

GREEN PARTY
OF NOVA SCOTIA
Platform 2006

The Green Party Vision

The Green Party of Nova Scotia, founded in March 2006, is Nova Scotia's newest recognized political party. Although our platform may seem to be based on new and different ideas these ideas have existed for a long time and are simply a return to a more natural and sustainable way of life. In fact, Nova Scotia has a long history of environmental politics. Some of our ideas are rooted in proposals that date back to the 1980s federal election, when a group of independents ran under the banner of the Small Party.

Today, scientists, doctors, farmers, politicians and business people are speaking out worldwide in favour of green initiatives and ideas. Green ideals are inclusive and respectful of all peoples, countries and living things.

Support for the green movement is growing in industrialized countries and a worldwide green movement is well underway.

The Green Party of Nova Scotia stands up for a more transparent and efficient government to better represent and address the concerns of Nova Scotians.

We work to guarantee a sustainable, clean and beautiful environment that provides a climate where business, industry, and agriculture can thrive, ensuring a high quality of life and a healthy, safe and beautiful Nova Scotia, both for today and for future generations.

For a clean, green and healthy Nova Scotia vote Green on June 13, 2006.

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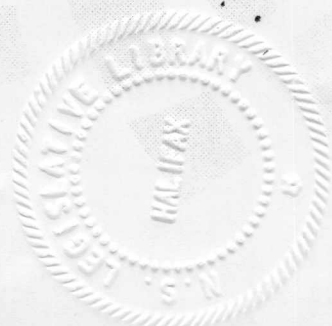
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Agriculture and Fisheries

- Fund existing farmers' markets to promote increased market access for local products.
- Discourage the use of toxic biocides, including herbicides and pesticides.
- Work with the Federal government to help producers ensure that 100% of livestock waste is recycled safely and that no animal by-products are used in the production of animal feed.
- Work with the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans to facilitate ecosystem-based fisheries management, including a fully functional system of marine protected areas.
- Implement integrated management of ocean resources with the full cooperation of all levels of government in order to maintain healthy and sustainable wild fisheries.
- Improve support for outreach from the Nova Scotia Agriculture College to small farmers practicing organic methods on mixed farms.

Arts and Culture

- Preserve and promote ancient and modern Nova Scotian cultural heritage by increasing the number of heritage buildings. However, if more than 80% of a building has been lost, identical reconstruction would not be enforced.
- Scrap the Nova Scotia Arts and Culture Partnership Council and replace the council with an arm's length Arts Council that is managed by the cultural community of which it represents.

Economy

- Maintain a balanced budget. The only exception to maintaining a balanced budget would be to deal with unforeseen emergency conditions.
- Support the establishment and growth of small business with a \$20M tax cut.
- Contribute $\frac{3}{4}$ of revenues derived from fossil fuel royalties towards debt repayment and $\frac{1}{4}$ toward alternative energy and environmental incentives.
- Encourage individuals and businesses to reduce their reliance on non-renewable energies by implementing a revenue neutral tax-shift away from income and corporate taxes to pollution and resource taxes and land levies reflecting user profit.

Education

- Provide \$15M in additional funding for School Boards in order to reduce class sizes by hiring more teachers. We will also hire more resource teachers in order to assist and accommodate students with special needs.
- Develop and implement public school curriculum in the areas of social and civic responsibility and studies of the environment.
- Remove paid advertising from school property.
- Encourage healthy eating choices in schools by eliminating soft drinks and junk foods sold in school cafeterias.

Post-Secondary Education

- Reduce university tuition by 13% over two years.
- Improve funding to trade schools and community colleges by \$5M.
- Work with post-secondary institutions to offer more university credit courses at non-degree institutions so that students can attain higher education in their home communities
- Continue to lobby the Federal Government to provide provincial funding based on the number of students attending post-secondary institutions rather than on the provincial population.
- Offer incentives to employers with the purpose of creating new jobs for recent graduates. This will be accomplished by subsidizing a post-graduate internship program.

Energy

- Fund the EnerGuide program for homes and businesses that was cut by the Federal Conservative Government and introduce an additional \$10M worth of grants for low income households.
- Require that bulk power users implement energy efficiency programs as a prerequisite of contract renewal.
- Include hybrid vehicles in the government car fleet to serve as an example of sustainable transportation.
- Mandate NSPI to purchase renewable energy (wind, solar, biomass, tidal and hydro) at a minimum of 10 cents per kilowatt hour.
- Reject generating nuclear power and/or storing nuclear waste within the province.
- Work towards terminating fossil fuel subsidies.
- Work towards ending any new oil, gas, coal, or nuclear generation projects.

Environment

- Increase the monitoring and enforcement of existing laws for industrial pollution and increase pollution fines.
- Create a carbon emissions registry .
- Eliminate the cosmetic use of toxic pesticides.
- Implement a pollution premium aimed at industrial polluters. Nova Scotia produces roughly 20 megatonnes of CO₂ annually from industrial sources. The producer will incur a premium of \$10/tonne to pay for the damage this causes to the environment and public health.
- Significantly increase auto emission standards by requiring emissions from cars and light trucks to be reduced by 25% and emissions from other trucks and SUVs to be reduced by 18% by 2012.
- Triple the amount provided provincially to protect native forests, particularly the proportion provided to protect the biological diversity of natural forests.
- Double the amount allocated to protect biodiversity.

- Earmark \$1.5M of the provincial marketing budget to encourage eco-tourism associated with natural areas.
- Create a \$10M fund to promote local value-added forestry.
- Require the eco-certification of forest companies and operations, including the operations on public (Crown-owned) land.
- Ban the clear cutting of forest in favour of ecologically friendly selective cutting.
- Allow municipalities to prohibit development around potable water supplies.
- Only allow educational and recreational development within 50 meters of wetland and costal areas.

First Nations

- Assert the rights of self-determination for First Nations peoples.
- Support the creation of a \$1M fund to provide new opportunities for economic and cultural development within Nova Scotia's First Nations communities.
- Affirm the right of First Nations peoples to be involved in managing the delivery of their health and education services.

Social Issues

The Green Party of Nova Scotia strongly affirms our commitment to and respect for the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, under which all Nova Scotians are protected from discrimination due to race, age, sexuality, religion and gender.

- Increase funding for transition houses by \$2M to help victims of family violence and sexual abuse.
- Increase funding for child welfare and residential services by 1M.
- Increase funding to the income assistance program from \$225M to \$260M, giving each recipient an extra \$100 per month.
- Increase funding for subsidized child care by \$20M.

Governance

- Create an Electoral Reform Commission with the purpose of examining options for reform to Nova Scotia's electoral system, and then put the resulting options to a plebiscite.

Health Care

- Consult with stakeholders to develop a hospital plan that delivers timely, equitable and efficient care.
- Improve the delivery of mental health services and insure that all regions of the province have access to these services by hiring more psychiatrists, psychiatric nurses, psychoanalysts, and therapists.
- Improve funding for drug and alcohol rehabilitation services by \$10M.
- Commence a province-wide health strategy to develop and implement plans that reduce unsafe or unhealthy environmental practices.
- To decrease emergency room wait times, focus on the recruitment and retention of doctors, nurses, technicians and other health care professionals. (Increase Acute Care Fund from \$1.095B to \$1.15B with \$15M of this increase to go exclusively to hire more health care professionals)
- Support the reinstatement of MSI Dental care for children up to age 16.
- Introduce and support programs that promote healthy active lifestyles for all ages.
- Increase beds in hospitals, increase beds in nursing homes and provide more home care with a funding increase of \$40M.
- Assess and improve our programs for elder care, focusing on at home care, caregiver support, and financial and respite consideration for families caring for elderly or infirm family members.

Housing

- Improve public housing quality and quantity by injecting \$44M over two years.
- Ensure that all new housing meets R2000 standards.
- Encourage municipalities to disperse public housing evenly throughout a city or town to prevent the creation of ghetto-like conditions that lower morale and marginalize the poor.

Infrastructure

- Legislate the end of urban sprawl by limiting the money given to new infrastructure unless the population density of the new development can support public transit.
- Allow municipalities to create their own taxes.
- Address the fiscal imbalance between the provincial and municipal levels of government.

Transportation

- Charter VIA Rail with the task of connecting urban communities within the province via passenger rail. This will be achieved by initiating frequent service between Halifax, Sydney, and Moncton, with a funding commitment of \$20M per year. Part of the \$20M will be used to fund the expansion of current rail lines throughout the province.
- Explore options of extending freight rail ways.
- Encourage walking and cycling through better urban planning.