottleneck.

4 Remove the HST from family essentials like home heating and children's medicine

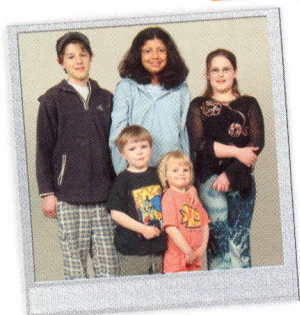


Today's families face a lot of costs for the essentials. That burden is heavier thanks to the Liberal HST that put a tax on essentials like home heating fuel. The Tories promised they would remove the HST, but instead they reaped a tax windfall from HST on high heating costs. The NDP will put money back into your family budget by eliminating the HST on essentials like home heating and children's medicine.

23023

ments to you:

5 Increase resources in the classroom so children get the individual attention they need



Families' main concern is the classroom where their children learn. Yet, after the Liberals cut 1400 teachers and slashed per-student spending, the Tories cut more. Darrell Dexter and the NDP will put more resources in the classroom, so every child gets the individual attention they need. We will work with parents, teachers and principals to take recommended action like early assessment of learning needs, proper access to professional staff and resource teachers, the right class size for students' needs and a wide range of resource materials for teachers.

6 Freeze tuition fees and introduce a student debt relief plan



Students should graduate with a promising future, not a crushing debt. Liberal funding cuts and a Tory freeze created the highest fees in Canada. Student aid was cut in 1993, and cut again in 2000. Darrell Dexter and the NDP will cover the increased operating expenses of universities so the universities can freeze fees, and the NDP will restore needs-based grants to students. The NDP will then work with educators, students and their families to build a long-term plan so Nova Scotia can offer an affordable, high-quality education for every talented student.

7 Balance the budget

Waste, gross mismanagement and giveaways have driven up the debt — making it harder to afford vital services. Darrell Dexter and the NDP will balance the budget, and will reduce the economic burden of provincial government debt starting in year one. The NDP plan will cut the debt burden in half by 2020. This measured approach does not rely on arbitrary limits, or cancellation of essential spending like school maintenance and road repair.

A better deal for today's families



A better deal for today's families

7 commitments to you.

- 1** Ensure the lowest and fairest car insurance rates
- 2** Immediately cover health care costs in nursing homes
- 3** Reduce waiting lists for surgery and diagnostic tests
- 4** Remove the HST from family essentials like home heating and children's medicine
- 5** Increase resources in the classroom so children get the individual attention they need
- 6** Freeze tuition fees and introduce a student debt relief plan
- 7** Balance the budget



Darrell Dexter
Leader of the Nova Scotia NDP

Affordable, achievable and responsible

The NDP understands how hard you work to make ends meet. That's why we're committing to give you a real break.

Our key commitments will cost \$52.4 million, less than one percent of the existing budget. The government's own estimate says that revenue will grow by more than three times that amount in the coming year.

After years of broken promises and higher fees and taxes from Liberal and Conservative governments, people are paying more and getting less. The NDP will make sure you and your family get the break you deserve.



**Learn more
about a better
deal for today's
families.**

www.ns.ndp.ca 1-800-753-7696