

Expect Better

Election Platform 2017

Authorized by the official agent for the Green Party of Nova Scotia



Expect Better

A letter from the GPNS co-leaders:



The Green Party of Nova Scotia thinks long term.

We are dedicated to building a thriving and healthy Nova Scotia for our children and their children. That means we are committed to long-term, practical solutions for a sustainable and prosperous future.

To accomplish this, we must have the courage to confront the major challenges we face: a flawed political system, fiscal peril, job and food insecurity, growing income inequality, a cumbersome approach to health care, the climate crisis, and ecological decline.

The Green Party represents a new approach: an opportunity to change, for the better, our politics, our communities, and our economy. The Green vision reflects sustainability, social justice and respect. We

believe that Nova Scotians have the ingenuity and the will to build a prosperous and just society, with an economy that provides work for all while respecting the natural world and our place within it.

Real change engages all the possibilities of who we are.

Our priorities are reflected in the 11 sections of this platform document. We think these reflect the most pressing needs to move forward into the future our province deserves.

What We Stand For

These six principles define what the Green Party of Nova Scotia stands for:

- Participatory Democracy
- Sustainability
- Respect for Diversity
- Ecological Wisdom
- Social Justice
- Nonviolence



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Together these core values build a culture of sustainability.

We believe that Nova Scotia can be nurtured into one of the best places in the world in which to live, with a responsive and responsible government working cooperatively in true public service. We want a viable, healthy future for everyone.

Our policies and platform seek economic and social development, environmental protection and democratic reform. We desire to change the direction of politics, economics and communities. Never before has the need to reconcile our relationships with each other and with the Earth, which sustains all life, been more urgent. There is real opportunity for substantial, positive change and we are prepared to make it happen.

So, what would a Green Party Government in Nova Scotia value?

- the foundational importance of securing the basic needs of citizens;
- cultural diversity that is respected and included in the principles that guide decisions in community development;
- equitable delivery of social services and resources to rural communities;
- relevant employment opportunities within the province for all Nova Scotians, but particularly those who receive post-secondary education;

So, what would a Green Party Government in Nova Scotia do?

- target investment to create jobs in: small business, green energy expansion, conservation measures, agriculture, information and technology development, and forestry resource management ;
- use research from the Nova Scotia Genuine Progress Index (GPI) in planning and policy assessments;
- facilitate small business and new employment opportunities by investing in infrastructure to accommodate broadband internet access to all Nova Scotians ; and
- explore import substitution to sustain local producers

We look forward to engaging with more Nova Scotians, through this election and into the future. We think long term, but we know the time to act is now.

Sincerely,

*Thomas Trappenberg, Leader
and Jessica Alexander, Deputy Leader*



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Improve Government

The Legislative Assembly of Nova Scotia can be a model of collaboration and decorum working for the good of all Nova Scotians. It can be creative and work collaboratively to deal with issues and spend taxpayers' money prudently. A fair voting system that represents the popular vote, such as Mixed Member Proportional Representation, can also be introduced to elect our representatives. A reliable representative government fosters a democracy that is participatory, representative and responsive.

Many citizens, especially youth, are so frustrated and disenfranchised that they do not vote. At this time, all decisions are made by one party and one leader, often in secret. There is ample room and clear possibility for improvement. Green MLAs will base decisions on evidence and seek to work collaboratively.

Green Party MLAs will be expected to serve their constituents first, and will put more power in the hands of citizens and communities to help solve the challenges that we face. This will be done through citizen assemblies, town hall meetings, and Legislative committee hearings.

Green MLAs want to:

- create a legislature that truly represents the best interests of all Nova Scotians and supports non-partisan collaboration;
- enact the most stringent conflict of interest guidelines in Canada;
- revise the Election Act to ensure binding fixed-date elections;
- represent their constituents first, without obligation to toe the party line, ie, no whipped votes



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- end of the first-past-the-post voting system; select an appropriate form of proportional representation for Nova Scotia based on past research and public consultation;
- lower the voting age to 16.
- implement participatory democracy practices such as councils, authentic consultation or referenda in order to get Nova Scotians involved in decision making;
- increase transparency and accountability within public institutions by bringing municipalities and post-secondary institutions under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act;
- increase funding to the Freedom of Information Commissioner to ensure public information is recorded and conserved properly, and is accessible by citizens in a timely and efficient manner.

Green Party MLAs will be expected to serve their constituents first, and will put more power in the hands of citizens and communities to help solve the challenges that we face.





Prevent and Fight Poverty

The Green Party of Nova Scotia recognizes that a plan to build healthy sustainable communities must include a comprehensive strategy that addresses all aspects of poverty in Nova Scotia – its causes and effects. Before we expect Nova Scotians to become active social and economic investors in their communities, we must first ensure that they have secure access to affordable shelter, nutritious food, clean water, and a fair wage.

Poverty impacts health, both physical and mental, education potential, and crime rates, and therefore impacts the whole of society. While poverty reduction strategies are important for immediate relief, in a province wealthy with natural resources and social capital, we should be working towards equitably eliminating poverty.

The Green Party believes that an essential first step to alleviating poverty is to ensure that everyone has sufficient income to allow them to meet their needs. Eliminating poverty requires comprehensive solutions aimed at underlying causes and contributors to poverty.

A Living Wage

A positive first step would be the implementation of a living wage. A living wage is the minimum income necessary for a citizen to meet all basic needs such as housing, food, utilities and transportation costs. An individual working forty hours a week should be able to afford the basics of life.

The Green Party recognizes that economic realities will require working with the small business sector that depends on minimum wage employees to achieve appropriate timelines for this implementation.



Guaranteed Livable Income (GLI)

The Green Party believes it is time to explore a major policy initiative – a negative income tax, or a Guaranteed Livable Income (GLI) for all. The use of a GLI eliminates poverty by ensuring that each citizen's income does not fall below the level necessary to meet their most basic needs. The level of benefit is set at a livable income threshold, but at a subsistence level to encourage additional income generation.

There are significant cost savings to streamlining existing benefits and tax credits into one lump payment that citizens allocate toward their own needs, rather than having to request various benefits from different levels of governments or agencies.

Plus, many more people will be able to focus on caregiving, wellness or recovery.

Technology has greatly reduced the amount of jobs available, and policymakers must ensure that the changing labour market does not leave the population lacking basic necessities.

Expanding home energy conservation programs that assist the most vulnerable in making efficiency improvements is important in helping citizens make their energy dollars go further.

Green MLAs want to:

- work toward raising the basic personal income tax exemption to a level above the poverty line. No one under the poverty line should be paying income tax;
- replace a minimum wage with a living wage, phased in over time so that anyone working full-time will earn enough to keep them out of poverty;
- establish a Guaranteed Living Income Commission within 12 months to conduct a public consultation to identify a style of GLI that best suits Nova Scotia;
- invest in home energy conservation and efficiency improvements, starting with those most in need;
- support social services that are evidence-based and free of political intervention;
- implement a Housing First strategy to combat homelessness in Sydney and Halifax, with core sustained funding; and,
- work to close the wage gap between men and women.





Strengthen Local Communities and Economy

A strong and stable economy uses the resources at its disposal. In Nova Scotia, we are blessed with the foundations on which to build a successful economy based on our traditional strengths in farming, fishing, arts, culture and tourism, as well as a vibrant and growing technology sector. A strong local economy is built with a diversity of vibrant small businesses. A strong local economy is also one which is increasingly self-reliant and is resilient in times of growing global instabilities.

The Green Party understands that in order to build and sustain a self-reliant and prosperous province, the basic needs of every Nova Scotian must first be met in their own communities in equitable and inclusive ways.

The Green Party will strengthen local economies in our cities and in our rural communities by focusing on small businesses, both existing and start-ups. According to CFIB (2010), small business is huge in Nova Scotia – over 97% of all businesses here employ fewer than 50 people. Our strategy will foster new employment by creating green jobs supplying local food, retrofitting and constructing green buildings, producing local renewable energy sustainably, and supplying more of what Nova Scotians need.

The expansion of the tax base that will come from such development, is critical to the overall fiscal health of the Province. One example of promising industries is the information technology sector which is instrumental to growing new greener economies in our cities and rural areas. We will champion the arts, tourism and recreation as essential to building vibrant new economies in every corner of our province.

We need to rapidly increase our production of renewable energy, strengthen the local farming sector, and build our green industries. While we grow our green economy, we must also move to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, reduce our consumption, and reduce our waste.



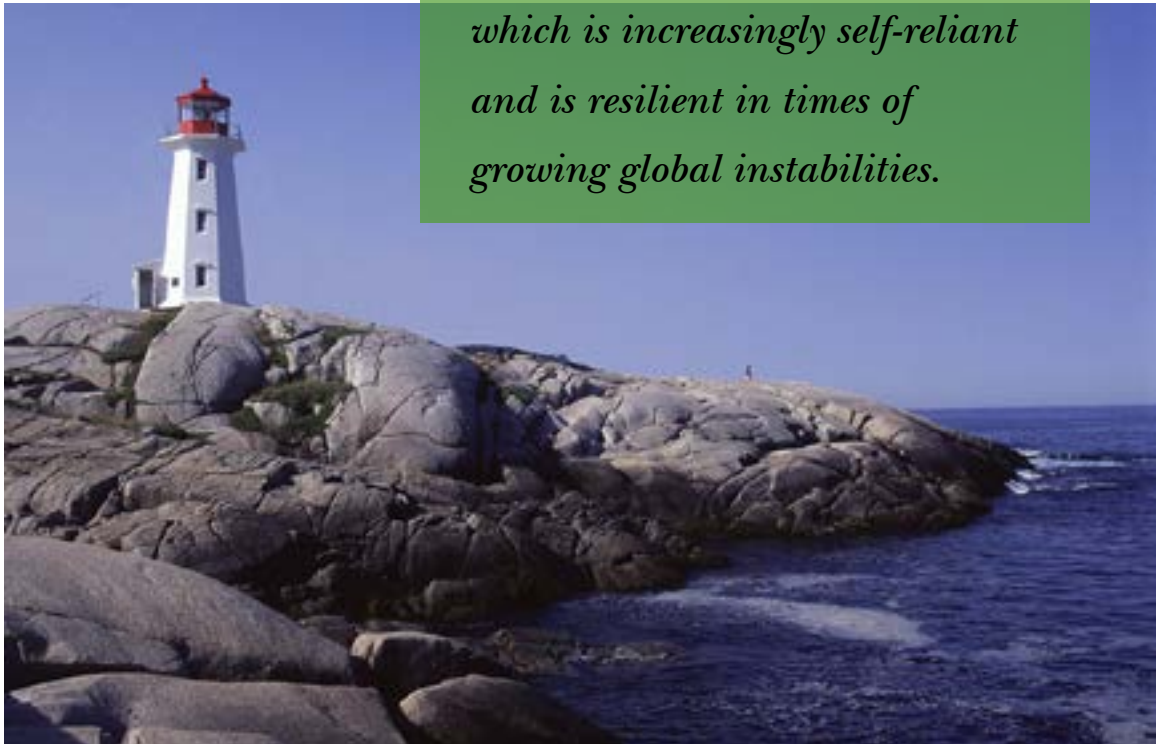
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The Green Party's goal is to create an economy which enhances the quality of life for all citizens, revitalizes rural Nova Scotia, and respects and nurtures the human and natural capital of Nova Scotia.

Green MLAs want to:

- ensure that the health, education, and economic needs of Nova Scotians are met within or near their home communities;
- use full-cost accounting in setting and evaluating policy;
- work toward affordable adequate housing and poverty reduction;
- work to bring green businesses and industries to Nova Scotia;
- enhance affordable public transit in larger centres and across the province;
- encourage initiatives to provide secure sources of energy to Nova Scotians including a feed-in tariff;
- support sustainable, lower-impact transportation initiatives, including active transportation infrastructure;
- prioritize pedestrian-oriented urban and suburban development ; and
- support family farms and other primary producers to increase local food supply.

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which is increasingly self-reliant
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growing global instabilities.*



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Better Health. Better Health Care

The Green Party of Nova Scotia views health and wellness in a broad sense, emphasizing healthy communities, lifestyles and environment, not just medical care. Strategies to reduce pollution in our environment, address the social determinants of health, and encourage wise lifestyle choices are important components of the Green Party's health plan.

We propose an approach that will mean less reliance on acute care, taking the strain off our health care system and improving quality of life province-wide.

The health of Nova Scotians is not only dependent on the health services they receive but on access to affordable housing, available employment, and accessible education.

One of the most frequently cited barriers to the physical activity necessary for health is lack of safe areas. Street-scale urban design and land-use policies and practices may increase environmental supports, such as safety, walkability, improved sense of community, decreased isolation, and reduction in crime and stress.

Nova Scotians are still facing significant challenges to accessing the health care they need and want in their communities. Lack of family physicians, emergency room closures and long wait times, and high drug costs are all critical challenges facing the health care system in Nova Scotia. The Green Party offers a vision to bolster the current system, to tackle these issues and plan for viable, sustainable health care in Nova Scotia for generations to come.

A Green government would support inter-professional health care through providing and networking physiotherapists, dieticians, midwives, nurse practitioners, etc., reducing the burden on doctors and averting wait times. Promoting wellness means supporting people to take active, lifelong measures to stay as healthy as possible.



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Green MLAs want to:

- acknowledge that economic, social and environmental factors play a profound role in health and wellness;
- ensure that Nova Scotians can access the services of nutritionists and dieticians;
- increase emphasis on proactive wellness;
- employ patient navigators to facilitate timely access to mental health and addictions care;
- enhance local, timely and comprehensive sexual, fertility, and reproductive health services;
- regulate the responsible use of marijuana once federally legalized and ensure it is available for medical purposes;
- ensure midwifery is an option for all women in Nova Scotia regardless of region;
- provide community-based end-of-life care;
- integrate dental care into the health care system;
- provide financial incentives to encourage health practitioners to practice in underserved communities, including partial or full forgiving of student loans based on length of service;
- ensure the development of multi-level Long Term Care facilities to decrease the current cruel practice of separating couples who have different care needs;
- ensure access to potable water and sanitation in all Nova Scotian communities and legislate access to public water via public taps and fountains.; and
- encourage the development of mobile fresh food markets in areas that lack access to healthy food, ie “food deserts”;
- reduce administrative burden in health care
- launch research and feasibility studies to examine provincial pharmacare coverage and a province wide health formulary so that first line affordable medications are available to all Nova Scotians.
- partner with communities to build or enhance access to safe places and initiatives for physical activity
- facilitate the development of community trails
- seek ways to increase active lifestyles among youth by promoting community health initiatives, subsidizing health memberships and lessons, and offering school credit; and,
- support community design and transportation planning policy to encourage walking and other forms of active transportation.





Building Food Security

Across the world, as the effects of climate change take hold, food sovereignty is becoming a major issue. A recent study out of Dalhousie (Coley, 2017) points to a concern that Nova Scotia grocery stores are a weak link in a short supply chain – with a supply interruption of only a few days, tens of thousands of Nova Scotians' access to food would be jeopardized. To ensure the long-term food security of the people of Nova Scotia, we must develop an agricultural sector that can provide for us all. Growers, harvesters, and food processors must be able to make an adequate livelihood in Nova Scotia. Agricultural production, harvesting, and food processing can also be environmentally sustainable. The Green Party places particular emphasis on organic food production. Investment in organic food production triples its payoff, as it is also an investment in a healthier environment and a healthier population.

Promoting a 'Nova Scotian-Made' brand that focuses on healthy, sustainably produced foods opens varied new markets for farmers. Offering supports to those switching to more sustainable and organic practices, as well as supports for artisanal businesses like wineries, cheese-makers, microbreweries and other specialized production encourages the diversification of our food systems and enhances tourism possibilities.

Green MLAs want to:

- establish a Local Food Security Act that sets provincial targets for production and consumption of local food, requires institutional buying and establishes a labeling system to clearly identify Nova Scotian produced food;
- enhance supports for the production of high quality, value-added produce by aiding farmers in transition to organic and other sustainable practices;
- implement a New Homesteaders' Plan with the goal of encouraging new farmers and creating more small farms;
- develop a Nova Scotian Farmland Trust that will remove financial barriers to new farmers, encourage a more diverse agricultural industry and keep farmland in production;



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- expand on the “Taste of Nova Scotia” program to better reflect pure, healthful, and sustainably produced Nova Scotia foods;
- encourage the development of mobile fresh food markets in areas that lack access to healthy food, ie “food deserts”;
- encourage and support urban farming practices;
- hire sufficient inspectors to enforce anti-cruelty legislation;
- remove impediments to small-scale food and beverage operations; ensure that the regulations we use are practical and beneficial and that they do not create unnecessary red tape;
- ensure that adequate alternative distribution systems are available in a food system with many smaller suppliers; and
- increase research funding for sustainable agriculture, including the local wine industry, and fisheries.

*Implement a New Homesteaders’
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Improving education

The Green Party of Nova Scotia is committed to the principles of lifelong learning. From preschool through post-secondary to seniors, we recognize the importance of education for providing the stimulation and tools for everyone to participate successfully in society. Education is one of the building blocks for a prosperous sustainable future.

We understand that educating youth to succeed in the 21st century requires the development of innovative curriculum and investment in new technologies for classrooms across the province. We also understand new technologies in the classroom need to be paired with professional development for teachers, to ensure they are acquainted with the best practices for using these high-tech tools. Making more resources available for e-learning will better equip rural schools with expanded options for specialization plus cater to individual needs.

The Green Party recognizes that growing numbers of Nova Scotia children and youth require additional assistance in their classrooms and communities. We believe the school should be a place of whole-child development. In addition to traditional curriculum, children and youth require training in social, emotional and psychological literacy.

The Green Party believes that direct investment in our children is one of the best ways to move Nova Scotia toward a just and prosperous future.

Education is the primary pathway out of poverty and the best means of developing self-confidence and an understanding of the responsibilities of citizenship. It is critical, then, that our public and post-secondary school systems are effective and accessible to everyone. It is essential that our teachers are given the resources they need to ensure that all of their students, no matter their abilities, can reach their full potential. Every child must be able to contribute to our society.

Tuition-free post-secondary education is an ideal towards which any society should strive, and is our long-term goal. In the short term, we must reduce the cost of post-secondary education so young adults are not burdened with insupportable debt when they leave school.



Education is in a state of transformation around the world as we realize that the industrial model of education favoured for over a century may not equip today's students for the world of the future. The delivery of uniform courses measured with standardized testing, and the hierarchy of subjects where the arts and humanities are considered second-rate subjects is not catering to the individual and diverse interests and talents of our students. Education must be more than a delivery system of information. It must be the spark that ignites the curiosity inherent in every child. Music and the other arts are important, not only because they can improve math scores, but because if they are not a central part of the curriculum, we are failing to speak to parts of many children's core being.

The Green Party envisions an education system with the ultimate goal of producing engaged, informed and enthusiastic young people, who will continue to be lifelong contributing members of society. We imagine a system where every single child's unique talents are nurtured to the utmost, and where close links to the community are developed.

Green MLAs want to:

- provide a prominent role for teachers in the development and evolution of education policy and how it is implemented;
- repeal the unconstitutional Bill 75, compelling government to negotiate labour contracts with teachers in a transparent and constructive way;
- re-introduce citizenship studies and foster community engagement;
- introduce outdoor education curricula to increase the amount of physical education and promote healthy, active lifestyles;
- restore trades and other skills-based curricula in intermediate and high schools, and expand paid apprenticeships and co-op placement programs;
- expand school-based arts programs including visual, musical, performing and dramatic arts;
- make NSCC tuition-free for Nova Scotian students;
- provide resources for homeschoolers;
- develop a program whereby university or college graduates could have their student loans forgiven if they choose to work for a set period in a community service job;
- end standardized testing, exploring other models for performance assessment;
- support nutrition and food skills education from grades primary through 12;
- work toward removing tuition fees from universities for Nova Scotian students;
- remove parental annual income from student loan criteria; and
- amend eligibility requirements for adult literacy programs province-wide to ensure all citizens can participate.





Respecting First Nations

We must begin by acknowledging that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People.

This territory is covered by the “Treaties of Peace and Friendship” which Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) people first signed with the British Crown in 1725. The treaties did not deal with surrender of lands and resources but in fact recognized Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) title and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between nations.

Canada is often touted as one of the best places on earth in which to live, with one profound exception.

The quality of life for many of us is sharply contrasted by life on First Nations reserves and life for off-reserve urban indigenous people across Canada.

The issues impacting indigenous people in Canada are complex and cannot be assessed without a full sense of the violence of generations of occupation and assault upon their traditional cultures and values.

In very plain terms, the focus of our work is to arrive at a place where Indigenous peoples can actually exercise and enjoy our individual and collective rights without obstruction. It's that simple.”

- Dalee Sambo Dorough, Inuit Circumpolar Council.



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There must be fundamental dignity for all indigenous peoples, and if the federal government refuses to lead in this area, the provinces must take charge. The Green Party of Nova Scotia promises to lead with respect, allying with First Nations leaders to end negligent policies and ensure strong support of health, education, water protection, and economic opportunities in our jurisdiction.

Green MLAs want to:

- use the Peace and Friendship Treaties, the Royal Proclamation of 1763 entrenched in Canada's Constitution Act, the rulings of the Supreme Court, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as the framework for reconciliation with indigenous peoples and serve as an ally to Nova Scotia First Nations in their dealings with Ottawa.
- launch a public education program to build awareness about the rich history, culture, and wisdom of indigenous peoples in Mi'kma'ki;
- advocate that the federal government finance native language immersion education for First Nations children, and support immersion teacher training to build capacity to restore lost or waning indigenous language;
- respect the Sipekne'katik First Nation's aim to prevent river brining and gas storage on their ancestral land;
- recognize and support the ability of indigenous peoples to maintain ways of living on the land that are vital to their cultures, health and well-being;
- work with Ottawa to fully implement the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission; and
- enact Jordan's Principle, which aims to make sure First Nations children can access public services ordinarily available to other Canadian children without experiencing any service denials, delays or disruptions related to their First Nations status.





Full-Cost Accounting

The Green Party of Nova Scotia recognizes the intricate connections of a healthy environment, conservative use of our natural resources, thriving communities, and a sustainable economy. The Green Party insists that progress toward sustainable long-term prosperity and well-being requires protection and strengthening of social and environmental assets and termination of damaging activities.

The Green Party concedes that the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has its place as one type of measure of the economy; however, it is not useful in measuring progress in the health, resiliency, and sustainability of our society.

Many key social and natural assets are not valued in conventional balance sheets and a much broader range of real benefits and costs need to be included in our economic accounts. Full-cost accounting tracks produced material and financial capital as in conventional economic accounts, and in addition, it explicitly values human, social, and natural capital, recognizing that all these forms of capital require re-investment to maintain and enhance their value.

The Green Party acknowledges the Genuine Progress Index (GPI) approach as an accounting framework consistent with Green Party goals. The Green Party values the research on the Nova Scotia Genuine Progress Index, recognizing that further work on the GPI is planned to include other key dimensions important to the Green Party.

The Green Party of Nova Scotia aims to:

- utilize full-cost accounting that assesses of full economic, social, and environmental costs and benefits; and
- incorporate full-cost accounting as a primary measure and a planning guide for economic progress.



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Energy Security and Climate

Nova Scotia will be profoundly affected by climate change. Through innovative policy and establishing secure energy supplies, we can position ourselves economically for an energy future that is robust, sustainable, safe and affordable.

Nova Scotia gets most of its electricity by burning imported coal. This produces greenhouse gases and other air contaminants, and importing the coal does not give the province a secure source of fuel.

Nova Scotia is currently investing millions in offshore petroleum and promoting onshore petroleum, even though success in offshore exploration is uncertain and onshore gas production from unconventional fields like shale and coal is risky.

With the impact of rising levels of greenhouse gases and the level of dependence on insecure sources of fossil fuels in Nova Scotia, the time to transition to secure renewable energy is now.

Transportation is the largest user of refined petroleum products in the province. Much of the province does not have affordable public transportation and it offers little opportunity for safe, effective bike use.

The switch to alternate energy sources in Nova Scotia should begin as soon as possible. Conservation is by far the cheapest and most doable step. There is also great potential in cogeneration, where energy, especially heat that would normally be wasted from a commercial operation, is recovered for use.

New forms of energy must be developed and integrated into our society. Thus far, wind has been developed extensively while little attention has been paid to other viable alternative sources such as tidal and solar. The Green Party strategy is designed to make Nova Scotia self-reliant in a variety of clean, sustainable energy supplies indefinitely into the future.



Government can be instrumental in assisting the transition from fossil fuels, and in ensuring that energy security and affordability is protected and maintained for all Nova Scotians. To facilitate this transition to a more secure energy future a Green government would establish a Fee and Dividend Energy Security Plan.

Fee and Dividend Energy Security Plan

To internalize the social cost of carbon we propose an initial fee on the CO₂ content of fossil fuels, increasing every year. Accounting for the true cost of carbon-based fuels creates a level-playing field for all sources of energy, and informs consumers of the true cost-comparison of various fuels when making purchase decisions. A small amount of the revenue from the carbon fee would be dedicated to stimulating alternative energy capacity and enhancing our public transportation system.

Through the Fee and Dividend Energy Security Plan the vast majority of households will receive more than they will pay for increased energy costs. This will stimulate the local economy, create good, long-term jobs, protect family budgets, and allow households to make independent choices about their energy usage, and position Nova Scotia to be a world leader in clean energy technologies.

Green MLAs want to :

- implement a Fee and Dividend Energy Security Plan;
- use a small percentage of the income from Fee and Dividend Energy Security Plan to enhance public transportation systems and stimulate alternative energy capacity;
- reduce our reliance on coal immediately;
- end all exploration of oil and gas in Nova Scotia, including fracking;
- perform energy audits on public buildings and implement changes to reduce operating costs;
- where possible, use renewable energy to power existing provincial buildings;
- improve building construction standards for new construction to reduce energy consumption;
- continue to encourage conversion from radiant electric to air source heat pumps; and
- ensure that Nova Scotia Power pays electricity producers a guaranteed price for their energy (feed-in tariffs)



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Envisioning Culture

We live in a beautiful province. From mayflowers and lighthouses to the Cape Breton Highlands and our rich cuisine, our maritime culture and landscapes are trademarks worth protecting. Our distinctive history and culture are tourism assets and an essential part of our quality of life.

One of Nova Scotia's greatest natural resources is its people and their expressions of identity and place. Nova Scotia is well positioned to capitalize on the expanding experiential tourism market. A thriving and genuine arts and culture experience is as important for our visitors as it is for our residents. Because it is important to acknowledge the major contributions made by arts and culture to the provincial economy, the Green Party recognizes that the qualitative, long lasting impact of arts and culture to our society is priceless.

Green MLAs want to:

- work with provincial arts, culture and heritage organizations to develop a long-term plan for preserving, sustaining and fostering a thriving arts and culture sector in Nova Scotia;
- develop a long-term, cohesive vision and strategy for tourism that recognizes the value of an unspoiled environment to our provincial identity;
- invest in both human resources and infrastructure to support artists and the cultural industry;
- increase promotion and supports for experiential and eco-tourism;
- increase grants provided by Arts Nova Scotia;
- develop transparent procedures for the distribution of Culture and Tourism funds;



- re-instate the Nova Scotia Film Tax Credit. Consult with industry professionals on how to rebuild the screen arts industry in addition to the tax credit;
- invest in libraries, heritage and cultural, facilities and programming;
- provide funding for the Cape Breton Gaelic College;
- recognize the unique contribution of Nova Scotia College of Art and Design as an independent entity, contributing to the education and arts landscape in Nova Scotia; and
- sustain funding for Arts Nova Scotia.

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Protect and Preserve our Environment

The Green Party of Nova Scotia recognizes that there is a human rights consideration in the exposure to environmental contaminants, and supports the theory of an environmental bill of rights.

Forests

The Green Party is committed to the important reforms outlined in the Natural Resources Strategy, specifically:

- reducing the use of clear-cutting to no more than 50% of all forest harvesting within five years;
- regulate whole-tree harvesting;
- to stop public subsidies for herbicide spraying;
- require all Crown land in the province allocated for harvest be Forest Stewardship Council certified;
- end the current practice of allowing forestry companies to spray Round-Up® on Crown land.

Coasts

Nova Scotia's coastlines need protection from inappropriate development and climate change hazards. We will:

- establish a Coastal Protection Act that will reduce the likelihood of threats to safety and property, minimize the expenditure of public dollars to repair coastal infrastructure, protect sensitive coastal ecosystems, and enhance the buffering capacity of our coasts;



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- consult coastal communities on the overhaul of the regulation of aquaculture in Nova Scotia. Address legitimate concerns, guided by the ideal of aquaculture that is low impact and high value, integrating economic prosperity, social well-being and environmental sustainability;
- ensure that aquaculture practices guards the health of wild salmon, i.e., prevent escapes.

Water

The Green Party will work toward a strategy for water security that incorporates ecological integrity, sustainable management, equitable access, and efficient and conservative use. We aim to:

- exclude water from all trade agreements;
- support a ban on bulk water export from Nova Scotia;
- promote water conservation and water efficient technologies;
- expand the availability of public water fountains to discourage the need and use of bottled water; and
- take steps to ensure that shoreline communities and industries stop dumping untreated waste or insufficiently treated waste into rivers, lakes, and the ocean.

Waste Reduction and Management

The Green Party will build on the leading role of the waste reduction and management system and seek to reduce the need for new landfills. The Green Party wants to:

- work with the RRFB, federal and municipal governments to enhance manufacturers' responsibility for the lifetime stewardship of their products; and
- discourage the use of single-use plastics.

Land

We assert the principle that no person and no one should have absolute control of land, but only particular rights over the use of it. These rights to specific agreed categories of use should be under the control of the community through land-use planning. A clear framework of land-use planning must therefore be established which puts a high priority on the natural environment. We want to:

- establish strong links across provincial government departments to ensure that the policy framework and the regulations relevant to natural resource utilization and to management plans for protected areas address biodiversity, water, soils and other natural resources in an holistic manner as well as the resource specific considerations;
- pressure the federal government to review international trade agreements and remove Canada from those that limit how we are permitted to use capital or natural resources; or limit our ability to use our governance and economic institutions to more adequately care for one another and our environment;



- set a priority on completion of a protected areas network and protection of species at risk;
- develop initiatives for corrective actions in biologically impoverished areas to promote healthy plant biodiversity;
- ensure the social and economic needs of rural communities are fairly addressed by an equitable provincial sharing, and no area is open to the pressures of accepting an unwanted development because of economic desperation;
- work cooperatively with Land Trusts and other groups to secure Nova Scotia's natural spaces and public access to shorelines for present and future generations;
- educate residence, business, and institutional properties on options for healthy vegetation and;
- prohibit hydraulic fracturing (fracking) and the importation of the fluid waste from hydraulic fracturing in other provinces coming into NS for treatment, storage, or disposal.

Clean Air

The Green Party of Nova Scotia supports the right of human and other biological communities to clean air. While acknowledging the limitations for effective provincial control due to the regional and global impacts on air quality, the Green Party recognizes that we can do more in this province. We will:

- work toward a comprehensive strategy for clean air that incorporates intergovernmental cooperation to meet the goals for air quality set out in the Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act; and
- respect the role of vegetation, land forms, and aquatic systems in our air quality and reflect their value within cost-benefit assessments and relevant legislation and regulations.





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