

Darrell Dexter's plan for today's families

	Current Year	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Cost
1. Create the secure jobs Nova Scotia's economy needs					
Maximize Federal funds to build the infrastructure communities need	✓				Existing Funds
Create 2,200 jobs/year through a 10% Manufacturing and Processing Investment Tax Credit	✓				Existing Funds
Kick-start new home construction with a one-year program to rebate 50% of HST	✓				\$10,500,000
Boost the Equity Tax Credit to promote investment in communities	✓				\$1,000,000
Increase renewable energy to 25% by 2015				✓	Revenue: \$3,000,000
Challenge Ottawa to ensure its fishery policies reflect the needs of independent fishermen	✓				No Cost
10-Year Farm Strategy to improve competitiveness and profitability			✓		\$900,000
Re-direct staff from government communications to direct-marketing of primary industries		✓			No Cost
Protect lands for primary resource use and public access by establishing a Community Land Trust	✓				No Cost
Create a Prior Learning Assessment pilot program		✓			Existing Funds
2. Keep emergency rooms open and reduce health care waits					
Open the hospital beds needed to admit patients stuck in overcrowded ERs		✓			\$4,850,000
Emergency Department Protection Fund to hire needed doctors, keep ERs running		✓			\$3,000,000
Open Cobequid Community Health Centre 24/7, including 3 additional assessment bed capacity		✓			\$2,250,000
Set Up Pre-Hab Teams to reduce waits for surgery		✓			\$1,315,560
Provincial Advisor to lead Emergency Care improvement	✓				\$100,000
Ministerial accountability for Emergency Departments	✓				No Cost
Help cover travel and accommodation expenses arising from out-of-province medical care	✓				\$750,000
Establish targets for acute and chronic disease reduction			✓		\$500,000
Reduce doctors' paperwork and set goals for standards of preventive care		✓			No Cost
Establish a Drug Management Policy Unit			✓		Savings: \$2,000,000
Improve access to primary care with more nurse practitioners			✓		\$1,500,000
3. Ensure more young people stay and build a life here in Nova Scotia					
Tax incentives to keep university and community college graduates in Nova Scotia		✓			\$6,500,000
Create 250 new community college seats targeted to high-demand trades and professions		✓			\$2,000,000
Targeted support to keep community schools open and address shortages		✓			\$2,000,000
Create 250 subsidized child care spaces			✓		\$1,200,000
Establish Every Kid Counts program to help parents				✓	\$2,500,000
4. Take the HST off home energy to make life more affordable					
Roll back the Conservatives' 8% tax increase on home electricity		✓			\$28,000,000
Provide 1,000 home insulation grants for qualified home owners			✓		\$1,000,000
Energy retrofits for community outreach organizations		✓			No Cost
Energy retrofits for schools		✓			No Cost
Independent review of auto insurance to ensure lowest, fairest rates		✓			No Cost
5. Fix rural roads and keep communities strong					
Budget 50% more to resurface rural secondary roads			✓		\$4,000,000
Undertake a five-year paving plan	✓				No Cost
Enhance bridge and truck inspections to improve road safety		✓			\$400,000
Improve road building standards	✓				No Cost
Launch a Suburban Priorities Team to strategically address challenges facing suburban communities	✓				Existing Funds
Double provincial immigration targets and initiate an immigrant jobs strategy		✓			Existing Funds
Establish after-school Lighthouse programs to give youth positive alternatives		✓			\$240,000
Increase and stabilize funding for Transition Houses and Women's Centres			✓		\$500,000
6. Give seniors options to stay in their homes and communities longer					
Implement self-managed care allowances and personal alert assistance programs		✓			\$1,600,000
Home adaptation funds for seniors				✓	\$1,500,000
End security deposits for seniors in long-term care facilities	✓				No Cost
Provide more restorative care to address mobility concerns and medication issues				✓	\$250,000
Nurse practitioners to augment care in nursing homes		✓			\$454,628
7. Live within our means					
Balance the budget		✓	✓	✓	No Cost
Immediate audit to determine true state of provincial finances	✓				\$100,000
Reduce the size of Cabinet from its current 18 members to 12	✓				Savings: \$850,000
Put the Legislature back to work for Nova Scotians	✓				No Cost
Expenditure management review, with a target of up to 1% savings	✓				Savings: \$73,500,000
Timely approval of DHA, School Board and community agency budgets		✓			No Cost

Clip and save.

These are commitments Darrell Dexter and the NDP will keep.



genuine leadership for today's families

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Better Deal 2009

The NDP plan to make life better for today's families

Genuine leadership

Darrell Dexter



“Nova Scotia is a province with great people and a great future. What we need is a government with fresh energy and new ideas to make our province an even better place to live, work, do business and raise a family. That's what our NDP campaign is all about.

Our seven key commitments will create opportunities for young people to put down roots here, make it easier for families to get ahead and ensure seniors have the security and care they need to enjoy life.

Please have a look at our practical, balanced plan – the Better Deal 2009. It builds on past successes, and sets a course for the future. It's affordable and achievable – a very different approach from the \$1.9 billion in irresponsible, last minute promises made by the Conservatives.

It's time for a change. June 9th is your chance to make that happen. Together, we can make life better for today's families.” – Darrell Dexter



Genuine leadership for you and your family

7 commitments that will make life better for today's families

1 Create the secure jobs Nova Scotia's economy needs



Tough times call for genuine leadership. Rodney MacDonald's Conservatives delayed the budget. Instead of a plan for the Nova Scotia economy, Rodney MacDonald is making billions of dollars worth of last-minute election promises. The NDP will create 2,200 secure jobs by rewarding investment in Nova Scotia companies, including those in key sectors like forestry. We'll kick-start new home construction with a one-year program to rebate 50% of the provincial sales tax. And we'll ensure that Nova Scotia maximizes federal infrastructure funds to help get the economy moving. Recognizing the importance of primary industries, we'll make Nova Scotia farming more competitive, we'll work for stronger fisheries policies and we'll protect lands for primary resource use and public access. Nova Scotia workers and managers can compete with the best in the world, especially with Darrell Dexter's fresh attention to fundamentals of economic success, like stable energy prices and more skills training.

2 Keep emergency rooms open and reduce health care waits



Too often Nova Scotians are turned away from closed emergency rooms, or forced to wait too long for the care they need. You just can't count on Rodney MacDonald's Conservatives when it comes to health care. If anything, waits have gotten worse. Darrell Dexter and the NDP will open the hospital beds needed to ease ER overcrowding, and we'll recruit doctors to cover hard-to-fill shifts so emergency rooms can remain open. We'll improve access to primary care by reducing paperwork for family doctors, and boosting collaborative care with more nurse practitioners. The NDP will reduce wait times for surgery with Pre-Hab teams, and improve the focus on preventive care and disease reduction. We will make more effective use of prescription drugs. Each step in the NDP plan means more Nova Scotians can receive care when they need it, rather than waiting as their health gets worse.

3 Ensure more young people stay and build a life here in Nova Scotia



Nova Scotia's population is aging, and in the coming years we'll have fewer people entering the workforce. Other provinces are investing in their future, by recruiting and keeping more of the young people they need. Rodney MacDonald's Conservatives have ignored the opportunity to win the competition for the best and brightest, the skilled and hard-working young women and men whose talents can make this an even better place to live, work and do business. The NDP plan will provide up to \$15,000 to university and college graduates who stay and build a life here in Nova Scotia. We'll provide even more training opportunities than planned by creating 250 new seats at the NS Community College for in-demand trades and professions. The NDP will invest in prior learning assessment and recognition to improve Nova Scotia's lagging employment rate. And we'll help working parents with young children by creating an additional 250 child care spaces and initiating Every Kid Counts, a program to support parents dealing with the challenges growing children can face.

4 Take the HST off home energy to make life more affordable



Today's families already pay a lot for the essentials of life, and worry about making ends meet in these uncertain times. That burden is even heavier thanks to Rodney MacDonald's 8% tax on basic home electricity – a promise he broke soon after he made it. The NDP will get rid of that 8% tax. The NDP will make sure there is no HST added to the price you pay for home energy. The gravest threat to our environment is climate change. The NDP plan focuses on two key steps for Nova Scotians to help in this global battle – conservation, and the switch to renewable energy. The NDP will provide new insulation grants to thousands of homeowners. The NDP plan also helps communities reduce energy use and costs with retrofits for schools and community-based agencies, as Nova Scotia works to achieve the ambitious environmental and sustainability goals that were adopted unanimously by the legislature.

5 Fix rural roads and keep communities strong



Rural roads keep most Nova Scotians connected to jobs, to markets, to health care and education, to family and to businesses. But after 10 years of Conservative governments, many secondary roads are in terrible condition, and rural communities are facing major challenges. The NDP plan will increase the budget for secondary road resurfacing by 50%. And we will undertake a 5-year paving plan, so road builders can work more efficiently, and communities can count on having their roads improved. The NDP will work with road builders to improve road standards. Stronger communities are also part of the NDP plan, with steps to give young people positive choices, support vital women's services, address the challenges facing suburban communities, and double immigration targets to help reverse population declines.

6 Give seniors options to stay in their homes and communities longer



Too many seniors are forced to travel hundreds of kilometres for care, or left to languish in hospital beds awaiting more appropriate care, when their first and healthiest choice would be to stay in their own home and community. The NDP plan will provide the help that many seniors need to avoid much more costly nursing home care: self-managed care allowances, and home adaptation funds. We'll hire nurse practitioners to attend at nursing homes, and we will ease the financial burden on seniors in those facilities by eliminating security deposits. The NDP plan includes a range of other steps to help seniors stay stronger and healthier.

7 Live within our means



Rodney MacDonald's Conservatives have mismanaged the province's finances. They brought in legislation to cover up a deficit of at least \$260 million. They've wasted money on things like ATVs for children and salary increases for senior political staff. Rodney MacDonald ballooned his Cabinet to 18 members, giving all but two of his MLAs a post. Now he's planning to add \$1.4 billion to the Nova Scotia debt, resulting in \$250 million more in debt payments every year. Darrell Dexter and the NDP know that debt and deficits are not the road to prosperity. The NDP is committed to ensuring that Nova Scotia lives within its means, starting with a smaller Cabinet and an independent audit to find out the true state of the province's finances. An expenditure management review across the public sector will save up to 1% in non-essential spending.

Darrell Dexter



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