



**Proven Record.  
Economy First.**

**PC**  
NOVA SCOTIA

**Our Plan**

# **Proven Record. Economy First.**

**The Progressive Conservative Party's Plan  
To Keep Nova Scotia Growing**



# Message from the Hon. Rodney MacDonald

The economy is on the minds of all Nova Scotians. The global changes are making us rethink the way we do business and the way we manage our own lives.

Nova Scotians have always been known for their ingenuity and for adapting to changes, for holding on tightly to the rudder to keep that even keel. We are doing just that right now. The PC Government has ensured that we carry on doing our part to help move our province through these uncertain times. We are taking decisive action to move our economy forward. We are growing jobs and opportunities. We are finding new doors to open to keep Nova Scotians here, at home... working, raising families, thriving and enjoying our enviable way of life.

The PC Government has a proven record and a plan to build on that record. We will open many doors and opportunities with our \$1.9 billion economic action plan - *Building for Growth* - that will create and maintain 20,000 jobs for Nova Scotia.

With your continued support, we can move forward. We can build more schools, roads, recreation centres, rinks and hospitals and correctional facilities. We can build up our rural communities, while enhancing the Capital region for the good of the entire province. We can build on the successes in our education system, by enhancing the learning opportunities and environments for our children. We can build on the excellence of our health system while encouraging more Nova Scotians to live healthy lives. We can build up our communities by battling crime and enhancing our natural lands. We can build lives by continuing to attract jobs, educating and training our youth, and supporting our natural resources. We can build Nova Scotia by ensuring our *Building for Growth* plan is allowed to move forward now, keeping Nova Scotia growing.

We have a proven record of keeping our commitments to Nova Scotians. Highlights of those promises kept include:

- ✓ Balanced budgets - for eight straight years
- ✓ Reduced debt and improved bond ratings
- ✓ Record job numbers
- ✓ A break on heating costs
- ✓ 2,000 km of new or repaved roads
- ✓ 250 new police officers
- ✓ 500 km of new trails
- ✓ Lower tuition
- ✓ A Family Pharmacare Plan for Nova Scotians who don't have a basic drug plan
- ✓ New schools
- ✓ New nursing home beds
- ✓ More child care spaces
- ✓ Shorter health care wait times

By working together and staying the course we can steer this province through the economic crisis and continue to find good opportunities for all Nova Scotians... with a **Proven Record**. and putting the **Economy First**.



Premier Rodney MacDonald  
Leader, PC Party of Nova Scotia



## **PRIORITIES OF THE PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT**

- 1 The Economy**
- 2 Rural Development**
- 3 Fighting Crime**
- 4 Defending Nova Scotia**
- 5 Roads and Infrastructure**

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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## The Economy

### The Record

- Our eighth balanced budget was introduced on May 4, 2009. Revenues exceeded expenditures by \$4 million.
- Announced \$1.9 billion *Building for Growth* - investing an additional \$800 million over three years, along with the \$1.1 billion we normally spend on capital projects, we will keep the economy moving and create or maintain 20,000 jobs.
- Our debt will be as affordable in 2012 as it is today. In other words, our direct debt compared to our gross domestic product will be no more than 36.7 per cent on March 31, 2012.
- In 1999, 18 cents out of every dollar went to servicing the debt. This year it has dropped to 10.3 cents.
- Took up a decades-old battle with the federal government and won. The deal returned \$234 million to the taxpayers of Nova Scotia as a first payment and another \$95 million last year.
- Increased to \$175 million the funds available to assist business through the Industrial Expansion Fund to support of businesses ready to expand, invest in new technology and to improve productivity and competitiveness.
- Set an ambitious goal to ensure all Nova Scotians have Broadband access. The \$75-million Broadband for Rural Nova Scotia initiative promises high-speed across the province.
- Committed to twin and modernize highways from Yarmouth to Sydney by 2020. Making significant progress on Highway 101, Highway 104 and Highway 103.
- Through our government's Nova Scotia Business Inc. (NSBI), generated more than \$22 million of investment in communities around the province with forecasted new job creation and retention of about 1,400 over the past year.
- Passed legislation to streamline credential recognition to attract nationally- and internationally-trained professionals and skilled workers to the province.
- Increased the Volunteer Firefighters Tax Credit amount from \$250 to \$500 for volunteer firefighters and expanded the tax credit to members of ground search and rescue teams.
- Assisted thousands of Nova Scotians this past winter with \$92 million in home heating assistance and help to save energy and money for years to come through our *Heat Smart Program*.



## The Economy

### What's Next

- To deal with the financial uncertainty, a PC Government will tighten its belt by implementing measures including a wage freeze for MLAs, Deputies and Assistant Deputies and political staff.
- Reintroduce and pass Nova Scotia's eighth straight balanced budget with the same revenue and expenditure measures brought forward in the legislature on May 4, 2009.
- A PC Government will introduce another four-year, 2000 km project to continue the aggressive schedule to improve our highways.
- Beginning in 2011, a PC Government will index personal income tax brackets and credits at a prescribed rate.
- Cut the small business tax rate in half - from 5 percent to 2.5 percent. Once in place, this tax cut will save 12,000 Nova Scotia businesses - \$25-\$30 million each year.
- Under our *Building for Growth* plan, directing approximately \$40 million on tourism-related projects including the upgrade of Nova Scotia's sailing ambassador, the *Bluenose II*, with \$14.4 million - in partnership with the Federal government.
- Introduce a Training Wage Rebate - eligible for 10 percent of the salary and wages paid to an apprentice in the first 12 months of their skills training - up to a ceiling of \$4000.
- Extending the time limit on using the graduate tax credit from three to five years. First introduced in 2006, offers a credit up to \$2,000 for those who stay and work here at home.
- Raising the cap for the Seniors Property Rebate Tax - an increase in the cap from \$400 to \$600 this year.
- Fulfill commitment to double the 2006 level of funding for arts and culture in 2010.





## ***Rebuilding Rural Nova Scotia*** **The Record**

- Assisted 222 volunteer fire departments and emergency response organizations across the province through the *Emergency Services Provider Fund*.
- Invested \$3 million in 2008 in an incentive program to help municipalities provide public transit in unserved and underserved rural areas.
- Taking action by investing \$36 million in payments to physicians covering emergency rooms in 2008.
- Introduced a new loan program, allowing Nova Scotia fishermen to apply for a loan to buy commercial licences.
- Gave a financial boost to Nova Scotia's boat builders to support competitiveness in the global market through \$1 million in cost-shared funding over two years for marketing and promotion initiatives for the industry.
- Investing \$2.5 million in the aquaculture sector over the next three years to help communities and workers hard hit by economic challenges.
- Invested over \$2 million in a new Halifax Farmers' Market.
- Introduced the Buy Local program. New funding - \$2.3 million over three years.
- Spending \$750,000 for agriculture industry revitalization, through the federal Community Development Trust.

- Provided an additional one year's interest grant on existing and new ruminant loans.
- Introduced the Rural Nursing Program to provide nurses with the skills they need to practice nursing in rural communities.
- Introduced gas regulation to help ensure more stable and predictable gas prices and to protect rural gas stations.

## ***Rebuilding Rural Nova Scotia*** **What's Next**

- Review Halifax Regional Municipality boundaries to ensure amalgamation is serving the needs of urban and rural residents in the area.
- Continue to support key local organizations such as legions, fire departments, community centres, and churches.
- Farmers feed us all. A PC Government will continue to support programs to help them adapt to changing consumer markets.
- \$350,000 will be invested in the *Select Nova Scotia* campaign to promote the benefits of local products.
- Work with the Agriculture Land Review Committee appointed in April 2009 to help address issues surrounding the long-term future of the province's agriculture land base.



## ***Fighting Crime*** **The Record**

- Committed 250 new police officers to the province's streets to fight crime. 150 are now on the job.
- Put in place youth Crown attorneys and more youth mental health professionals.
- Forcing drug dealers out of our neighbourhoods through the new Public Safety Investigative Unit - with over 90 voluntary evictions to date.
- Helped police forces in removing more than \$200 million in drugs off our streets in the past year.
- Modernizing Nova Scotia's Medical Examiner System - almost tripling funding since 2000 - from \$1.1 million to \$3.2 million.
- Modernizing justice facilities - with new justice centres in Yarmouth and one in Bridgewater.
- Hired additional officers to address Internet and technology-based offences through a \$330,000 investment in 2006-07.
- Increased supervision for offenders through a \$500,000 electronic supervision (ES) program that uses global positioning system (GPS) technology.

- Hired a full-time victim services officer of Aboriginal descent and fluent in the Mi'kmaq language for the new Victim Services Office in Eskasoni First Nation.
- Took the campaign to fix the federal youth crime law to Ottawa. The website: [www.fixyouthcrime.com](http://www.fixyouthcrime.com)

## ***Fighting Crime*** **What's Next**

- Funding another \$3.5 million this year to bring the number of additional officers to 183 with a focus on anti-gang activity.
- Moving forward on two new facilities - an \$18-million facility in Springhill and on plans for an additional facility in Antigonish.
- Investing an additional \$4.4 million in corrections for training, additional staff and for equipment to improve safety and security.
- Investing \$5.2 million over three years to construct and design a new forensic science facility.
- Continue to work with MADD Canada to improve Nova Scotia's performance compared to other jurisdictions in fighting drunk driving.
- Introduce legislation to put in place a public curfew for unattended youths under the age of 16.





## ***Defending Nova Scotia*** **The Record**

- Putting into action all 103 recommendations of the health transformation report.
- Created a demonstration project between Capital Health and Dartmouth's Scotia Surgery Inc. to allow more orthopedic patients to be treated.
- Over 200 more nurses will be trained in Nova Scotia this year with the approval of \$3.4 million for university and community college nursing seats.
- Created the *Family Pharmacare Program* to help Nova Scotians who do not have a medical plan receive the necessary drugs.
- While Nova Scotia's Emergency Rooms are open 98% of the time, our goal is zero closures.
- Invested \$36 million in payments to physicians covering emergency rooms in 2008.
- We just opened a new ER for Halifax at the QEII in 2009.
- Building a new hospital in Truro.
- Heart attack patients who call 911 will receive faster treatment as the result of new training by paramedics in Cape Breton.
- Putting in Patient Flow Improvement Teams on all nursing floors along with a plan to improve efficiency of moving patients from ambulance to hospital.
- Funding 1,300 new nursing home beds to help more stay in their own homes.
- Initiated a new Telecare service providing all Nova Scotians with access to important health information from a registered nurse over the phone.
- Added another \$2.7 million, primarily for oncology operations at Capital Health and the Cape Breton District Health Authority.
- Started a ground-breaking online chemotherapy course - graduated 20 pharmacy technicians from across the province Fall 2008.
- Created the Healthy Living Tax Credit of up to \$500 per child to help with the cost of registering children and youth in sport or recreation activities.
- Set up a 10-year, multi-million program to build, replace and upgrade recreation facilities in Nova Scotia - Building Facilities and Infrastructure Together (B-FIT) - investing \$60 million over five years in 35 projects.
- Injecting \$15 million to update our sporting facilities to prepare for the 2011 Canada Winter Games in Halifax.
- Since 2006, increased funding to Sport Nova Scotia by 300 percent.
- Making Pharmacare more affordable. As of April 1, 2009, Nova Scotians aged 65 and older pay less - at 30 per cent for each prescription. The maximum annual co-payment and maximum annual premium remain unchanged.
- Committed \$4 million for the Expanded Home Repair/Adaptation Program to help seniors, especially low-income seniors, make repairs and renovations to address health and safety issues in their homes.
- Since 1999, we have constructed 28 new schools and renovated 83 more.
- Preparing students for careers in Nova Scotia with the expansion of the *Options and Opportunities (O2)* program, which gives students on-the-job experience while they are still in school.
- Expanded advanced program options, including the launch of the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program at 13 additional schools across the province.
- Added a mandatory physical education credit for Grade 11.
- Signed an historic agreement with the Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey to improve educational opportunities for Nova Scotia's Mi'kmaw students.

- Lowered class sizes in the early years.
- Approved \$256 million for university funding in 2008-09 - a commitment made to the universities through a MOU (Memorandum of Understanding).
- On track with our 2006 commitment to bring tuition levels to the national average by 2010.
- Put in place a new direct-lend student loan system cutting two percentage points off the interest rate students pay - allowing Nova Scotia students to enjoy one of the lowest loan rates in the country.
- Invested \$123 million in the Nova Scotia Community College system.
- This winter, provided more money through the *Heating Assistance Rebate Program* (HARP) because of dramatic increases in oil prices.
- Passed the *Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act*.
- Since 1999, a PC Government has protected 99,000 acres of land in Nova Scotia.
- Committed to reduce by 30 per cent energy consumption in all government-owned buildings constructed before 2001.
- Passed changes to create a more level playing field with elections financing by putting in place an annual maximum contribution of \$5,000.
- Held an historic joint meeting in Eskasoni First Nation between government and the 13 chiefs where all agreed to meet annually.
- IWK to purchase diagnostic, therapeutic, and surgical equipment.
- In Summer 2009, will make the new \$3.96 million Telecare selfcare/telecare system operational.
- Moving forward on the Electronic Health Record.
- A PC Government will invest in a major renovation of the Aberdeen Hospital in New Glasgow.
- An additional \$2 million will go toward the Building Facilities and Infrastructure Together (B-FIT) program. Funding for the B-FIT program will now increase to \$7 million annually.
- Budgeting an increase in the tax on tobacco - adding 5 cents per cigarette, 5 cents per pre-proportioned tobacco stick, and 5 cents per gram of fine-cut tobacco.
- With an investment of \$260 million over ten years will continue to put in place the promised 1,320 long term care beds by 2015.
- A PC Government has committed to raising the Seniors Property Tax Rebate Program - from \$400 to \$600.
- Continue to add seats to our medical and nursing schools. In 2009-10, investing \$1.2 million for additional seats for physicians.
- A PC Government will invest \$700,000 annually over the next 20 years to create a new Integrated Learning Centre for health professionals in partnership with Dalhousie University.
- Expanding the Nova Scotia Child Benefit so more families can qualify and take advantage of the *Children's Low Income Pharmacare* Program.

### ***Defending Nova Scotia*** **What's Next**

- Continue Province's partnership with Scotia Surgery to help serve more Nova Scotians.
- A PC Government will provide funding to allow district health authorities and the
- Moving forward with a \$133-million, two-year investment to create homes for seniors and persons with disabilities and to renovate and retrofit our social housing portfolio.
- For the sixth year in a row, increasing the employment support and income

assistance rates for both personal and shelter allowances - for a total investment of \$21 million.

- Complete the nine additional state-of-the-art schools on the way. On top of those projects, 40 schools will receive renovations.
- Adding \$700,000 in funding to the International Baccalaureate or IB program. Nova Scotia will be among the first in the world to pilot the online IB courses - Sept 2009.
- An additional \$2.2 million will expand the highly successful *Options and Opportunities* Program.
- A \$14-million Student Information System will focus on measuring student achievement and school performance.
- Expand seats at the Nova Scotia

Community College (NSCC) by investing \$22.6 million to add 2,000 more seats by 2013, for a total of 12,400 seats across the province.

- Begin the visioning process to move the Marconi Campus to Downtown Sydney to serve as an added stimulus in the revitalization of the area.
- Committed to an additional \$66 million in a Nova Scotia University Student Bursary Trust to provide a maximum per-student benefit of \$761 in 2008–09.
- Investing \$50 million under our *Building for Growth* Plan to make our schools, hospitals and provincial buildings greener.
- Investing \$1 million for the forestry joint task force.



## **Roads and Infrastructure The Record**

- We have paved over 3700 km of roads over the last decade at a cost of \$800 million.
- Committed to twin or modernize roads from one end of Nova Scotia to the other.
- Announced \$1.9-billion action plan to rev up the economy of the province - creating or maintaining up to 20,000 jobs over the next three years. Funding is being directed to five priorities.
- Completing, this year, our 2006 commitment to pave 2,000 km of roads in Nova Scotia over four years.
- Built a new and improved four-lane section of twinned Highway 101 between Falmouth and Avonport.
- A tender was called in Spring 2009 to clear the right-of-way for the construction of four new lanes of Highway 104 west of Exit 31A, near Antigonish.
- Made progress on twinning Highway 103 and committed to doing more. About \$60 million was spent to twin up to Exit 5.
- Paving important tourism routes such as sections of the Cabot Trail and Route 333 to Peggy's Cove to allow cyclists and motorists to safely share the road.
- Providing a \$28 million over two years so municipalities can match federal funds for capital grants.
- Along with the governments of New Brunswick and Canada, further funded the Digby-Saint John ferry service to ensure its continued operation until 2011.
- Set an ambitious goal to ensure all Nova Scotians had Broadband access. The \$75-million Broadband for Rural Nova Scotia initiative promises high-speed access across the province.

## **Roads and Infrastructure What's Next**

- **\$1.9-billion Action Plan to rev up the economy of the province.**
  1. **Energy conservation - \$50 million**, will make existing government buildings, schools and hospitals more energy efficient.
  2. **Roads, bridges, and highways - Investing a billion dollars**
  3. **Schools and Information Technology - \$480 million** will be directed to building and improving schools and making information technology investments
  4. **Healthy, safe communities** - An estimated **\$380 million** for renovating hospitals, building more affordable housing, building courts and jails.
  5. **Tourism, culture, and heritage - \$40 million** to preserving and enhance our museums, parks, resorts and waterfront development.
- **Atlantic Gateway projects:** With funding from the Federal government, the province and Gateway partners, six projects worth \$172 million will support the longer-term objectives of the Atlantic Gateway. Projects include:
  - Burnside Connector;
  - The Port of Halifax - Richmond Terminals Multi-purpose Gateway Extension;
  - Port of Halifax-Ocean Terminals Extension of Pier C and land expansion;
  - Truro High Speed Interchange;
  - Off-site Highway Upgrades - Melford Container Terminal; and
  - Business development and marketing.
- **Knowledge Infrastructure Program** - create and maintain jobs and contribute to the high quality of Nova Scotia's post-secondary education system. The province, under its *Building for Growth* stimulus plan, and universities will invest \$57.2 million. The federal government will contribute \$56.75 million.

# THE ECONOMY

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## □ THE RECORD

*Our eighth balanced budget was introduced on May 4, 2009. Revenues exceeded expenditures by \$4 million. This budget was balanced without raising taxes, without layoffs and without borrowing money to meet expenditures. Our plan also included the largest capital investment program, Building For Growth - a 3-year plan to invest \$1.9 billion in roads, bridges, schools, IT, renovating hospitals and making existing building more efficient and create or maintain 20,000 jobs.*

*Every government in the G-20 is investing to reverse the impact of a global recession. According to economists, the extraordinary changes in the global economy in the second half of 2008 will continue throughout 2009 and beyond and require extraordinary measures. A PC Government is the only party that is ready with a complete plan prepared to grow our economy and keep the economy moving.*

**“Not everyone understands how much local infrastructure has gone on here in the last number of years.... schools, the hospital, civic centre, highways...That’s under this government. The prospect of possibly having the NDP (elected) scares me because it may not be pro business.”**

**~ Glen Rankin, *Truro Daily News*, May 22, 2009**

- Announced \$1.9 billion *Building for Growth* - our economic action plan is set to rev up the economy of the province and keep Nova Scotia in business. It will create or maintain up to 20,000 jobs over the next three years through one of the largest infrastructure programs in Nova Scotia's history. By investing an additional \$800 million over three years, along with the \$1.1 billion we normally spend on capital projects, we will keep the economy moving.

**“We are very concerned about a slowdown in private-sector investment at a time when the industry has been taking on apprentices and beginning to address our long-term demographic challenge. We believe investment that creates jobs around the province as well as in a range of construction from roads and bridges to buildings and energy consumption is appropriate and welcomed by the industry at this critical time.”**

**~CAN\$ president Carol MacCulloch - March 23, 2009**

- Took up a decades-old battle with the federal government and won. The Crown Share victory is good for all Nova Scotians. Millions of dollars more are flowing to our shores now to help fund the priorities of our people and pay the debt. The deal returned \$234 million to the taxpayers of Nova Scotia as a first payment and another \$95 million last year. In 2007, restored an improved deal for the people of Nova Scotia.

**“It’s a good outcome - Offshore deal a credit to MacDonald  
Nova Scotia would've been nuts not to sign this deal. Newfoundland and Labrador Premier Danny Williams is ill-considered not to secure something similar. It seems he**

***would rather rant about Prime Minister Stephen Harper's "untrustworthiness" than make creative progress... So kudos to MacDonald, Harper, ...MacKay and ...Keddy for putting their shoulders to the wheel and working to arrive at this accommodation...Happily, MacDonald was smart enough to see reason and negotiate an honourable compromise."***  
***~ Halifax Daily News - October 15, 2007***

- Passed seven straight balanced budgets and have tabled our eighth balanced budget during a global economic slowdown when other province's are running massive deficits.

***"A decade ago, our net direct debt was 47 per cent of total provincial income, compared with 37 per cent now. So the province is in a better position today to borrow more to invest in productive public assets that will increase future income. A huge distinction from 1999 is that we're not borrowing every year to cover public services. It was those operating deficits, not capital spending, that put Nova Scotia so far into debt."***  
***~Chronicle Herald Editorial ~ March 18, 2009***

A PC Government will protect the future prosperity of our province. Our debt must remain affordable. That's why we are revising our debt management plan. We are able to do this due to the impressive gains we have made in managing our debt in the last number of years. Because a stimulus package is so vital to our economic health—we will allow our net direct debt to grow over the next three years. After the stimulus package is complete, we will no longer add to the total debt. That means our debt will be as affordable in 2012 as it is today. In other words, our direct debt compared to our gross domestic product will be no more than 36.7 per cent on March 31, 2012.

- In 1999, 18 cents out of every dollar went to servicing the debt. This year it has dropped to 10.3 cents. Since 1999, Nova Scotia's net direct debt—as a percentage of gross domestic product—has declined from 48.7 per cent to 36.7 per cent. Nova Scotia is currently only one of two provinces expecting a positive growth rate, according to the Bank of Canada.
- Received bond-rating agency upgrades reflecting the province's improved financial results.

***"The Dominion Bond Rating Service revised Nova Scotia's long-term rating from stable to positive. (DB\$) said the improved rating reflects, 'the notable progress the province has made towards lowering its debt-to-GDP ratio,' as well as, 'its prudent and forward-looking approach to fiscal management... and a much-improved debt structure.'"***  
***~ Government of Nova Scotia News Release ~ October 2, 2008***

- Set an ambitious goal to ensure all Nova Scotians have Broadband access. The \$75-million *Broadband for Rural Nova Scotia* initiative promises high-speed across the province.
- Committed to twin and modernize highways from Yarmouth to Sydney by 2020. Making significant progress on Highway 101, Highway 104 and Highway 103.



***Nova Scotia's workforce is bigger than ever - some 450,000 strong. We continue to bring new jobs to Nova Scotia and help to support existing businesses.***

- Set up an Economic Advisory Council - highly successful business, municipal, labour and community leaders - to generate ideas and promote discussion between business and government to help deal with the world-wide economic slowdown.
- Increased to \$175 million the funds available to assist business through the Industrial Expansion Fund to support of businesses ready to expand, invest in new technology and to improve productivity and competitiveness. Over a six-year period, ending in March 2007, an independent study showed a return of \$1.89 for every dollar invested from the fund which created or maintained an estimated 11,000 full-time jobs. Funds have assisted businesses such as Michelin, NovaScotian Crystal, Apple Valley Foods, Ledwidge Lumber Company, LED Roadway Lighting Ltd., Professional Quality Assurance Ltd, Lockheed Martin Canada, and Flagstone.

***"We really appreciate the support of government. To us, it means we can continue to employ our staff and serve our customers and partners as we go through these tough economic times."***

***~ Douglas Ledwidge, Ledwidge Lumber President ~ February 17, 2009***

- Growing the productivity and innovation voucher program - designed to help small- and medium-sized business build capacity - with an investment of \$500,000.
- Finding success through the Credit Union Small Business Loan Program which has approved over 400 loans, created over 800 jobs and maintained another 1,775.
- Through our government's Nova Scotia Business Inc. (NSBI), generated more than \$22 million of investment in communities around the province which forecasted new job creation and retention of about 1,400 over the past year.
- Moving the clean up of the Sydney Tar Ponds site forward by tripling funds from the provincial and federal governments - \$20.5 million to \$64.9 million this year - bringing hundreds of jobs to the area.
- Signed with the Mi'kmaq First Nations of Cape Breton and government partners a new aboriginal procurement strategy for the Sydney Tar Ponds and Coke Ovens cleanup to ensure aboriginal involvement for the rest of the project.
- Increased investment in the film industry for the training and development of producers, directors and writers.
- An agreement with Ottawa removed restrictions on how many people the province can nominate for residency. Realized an increase in the number of

immigrants - In 2008, 2,653 immigrants came to Nova Scotia, compared to 1,474 in 2003. Have also increased retention rates - rising from 40 to 60 percent ten years ago.

- Passed legislation to streamline credential recognition to attract nationally- and internationally-trained professionals and skilled workers to Nova Scotia.
- Assisting small- and medium- sized businesses through the Productivity and Innovation Pilot Program with vouchers of up to \$15,000 to help purchase services and expertise to expand their businesses.
- With the advice of an independent committee representing both employees and employers, set minimum wage to rise from \$8.10 to \$8.60 on April 1, 2009. In 2010 it will rise first to \$9.20 and then to \$9.65 by October 1, 2010 with a plan to reach the Low Income Cut-off Level by 2010. This will help Nova Scotia compete with other provinces and act as a tool in our efforts to stem the tide of workers from this province. While the economic climate raised questions about staying the course, the Minimum Wage Review Committee advised the province that it should continue. However, asked that the committee continue to monitor the minimum wage and look at minimum wage increases and tip differential for workers in the restaurant and bar industry.
- Connected employers and job seekers through the *Opportunities Nova Scotia* hiring fair program - across Nova Scotia and across Canada.
- Connecting more aboriginal and Mi'kmaq Nova Scotians with employers and career opportunities.
- Signed an agreement with Michelin and the African Nova Scotian Employment Partnership Committee's Collaborative Partnership Network to work with the African Nova Scotia community to promote employment and career development opportunities for African Nova Scotians at its three plants in the province.
- Put in place a new employment-equity policy, an improved fair-hiring policy and additional diversity training for employees, to help make the provincial government a more diverse and inclusive workplace over the past year.
- Committed to more deliberations between provincial and territorial ministers responsible for local government and the municipal sector on common interests, such as infrastructure funding, relationships with Aboriginal peoples, and enhancing the strength and vitality of urban, rural and northern municipalities and communities.
- Continuing to enhance municipal infrastructure in partnership with federal and municipal governments.
- Have grown the translation and on-line access of government information in French to more effectively provide French-language services to the Acadian and francophone community in Nova Scotia. Encouraging Nova Scotia's Acadian

and francophone community to use provincial government services available in French by a community marketing campaign.

- Provided \$2 million through the Industrial Expansion Fund to help re-establish air service at the Yarmouth International Airport.

***Developing the potential of our capital...***

- Premier MacDonald intervened in an HRM Council decision that would have stifled the development of much-needed office space in downtown Halifax. The Premier highlighted the need to start moving development forward to allow for business growth, especially in the financial sector, citing a 20-year void since the last office tower was built. The development is now proceeding.
- Partnering with HRM Council to do everything possible to have a new convention centre in Halifax up and running by January 1, 2013. Signed a memorandum of understanding committing the provincial and municipal governments to this goal - a project that will create jobs and benefits for all Nova Scotians. Approved six projects in partnership with the federal government.

**"The addition of a new convention centre to Halifax will be one of the most significant tourism investments in decades... TIAN\$ applauds the premier and mayor for making a clear commitment to investing in our province as a destination of choice."**

**~Darlene Grant Fiander, TIAN\$ President ~ May 4, 2009**

- Working with all Atlantic Premiers to grow the infrastructure needed to establish Nova Scotia as the Atlantic Gateway to the World. Have prepared detailed business cases so strategic infrastructure partnerships can move forward.

***Creating a competitive tax base and business climate....***

- Increased the small business threshold for the lower corporate income tax rate.
- Introduced the Digital Media Tax Credit.
- Increased the Film Tax Credit.
- Increased the Volunteer Firefighters Tax Credit amount from \$250 to \$500 for volunteer firefighters and expanded the tax credit to members of ground search and rescue teams.
- Eliminated the 3.5 per cent liquor licence levy effective January 2007, benefitting hundreds of small businesses in Nova Scotia's tourism and hospitality sector.
- Continuing to invest in the Nova Scotia Research and Innovation Trust.
- Promised to reduce paperwork burden of businesses by 20 percent by 2010 - almost half way there. Business operators now have 8.3 per cent less paperwork

than they had in 2006 - down 51,000 hours in just two years - saving businesses almost \$1.2 million.

- Amended the *Assessment Act* to set a cap on rising residential property assessments. As of 2008, the cap was tied to the Consumer Price Index.

**"By committing to service standards and changing processes to meet these standards, you are creating accountability and meaningful change for a more competitive environment for business."**

**~ Brad Smith, Greater Halifax Partnership~ September 29, 2008**

- Growing BizPaL - an on-line, one window tool to access municipal, provincial and federal permit applications - making it easier for business to find and apply for permits and licences.
- Signed a deal with New Brunswick to strengthen the economies of both provinces by reducing barriers to business, trade and skilled labour.
- Strengthened Nova Scotia's apprenticeship training system with additional millions, making it accessible to more people. Also encouraging greater participation in the apprenticeship program through the new Apprentice Award Trust.
- Launched a website to offer one-stop shopping for the construction industry to access all provincial government construction requirements.
- Created a dedicated Labour and Workforce Development Department, focusing on the skills and labour shortage. Emphasizing recruitment, retention, repatriation and retraining of workers through the new Skills and Learning Branch in the department to meet the changing needs of the province's economy at a time when Nova Scotia is competing with the world for skilled workers.
- More workers and unemployed people will have access to more skills training and upgrading through improvements to two federal-provincial agreements, adding \$50 million in federal transfers to earlier agreements to provide more than half a billion dollars to the province to support workforce development.
- Introduced a bill offering phased-in retirement, allowing workers to continue working and paying into a pension plan, while receiving pension payments.
- To assist those on employment assistance looking for a job, the Labour Market Development Agreement will transfer \$81 million this year in federal funds to the province for training and skills development. Working with industry associations to address skills and training needs - focusing on providing programs and services for youth, for aboriginal communities and for immigrants.

### **Promoting our Tourism Industry....**

- Invested in and maintained Nova Scotia's \$1.3 billion tourism industry to support its competitiveness in a challenging global marketplace.
- Launched Nova Scotia's new marketing plan, focusing on growth markets with easy access to Nova Scotia, developing compelling visitor experiences and building even stronger relationships with our industry partners.
- Injected \$2.5 million from the Community Development Trust Fund to support tourism niche marketing and product development.
- Dedicating an additional \$1 million to help address critical infrastructure needs in the Nova Scotia Museum system and to further support community museums.
- Dedicated an additional \$1 million to help address critical infrastructure needs in the Nova Scotia Museum system and to further assist community museums, including funds to support an interpretive centre at Joggins Fossil Cliffs.
- Adding close to \$1 million to funding for culture.
- Working with partners like the Atlantic Canada Cruise Association to strengthen the tourism industry through events like *Welcoming the World, Tall Ships Nova Scotia Festival 2009*. The cruise industry delivers over \$81 million in direct economic benefit to our region - with the association reporting 2008 as a record year.
- Invested in the historic Town of Lunenburg to help its residents protect its heritage and generate economic growth through its UNESCO designation.
- Supported the community in its successful bid to have the Joggins Fossil Cliffs designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Provided funding support for the nomination process by a community group to have Grand Pré declared a UNESCO world heritage site - a third designated site is important for Nova Scotia and a significant heritage, cultural and tourism initiative.
- Established an Office of Gaelic Affairs in Antigonish to develop and promote Gaelic language and culture in the province.

### **Growing Nova Scotia's Energy Sector...**

- By 2020, Nova Scotia will be cleaner, greener and more prosperous. Released the 2009 *Energy Strategy and Climate Change Action Plan* - demanding caps on emissions, more renewable energy and greater energy efficiency, and encourage growth in offshore and onshore activity.

- Committed that by 2013, nearly 20 per cent of all Nova Scotia's electricity will come from green sources.
- Through the *Energy Strategy and Climate Change Action Plan*, giving smaller-scale green electricity a boost. All customers, from homeowners to farmers to municipalities, can now install wind turbines and other renewable devices up to 1,000 kilowatts in size, up from the previous 100 kilowatt limit, to get credit against their power bill for the electricity they annually produce themselves (known as net-metering).
- Moving more Nova Scotia users to our own cleaner and greener natural gas. As of February 2008, natural gas from Nova Scotia was heating buildings - like Saint Mary's University - and fuelling appliances on the Halifax peninsula.
- Approved, in principle, Nova Scotia's first shale gas production lease - Nova Scotia's first - near Kennetcook in Hants County, and in Kings County.
- Moving forward on an in-stream tidal energy project. The first device is expected in the water this fall—built in partnership by Nova Scotia Power Incorporated and OpenHydro of Ireland.
- Studying ways to strengthen Nova Scotia's transmission system, acting on a commitment made last month in the 2009 Energy Strategy to encourage a greener electricity grid by 2020.
- Continuing to help fuel interest in Nova Scotia's oil and natural gas reserves. In onshore exploration, licensed Forent Energy Ltd. to explore for oil and gas on land in Antigonish, Guysborough and Pictou Counties. Forent has already been operating in the Stewiacke area on an exploration licence held by EOG Resources.

**“This is great news for the future and growth of the company. As someone raised in Cape Breton, it’s great to see opportunities in oil and gas develop here at home.”**  
**~ Dennis Forgeron, Forent Energy Ltd. President ~ July 15, 2008**

- Assisted thousands of Nova Scotians this past winter with \$92 million in home heating assistance and help to save energy and money for years to come through our *Heat Smart* program. Included in the program are zero-interest loans for energy upgrades and rebates on new furnaces - loans up to \$5,000 are available for efficiency upgrades and are repayable over five years.
- With an investment of \$650,000, offered owners of multi-unit residential buildings in Nova Scotia up to \$9,500 in rebates for making their properties more energy efficient and more comfortable for their tenants.
- Placed an online wind atlas on the website, making wind data easier to understand.



- Introduced green regulations which should grow the number of wind turbines in Nova Scotia from 40 to more than 300 by the year 2013 - generating electricity from a clean, renewable resource.
- Working through the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers Conferences on issues such as energy efficiency and enhancing border security.
- Conserving energy and further reducing greenhouse gas and air pollution emissions by using new LED lights on many streets and roads.
- Committed to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions to 10 percent less than 1990 levels, 35 per cent lower than projected 2020 levels.
- Released a discussion paper outlining a proposed approach to capping greenhouse-gas and air-pollutant emissions from the electricity sector.
- Supporting 43 environmental projects with grants totaling \$15.5 million through the ecoNova Scotia for *Clean Air and Climate Change* fund, helping to reduce harmful air emissions.
- Supporting studies on the potential in Nova Scotia for carbon storage.
- Set to legislate a new, independent administrator for programs to help cut electricity consumption and reduce peak demand - as recommended in a Dalhousie University demand-side management report.

**“The Ecology Action Centre commends the Government of Nova Scotia for taking leadership on electric energy efficiency through the creation of a new electric efficiency administrator. This is a unique and innovative step forward in Canada that positions Nova Scotia to establish a highly effective energy efficiency strategy. Energy efficiency is cost-effective resource that is cheaper than any other fuel and this decision puts in place the administrative structure that will ensure accountability and results.”**

**~ Cheryl Ratchford, Ecology Action Centre ~ December 12, 2008**

- Continuing, through Conserve Nova Scotia, to deliver energy efficiency and conservation programs, refocusing efforts on fuels other than electricity.
- Introduced a power monitor pilot program to Cape Breton Regional Municipality residents that can cut electricity costs by at least five per cent.

## ☐ WHAT’S NEXT?

- To deal with the financial uncertainty, a PC Government will tighten its belt by implementing measures including a wage freeze for MLAs, Deputies and Assistant Deputies and political staff.

- Reintroduce and pass Nova Scotia's eighth straight balanced budget with the same revenue and expenditure measures brought forward in the legislature on May 4, 2009.
- To deal with the worldwide economic downturn, table an amendment to the Debt Management Plan of 2009 and modifying provisions of the 2005 Debt Reduction Plan. A PC Government has committed to set new debt reduction targets for the years ahead that will keep debt at an affordable level.
- A PC Government will introduce another four-year, 2000 km project to continue the aggressive schedule to improve the highways that were left in such disastrous condition in the 1990's. Investing \$354 million in our highways, roads and bridges.
- Building on our income tax reductions announced in 2006 which increased the basic personal exemption by \$250 dollars a year, expanding the reductions for four more years - to help reduce the tax burden on Nova Scotians.
- Beginning in 2011, a PC Government will index personal income tax brackets and credits at a prescribed rate. Relative to tax credit amounts in 2006, Nova Scotians will pay over \$50 million less in personal income taxes in 2009-10.
- Cut the small business tax rate in half - from 5 percent to 2.5 percent. Once in place, this tax cut will save 12,000 Nova Scotia businesses - \$25-\$30 million each year.
- Remove the provincial tax from the federal Universal Child Care Benefit.
- Continue the first-time home buyers HST Rebate, to complement the federal home buyers' tax credit to a maximum of \$1500.
- Lift deferral of the expansion of the \$500 Healthy Tax Credit for adults to expand from the \$500 Healthy Tax Credit for children.
- Introduce legislation which responds to concerns raised during consultations with the community - Condominium Act Review - beefing up consumer protection.
- Reduce red tape through a "trade off" system where, for every new regulation brought in, another regulation is eliminated - as recommended by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business.
- Will continue to encourage offshore and onshore exploration and development, spending more than \$23 million in the next 12 to 18 months on offshore geoscience, ocean energy and environmental research.
- Urge the Federal Government to enhance Employment Insurance benefits for seasonal workers and unemployed to deal with the uncertainty of the economy.

Complete the Nova Scotia Tax Review project to find best practices from other jurisdictions to lower the overall personal and business tax burden for Nova Scotians toward 2020.

- Complete review of government services to find ways to streamline, and find new ways to deliver programs and to become even more efficient to ensure we are providing the very best service and value for the taxpayers of Nova Scotia.
- Access funding with the Federal government's \$300 million in new spending over two years for the tourism industry.
- Under our *Building for Growth* plan, directing approximately \$40 million on tourism-related projects including the upgrade of Nova Scotia's sailing ambassador, the Bluenose II, with \$14.4 million - in partnership with the federal government.
- Continue to work with our tourism industry partners as we implement our plan for 2009.
- Introduce legislation to license home owner inspectors in Nova Scotia to protect consumers on the most important purchase of their lives.
- Work with regional development authorities to ensure we continue to create and promote growth corridors between Yarmouth and Halifax (through both the South Shore and the Annapolis Valley), Halifax-Truro-Amherst and Halifax to Sydney.
- Introduce a Training Wage Rebate - eligible for 10 percent of the salary and wages paid to an apprentice in the first 12 months of their skills training - up to a ceiling of \$4000.
- To support Nova Scotia's knowledge-based economy, introduce a tax credit matching parents' RESP contributions.
- Committed to an additional advance of up to \$30 million over ten years to the Nova Scotia First Fund through the Nova Scotia Innovation Corporation (InNova Corp.).
- Continuing assistance - through \$400,000 in funding - to new and existing small businesses with training and recruitment, market research and business plan development, advertising and promotional plans, visual merchandising techniques, and fiscal management tools.
- Extending the time limit on using the graduate tax credit from three to five years. First introduced in 2006, offers a credit up to \$2,000 for those who stay and work here at home.
- To ensure every eligible student can use this credit, students can now carry unused credits forward to reduce their taxes even further- meaning graduates

can claim tax credits in the year of graduation as well as the four subsequent years.

- Raising the cap for the Seniors Property Rebate tax - an increase in the cap from \$400 to \$600 this year.
- Continue to reduce the large corporations capital tax, saving business \$9.1 million this year - eliminating it completely by 2012.
- Extended, by one year, the Equity Tax Credit and the Labour Sponsored Venture Capital Tax credit - both were scheduled to expire on December 31, 2009.
- Fulfill commitment to double the 2006 level of funding for arts and culture in 2010.



# REBUILDING RURAL NOVA SCOTIA\_\_\_\_\_

## □ THE RECORD

- Addressing decline in jobs in rural Nova Scotia through new department of Economic and Rural Development.
- Set an ambitious goal to ensure all Nova Scotians have Broadband access. The \$75-million *Broadband for Rural Nova Scotia* initiative promises high-speed access across the province.
- Funding *Business Retention and Expansion Program* - now available across the province - to help local businesses gather information to identify and respond to challenges and opportunities.
- Investing in improved wastewater treatment projects across the province.
- Assisted 222 volunteer fire departments and emergency response organizations across the province through the Emergency Services Provider Fund. Equipment funded through the program included jaws of life, defibrillators and ground search and rescue vehicles - to help enhance safety in communities province-wide.

**"With government's help, we now can buy the much-needed equipment sooner," said Mr. MacDonald. "We are buying new radios for communications, breathing apparatus bottles, masks, nozzles and proper hoses. One of our biggest purchases was the thermal imaging camera, which will help us to find the source of the fires sooner."**

**~ Deputy Chief Wayne MacDonald, East River Valley, Pictou Co. Volunteer Fire Department ~ March 19, 2008**

- Introduced the Rural Nursing Program to provide nurses with the skills they need to practice nursing in rural communities.
- Funded grants for green transportation projects in rural communities, province-wide.
- Invested \$3 million in 2008 in an incentive program to help municipalities provide public transit in unserved and underserved rural areas.
- Taking action by investing \$36 million in payments to physicians covering emergency rooms in 2008.
- Introduced gas regulation to help ensure more stable and predictable gas prices and to protect rural gas stations.

### ***Supporting our Fishermen and Farmers...***

- Introduced a new loan program, allowing Nova Scotia fishermen to apply for a loan to buy commercial licences.
- Gave a financial boost to Nova Scotia's boat builders to support competitiveness in the global market through \$1 million in cost-shared funding over two years for marketing and promotion initiatives for the industry.
- In partnership with Ottawa, investing \$3.75 million in the seafood industry over the next three years to deal with the challenges facing the fishing industry in Nova Scotia - especially the lobster fishery - to achieve sustainable management and economic success.
- Fund our coastal management strategy – to promote a healthy environment and a sustainable coast.
- Investing \$2.5 million in the aquaculture sector over the next three years to help communities and workers hard hit by economic challenges - supporting development and increasing competitiveness.
- Introduced the Farm Environmental Stewardship Award to promote the actions of farmers who are participating in the Nova Scotia Environmental Farm Plan program. More than 1,100 farms have developed plans for the operations, which identify and assess environmental risk.
- Created the Strategic Infrastructure Investment Fund to support farmers and committed up to \$6.2 million in transitional assistance for hog and ruminant farming. Doubling the fund to \$1.5 million - to enhance and diversify our agricultural infrastructure.
- Provided an additional one year's interest grant on existing and new ruminant loans.
- Invested over \$2 million in a new Halifax Farmers' Market.
- Assisting apple growers who plant more profitable varieties of apples in 2009, with an additional \$200,000 to the Orchard Renewal program.
- Introduced the *Buy Local* program. New funding - \$2.3 million over three years - will support the development of the local food systems, which includes everything from farmers to consumers, and improve access to local foods for consumers throughout the province.
- A PC Government is supportive of protecting a modern supply management system, and recognizes its importance to stabilizing our entire agriculture and food sector, responsive to the needs of our producers and consumers.



- Working together with neighbouring provinces to increase co-operation and expertise on initiatives through a memorandum of understanding.
- Spending \$750,000 for agriculture industry revitalization, through the federal Community Development Trust.
- Signed the five-year *Growing Forward* agreement between the governments of Canada and Nova Scotia to give Nova Scotia farmers more support to achieve profitability and incorporate innovation with new programs. AgriStability - one of the new business risk-management programs for farmers - provides support after large income losses.
- Designated Highway 101 as Harvest Highway to recognize the important contributions of the farming community in Nova Scotia for centuries.

## ☐ WHAT'S NEXT?

- Review Halifax Regional Municipality boundaries to ensure amalgamation is serving the needs of urban and rural residents in the area.

**“(Don Mills) said the current structure doesn’t suit the needs of urban or rural residents. ‘We have a municipality over 5,000 square miles, a municipality that is the largest in Canada, bigger than P.E.I. Effectively what we have is a province within a province and as a result of that we’ve lost our city.’ He said council is too big and the community interests are too diverse.”**

**~ Don Mills, former board member, Citizens for Halifax, *Chronicle Herald*, May 9, 2009**

- Continue to support key local organizations such as legions, fire departments, community centres, and churches.
- Farmers feed us all and Nova Scotia’s farms generate more than \$454 million in revenue each year. A PC Government will continue to support programs to help them adapt to changing consumer markets, enhance food safety systems, support environmental actions and prevent disease and track food to its original source, with a continued focus on the beef and pork industries.
- The *Buy Local* campaign will be doubled over the next three years to promote the benefits of local products and to increase opportunities for agriculture growth and development.
- Work with the Agriculture Land Review Committee appointed in April 2009 to help address issues surrounding the long-term future of the province's agriculture land base.
- Initiate a one-year, \$250,000 Lobster Marketing Program.

# FIGHTING CRIME...Protecting our Communities...Protecting Nova Scotians\_\_\_\_\_

## ☐ THE RECORD

- Committed 250 new police officers to the province's streets to fight crime. 150 are now on the job - placing Nova Scotia above the national average in the number of officers we have protecting our communities. Latest investment targeted the following areas:
  - new officers dedicated to street-crime units across Nova Scotia to address local crime issues;
  - expanding to Northern Nova Scotia the Integrated Impaired Driving Enforcement Unit that has had officers from the RCMP, Bridgewater and Kentville improve road safety in southwest Nova Scotia;
  - the province's two largest municipalities receiving the most resources in the latest allocation with four new positions in Halifax to combat the hot spots highlighted by the municipality and three new positions in Cape Breton Regional Municipality for its drug enforcement unit; and
  - more officers across the province to invest in the safety of First Nations communities.
- Set in motion the province's first mental health court - to open Fall 2009.
- Put in place youth Crown attorneys and more youth mental health professionals.
- Legislated safer streets by dealing with crosswalk safety, soliciting on public roadways and street racing.
- Put in place new Alcohol Ignition Interlock Program in Fall 2008 to help keep our roads safer by reducing the number of people who drink and drive.

**“MADD Canada is very pleased to see this program come into effect in Nova Scotia. It will save lives by ensuring the impaired driver is separated from their vehicle.”**  
**~ Margaret Miller, president, MADD Canada ~ September 16, 2008**

- Passed the *Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act*. Forcing drug dealers out of our neighbourhoods through the new Public Safety Investigative Unit - with over 90 voluntary evictions to date - making those neighbourhoods safer again. Setting up a Cape Breton satellite office to support further arrests.
- Urging the quick passage and implementation of new federal legislation - ensuring individuals who steal a vehicle receive an appropriate sentence. This would give law enforcement authorities more support in their fight against auto theft and property crime.

- Also pushed for the swift passage of a bill in the House of Commons that would eliminate the two-for-one time credit often given during sentencing to offenders who have spent time in a correctional institution awaiting court appearance.
- Helped police forces in removing more than \$200 million in drugs off our streets in the past year.
- Passed legislation requiring medical professionals to report gunshot wounds to police.
- Legislated a ban on hand-held cellphones and text messaging while driving.
- Modernizing Nova Scotia's Medical Examiner System - almost tripling funding since 2000 - from \$1.1 million to \$3.2 million.
- Improving, streamlining and updating procedures to enhance safety and security in provincial corrections.
- Modernizing justice facilities - with new justice centres in Yarmouth and one in Bridgewater dedicated to the late Hon. Michael Baker.
- Implementing the Nunn Committee Report recommendations which sought improvements to the system when dealing with youth at risk.
- Hired additional officers to address Internet and technology-based offences through a \$330,000 investment in 2006-07 - critical in addressing child pornography.
- Passed legislation that will allow Nova Scotia to control the distribution of products used in the manufacturing and production of illicit drugs.
- Invested in law enforcement to improve co-ordination amongst the RCMP and municipal police. As part of a \$6-million commitment to Criminal Intelligence Service Nova Scotia, improved links will enhance policing efforts against organized crime.
- Increased supervision for offenders through a \$500,000 electronic supervision (ES) program that uses global positioning system (GPS) technology. A Canadian first - it allows Nova Scotia to more closely monitor offenders on house arrest. - and will be used in a pilot program for federal offenders.
- Passed the *Civil Forfeiture Act* which seizes assets that are a result of illegal activity. The act also supports a civil court process to order forfeiture of properties used to commit crimes or gained from unlawful activity.
- Doubled the capacity of Halifax's and Dartmouth's night court.

- Changed the Graduated Driver Licensing Program to strengthen the blood alcohol content restriction on new drivers and extend the term of the learners stage of the program.
- Hired a full-time victim services officer of Aboriginal descent and fluent in the Mi'kmaq language for the new Victim Services Office in Eskasoni First Nation, Cape Breton.
- Took the campaign to fix the federal youth crime law to Ottawa. The website - [www.fixyouthcrime.com](http://www.fixyouthcrime.com) - is helping build public support for full implementation of the seven recommendations of the Nunn Commission addressing federal youth crime law.
- Establishing and funding a provincial program that will offer rewards for information leading to arrests and convictions in cases of unsolved crimes.
- Created Nova Scotia's own Medal of Bravery to honour those who have risked their own lives or safety in assisting another person or protecting property.

## □ **WHAT'S NEXT?**

- Funding another \$3.5 million this year to bring the number of additional officers to 183—well on our way in reaching our target of 250 additional officers on the street by 2010.
- Investing over \$2 million for youth-related initiatives, stemming from the Nunn Commission report.
- Moving forward on two new facilities - an \$18-million facility in Springhill and on plans for an additional facility in Antigonish.
- Spending an additional \$4.4 million in corrections for training, additional staff and for equipment to improve safety and security - moving forward on implementing the Deloitte report on corrections. \$1.5 million will go to the Department of Justice to help manage the increase in inmate population.
- Investing \$5.2 million over three years to construct and design a new forensic science facility. Hired three forensic pathologists as part of our beefed up law enforcement system.
- Providing funds to get at the root causes of crime - \$1.2 million will improve enforcement and intervention and step up crime prevention efforts.
- Introduce legislation ensuring parents are held reasonably accountable for the activities of their children in relation to the property of other people.

- Continue to work with MADD Canada to improve Nova Scotia's performance compared to other jurisdictions in fighting drunk driving.
- Introduce legislation to put in place a public curfew for unattended youths under the age of 16.
- Review Alberta's Protection of Children Abusing Drugs Act to assist parents or guardians of children under 18 whose over-dependency on alcohol or drugs may mean they are a serious threat to themselves or others.

# DEFENDING NOVA SCOTIA

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## □ THE RECORD

### *Securing Our Health System...*

***Increasing demands and rising costs are placing huge pressures on our health care system. In order to sustain the system, we must find new ways to deliver the service.***

- Putting into action all 103 recommendations of the health transformation report. These recommendations have been clustered into 25 initiatives. Work is already underway on six, and another six will begin next year. A new health transformation office will provide support, and evaluate and report on all aspects of health transformation.

***While Nova Scotia's Emergency Rooms are open 98% of the time, our goal is zero closures.***

- Working aggressively with the districts and communities through initiatives like the locum program, debt assistance plan, rural alternative payment plan, and site visit program is helping make rural opportunities more appealing. Invested \$36 million in payments to physicians covering emergency rooms in 2008.
- Making immediate improvements to our emergency health care to improve access to Primary Health Care and reduce pressure on ERs.
  - We just opened a new ER for Halifax at the QEII in 2009 - giving Nova Scotians and the hard-working professionals who operate within those facilities - access to the best trauma centre in the East.
  - Building a new hospital in Truro.
  - Expanding the Valley Regional Hospital.
  - Six newly-installed MRI's will cut wait times in half and lessen the anxiety for thousands in need of diagnosis.
  - Heart attack patients who call 911 will receive faster treatment as the result of new training by paramedics in Cape Breton.
  - Adding rapid access clinics.
  - Putting in Patient Flow Improvement Teams on all nursing floors along with a plan to improve efficiency of moving patients from ambulance to hospital.
  - Funded two nurse practitioners along with a new doctor in Digby. With the help of another physician, setting up a walk-in clinic at the hospital.
- Passed the *Midwifery Act* to bring regulated midwives into the primary health care teams.

***Working to reduce wait times for medical procedures to reduce the concern and pain of those awaiting treatment.***

- Making considerable progress on wait times. Have performed more knee replacements, more cataract extractions. Now seeing twice as many patients with bone density scans, MRI's and mammography screening.
- Created a demonstration project between Capital Health and Dartmouth's Scotia Surgery Inc. to allow more orthopedic patients to be treated.

**“Overall, Doctors Nova Scotia is supportive of some services being provided in a community setting. In fact, moving some services to locations closer to patients may free-up operating rooms, specialized equipment and health-care providers’ time in the hospital to care for more critically ill patients.”**

**~ Doctors Nova Scotia - Website**

- Opened new chronic pain clinics to new patients to ease the distress of those who endure our longest wait times.
- Announced an action plan to help individuals suffering from chronic pain.

**“This is a welcome step in the right direction.”**

**~ Helen Tupper, President, Canadian Pain Coalition ~ August 9, 2006**

- Funding 1,300 new nursing home beds to help more stay in their own homes.
- Opened 400 additional adult daycare spaces across the province.
- Opened a new adult day centre in Halifax to enhance the wellness of people older than 50 who have had a stroke, are living with Parkinson's disease or are physically frail.
- Initiated a new Telecare service providing all Nova Scotians with access to important health information from a registered nurse over the phone.

***Working with Cancer Care Nova Scotia and the Canadian Cancer Society to deal with this critical illness and the effects it has on so many families in Nova Scotia.***

- Implemented a new colorectal cancer screening program with the help of Cancer Care Nova Scotia.
- Began funding Avastin - a drug to help those suffering from colorectal cancer.
- In August 2007, funded two new cancer drugs. One of those approved - Oxaliplatin - when taken with other cancer drugs - can treat colorectal patients after surgery and prevent the disease from progressing.

- Added another \$2.7 million, primarily for oncology operations at Capital Health and the Cape Breton District Health Authority, to assist in expanded staffing levels. This includes RNs, radiation therapists, social workers, and other support staff.
- To help decrease the incidence of cervical cancer, began a human papilloma virus (HPV) immunization program for young women in Nova Scotia in 2007.
- Started a ground-breaking online chemotherapy course - graduated 20 pharmacy technicians from across the province Fall 2008.
- To help meet the wait time guarantee for radiation therapy for cancer patients, have one CT simulator operating in Cape Breton and another will soon become operational in Halifax.
- Helped fund new, full-field, digital screening equipment units allow mammograms for twice as many patients on a given day. Units went to the Cobequid Community Health - a new digital unit; Yarmouth - the first fixed diagnostic mammogram unit; and Cape Breton - a new mobile digital unit - a first in North America.

***Recruiting and retaining more health professionals in competition with a global market.***

- Over 200 more nurses will be trained in Nova Scotia this year with the approval of \$3.4 million for university and community college nursing seats.
- Provided bursaries to medical lab technician students.
- Expanded the assessment and integration of internationally-educated health professionals.
- Funded the Rural Nursing Program to provide nurses with the skills they need to practice nursing in rural communities.
- Offering french-speaking nursing students bursaries to entice them to begin their careers in Nova Scotia.
- Completed the new Master Agreement with Doctors Nova Scotia in Spring 2008, providing more than \$108 million in new funding over five years to help ensure that Nova Scotia becomes an even more attractive place to practice medicine. Highlights of the agreement include:
  - a focus on encouraging doctors to provide a broad spectrum of care to their patients;
  - new funding to help retain rural specialists;
  - funding to support collaborative care with other health-care providers; and
  - more funding to support general practitioners who provide comprehensive care, chronic disease management and in-hospital care.



- Piloting a two-year, tuition-free, Link Continuing Care Assistant program to train Nova Scotians for careers in health care while they complete their high school diplomas.

***A PC Government has put a renewed emphasis on keeping Nova Scotians healthy through the leadership of our first dedicated Health Promotion and Protection Department. We will continue to work to reduce the reliance on the health system through initiatives to keep our citizens healthy.***

- Implemented a tobacco control strategy which has helped cut smoking rates from 30 percent to 20 percent. Currently Nova Scotia has the lowest rate of youth smokers in the country.
- Invested \$2.8 million in mental health and addictions services across the province, with particular focus on services for children and youth.
- Created the Healthy Living Tax Credit of up to \$500 per child to help with the cost of registering children and youth in sport or recreation activities.
- Continue to invest in the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Nova Scotia's Stroke Strategy to make Nova Scotians healthier.
- Set up a 10-year, multi-million program to build, replace and upgrade recreation facilities in Nova Scotia - *Building Facilities and Infrastructure Together (B-FIT)* - investing \$60 million over five years in 35 projects.  
Projects include:
  - Kings Mutual Century Centre, Berwick;
  - Brigadoon Village - a camp for chronically ill children, Aylesford Lake.
  - Windsor Curling Club;
  - Northside Community Civic Centre Society;
  - the YMCA Dartmouth Centre;
  - a new health recreation complex in Cape Breton, along with funding for Renwick Park and Ski Ben Eoin;
  - the Trenton Minor Sports Community Centre;
  - the Canso and Area Arena;
  - a new recreation facility in Queens;
  - Multipurpose Facility in the Truro/Colchester County Area; and
  - Pictou County Wellness Centre.
- Invested in the 2009 ICF World Senior Canoe Championships in Dartmouth which will help Nova Scotia canoe and kayak athletes for years to come.
- Investing in the largest sailing event in Canadian history - the 2009 Laser World Championship.

- Since 2006, increased funding to Sport Nova Scotia by 300 percent.
- Boosted healthy living through the \$2-million rink revitalization program - assisting 74 community rinks.
- Injecting \$15 million to update our sporting facilities to prepare for the 2011 Canada Winter Games in Halifax. Upgrades are being made to two ski hills and 11 other sport venues for upgrades, including Centennial Pool and the Mainland Common Centre - a primary venue for the 2011 Canada Winter Games.

**"We are truly proud that this amazing facility will carry the Canada Games name. (The Mainland Common/Canada Games Centre) will certainly showcase the standards set for the 2011 Canada Winter Games in Halifax. Legacies are such a crucial part of the Games, whether it's the facilities left for the community or the sense of pride that grows in each resident as their hometown plays host to this first-class national event."  
~ Sue Hylland, president and CEO, Canada Games Council ~ May 4, 2009**

- Fulfilled the 2006 commitment to create 500 km of new trails and have signed a memorandum of understanding to expand the trail system in Nova Scotia to make it the province most connected by trails.
- Invested in the Sport Futures Leadership Program and After-School Program.
- Also directed funding to a program for Nova Scotians who face barriers to participate in recreation programs through the Recreation for Accessible Leisure Lifestyles, or Recreation for ALL.
- Named a minister responsible for volunteers and signed an agreement with the Volunteer Community Advisory Council to give volunteer organizations across Nova Scotia the full support of government.
- Eliminated junk food from our schools to give our kids a healthier direction.

**"The Annapolis Valley Regional School Board, long a leader in promoting active, healthy lifestyles for its students, welcomed today's official launch of the provincial Healthy Food Policy."  
~ Annapolis Valley Regional School Board ~ September 2006**

- Continuing to be prepared for a possible pandemic. This would include a business continuity plan to keep government operational in an emergency. Have been using elements from the pandemic plan since the first cases of H1N1 virus were reported in Mexico.
- Fighting to have the Federal Government put in place a national catastrophic drug program.

### ***Investing in the Health of our Seniors....***

- Set up a dedicated Seniors Department to focus on the needs of this growing age segment in our province and provide a single-entry point to government for seniors.
- Making Pharmacare more affordable. As of April 1, 2009, Nova Scotians aged 65 and older pay less - at 30 per cent for each prescription. The maximum annual co-payment and maximum annual premium remain unchanged.

***"This is good news for seniors, and we congratulate the government on a job well done."  
~ Bernie LaRusic, Chair, Group of IX ~ January 22, 2009***

- To help seniors remain healthy and independent, educating Nova Scotians about falls, and how to help prevent and reduce them.
- Created the Seniors Mental Health Network, bringing together a group of experts in the field to focus on enhancing and expanding mental health services to seniors at the community level.
- Committed \$4 million for the Expanded Home Repair/Adaptation Program to help seniors, especially low-income seniors, make repairs and renovations to address health and safety issues in their homes.
- Funded the Senior Safety Grant to help develop and enhance safety programs, improve communication between seniors and police, fund safety coordinators, and encourage more programs between seniors and young people to promote respect and positive relationships between generations.
- Helping seniors remain at home through a \$1.8-million-investment in an expansion of the Caregivers Support Pilot Program.

### ***Educating our future leaders***

- Since 1999, we have constructed 28 new schools and renovated 83 more. There are eight more currently at various stages of completion. Begin and complete 17 new schools as part of the *Building for Growth* plan. Eight of the 17 are just being announced. The remaining nine are being completed as part of the 2003 school capital construction list. Seventy-two renovation projects, including 32 now under way, will be completed more quickly under the stimulus plan. More than \$280 million is being invested to build and renovate these schools - bringing total investment in school construction since 2003 to more than \$680 million.

***"I welcome the money for these schools."  
~ Frank Corbett, NDP MLA, News Release ~ April 16, 2009***

- Over the last 10 years, the funding our party has provided to public school students has gone up by 65 per cent - more than \$3800 more per student. Thirty percent of that new funding has come since 2006.
- Testing scores are improving each year. For example, elementary and junior high students are performing well in reading and writing in grades 3, 6 and 9, according to provincial literacy assessment results.

***"Schools can get better, it just takes time. That was the fundamental belief that led to the launch in 2003 of the AIMS Annual Report Card on Atlantic Canadian High Schools. Seven reports later and there is growing evidence that progress is being made."  
~AIMS 7th Annual Report Card on Atlantic Canadian High Schools ~ April 2009***

- Preparing students for careers in Nova Scotia with the expansion of the *Options and Opportunities (O2)* program, which gives students on-the-job experience while they are still in school.
- Expanded advanced program options, including the launch of the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program at 13 additional schools across the province.
- Added a mandatory physical education credit for Grade 11. Distributed the course textbook: *Active Healthy Living: Physical Education in Nova Scotia*.
- Beginning work with community partners on a strategy to improve government services for people affected by autism spectrum disorder.
- Expanded to four years the PC Government's tuition support program for students with special needs.
- Moved the Primary entrance age deadline to December 31, 2009 to bring it in line with other provinces.
- Signed an historic agreement with the Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey to improve educational opportunities for Nova Scotia's Mi'kmaw students - replacing existing tuition agreements between Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey's 10-member bands and school boards, with a common tuition agreement between the organization and the province.

***"This is an innovative education agreement between two governments that focuses on improving performance and accountability, co-operation, and increasing respect for language and culture."***

***~ Chief Robinson, Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey ~ November 7, 2008***

- Completed a provincial review of service delivery to the Mi'kmaw community -

resulting in the set up of the Mi'kmaq Liaison Office and director. Hiring a co-ordinator to help implement review recommendations.

- Working to ensure Acadian and francophone students in Nova Scotia receive high-quality education in their language.
- Put in place the *Power of Positive Change* Award to honour students who make a difference in their communities.
- Lowered class sizes in the early years.
- Implemented *Parents as Career Coaches* to educate parents on guiding their children's education and career choices.
- Building on the initiatives of the Black Learners Advisory Committee.

***Post-secondary education ~ Education is the foundation for the future growth of our province.***

*Nova Scotia university students are the only ones in Canada paying less for tuition this year, as the province honours its commitment to lower tuition to the national average. The average undergraduate tuition at Nova Scotia universities dropped 2.9 per cent this year. The national average increased 3.6 per cent.*

- Approved \$256 million for university funding in 2008-09 - a commitment made to the universities through a MOU (Memorandum of Understanding). Made the investment to ensure universities remain competitive and students receive the best possible post-secondary education.
- On track with our 2006 commitment to bring tuition levels to the national average by 2010. The three-year, \$180 million investment freezes tuition rates, and provides stable funding for universities.
- Consulted on the Nova Scotia Student Assistance Program - as promised in 2006. Highlights of the input of over 5,000 comments included the need for more provincial grants, improved debt management programs and a more streamlined application and student-loan management system. Assistance programs help students who may not be able to afford a post-secondary education.

**"The Nova Scotia government has taken an historic step by reaching out to students across the province about their concerns on student financial aid,"  
~ Mike Tipping, Alliance of Nova Scotia Student Associations ~ April 3, 2008**

- Put in place a new direct-lend student loan system cutting two percentage points off the interest rate students pay - allowing Nova Scotia students to enjoy one of the lowest loan rates in the country.

- Established the Nova Scotia Tuition Reduction Program, providing a \$500 tuition reduction for Nova Scotia residents attending Nova Scotia universities.
- Assisting post-secondary graduates with a \$2,000 tax credit.
- Invested \$123 million in the Nova Scotia Community College system - giving campuses across the province new leases on life, enhanced and modernized programs and built a new campus on the Dartmouth waterfront.

***Extending a helping hand...The PC Government's vision for 2020: to break the cycle of poverty by creating opportunities for all Nova Scotians to participate in the prosperity of the province and enjoy a better standard of living.***

- Created the *Family Pharmacare Program* to help Nova Scotians who do not have a medical plan receive the necessary drugs.

***"Mary MacDonald says she can now accept a job with no health coverage because the Family Pharmacare program will help pay for her prescriptions." Joan Weeks ~ CBC Cape Breton Radio ~ November 29, 2007***

- Announced almost \$128 million to build new, or renovate existing affordable housing. The funding for housing - through an amendment to the Canada-Nova Scotia Affordable Housing Program Agreement and an extension to the Canada-Nova Scotia Housing Renovation Program Agreement - is on a scale we have not seen in Nova Scotia for decades. It will create needed housing units and construction jobs. The program includes 8,600 social housing units.

***"In partnership with the federal government, we are making it easier for Nova Scotians living on low and moderate incomes to access a safe affordable place to live." ~ Christopher Wilson, Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada ~ Chronicle Herald ~ May 2, 2009***

- Making it easier for families of people with disabilities to save for their loved one's future by allowing them to use Registered Disability Savings Plans, while continuing to receive income assistance.
- This winter, provided more money through the Heating Assistance Rebate Program (HARP) because of dramatic increases in oil prices.
- Funded an eight per cent rebate to lower home heating costs - sending Nova Scotian homeowners, on average, a \$260 benefit from the program.
- Helping children and families across Nova Scotia to benefit from the province's child and youth strategy just a year after it has begun.
- Announced a \$155-million Poverty Reduction Strategy to help train low-skilled workers, increase affordable housing and improve benefits for low-income families.

- Assisted more low-income seniors to make home repairs so they can remain in their homes longer through the Senior Citizens' Assistance Program.
- Added over 550 new child-care spaces as the first step in the province's new 10-year, Early Learning and Child Care Plan. Also helping child care staff to further their education and build on their skills training.

### **Protecting the Environment...Nova Scotia's Natural Resources**

- Passed the *Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act*. Objectives include implementing a policy preventing net loss of wetlands by 2009; and legally protecting 12 per cent of the province's land mass by 2015.

***“By valuing assets and liabilities appropriately, and by including the value of natural, social, and human capital as well as financial capital, the GPI provides a comprehensive overview of the health of a society, its environment, and its people. The Government of Nova Scotia adopted a similarly comprehensive view of wellbeing with its bold 2006 Opportunities for Sustainable Prosperity strategy and its 2007 Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act. The government has re-defined progress, which is fabulous, and the GPI meshes perfectly with the new Strategy and Act. It gives the government a reliable compass, a splendid instrument to help shape its policies and guide the province towards the goals it's already set out.”***

***~ Ronald Colman, GPI Atlantic ~ October 2008***

- By end of 2008, over 26,000 hectares of protected lands had been protected. Examples include:
  - Designated five new nature reserves which will protect old-growth forests, wetlands, and ecosystems - developed on lands acquired from Bowater Mersey Paper Company in 2007.
  - Designated Bird Islands, the small islands of Hertford and Ciboux in Victoria County, as a Wildlife Management Area.
  - Protected the Shubenacadie Provincial Wildlife Park by adding 65 hectares of Crown land.
  - Protected the Tobeatic Wilderness Area.
  - Continue to acquire thousands of hectares of land throughout the province including land in western Nova Scotia, land near Cape Split, islands in Mahone Bay, St. Margaret's Bay.
 Since 1999, a PC Government has protected 99,000 acres of land in Nova Scotia.
- Established - in partnership with the community - the Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes Wilderness Area on Halifax's doorstep. Awaiting final public input on areas in Ship Harbour Long Lake, Eastern Shore and Shelburne River Wilderness area, Queens County.

***“The new wilderness area - a magic maze of waterways, wetlands, woods and barrens - will preserve an undisturbed natural environment in this area, while guaranteeing a wonderful and healthy outdoor recreational experience for local residents and visitors forever.”***

**~ Dusan Soudek, Canoe Kayak Nova Scotia ~ Chronicle Herald/ Letter to the Editor ~  
April 25, 2009**

- Offered to buy more than 21,000 acres of land in western Nova Scotia - owned by JD Irving Ltd. with significant ecological, recreational and heritage value to Nova Scotians.
- Developing a new natural resources strategy for the province. Released the report on the first phase of the project, *The Future of Nova Scotia's Natural Resources: Our Common Ground*.
- Committed to reduce by 30 per cent energy consumption in all government-owned buildings constructed before 2001, as part of the Climate Change Action Plan. Assessing about 2,200 government buildings and schools to determine the best way to make energy-efficiency improvements, leading to the retrofitting of buildings and schools.
- Protecting drinking water supplies in communities around the province.
- Embarking on an environmentally-safe, cost-effective way to re-use tires in the province by shredding them into small pieces, known as tire-derived aggregate.
- Extended the deadline for consideration of 13 potential surface coal mining projects for three more years to fully evaluate these results so it can take full advantage of valuable lessons that will benefit Nova Scotians as we move forward.

***"We need to keep our most precious resource here.  
We want to export product, not people."  
~ Mining Association of Nova Scotia ~ April 2008***

- Through the \$2.52 million Community Development Trust Fund, building a better future for Nova Scotia's forests and economy - an action plan, based on recommendations from industry and government to support the forestry industry as it deals with changes in global market conditions.
- Endorsed a Canada-wide strategy for managing municipal wastewater effluent.
- Consulted extensively on our water resources - information received forming the basis of a draft water resource management strategy for Nova Scotia.

***Seeking Fairness...***

- Held an historic joint meeting in Eskasoni First Nation between government and the 13 chiefs where all agreed to meet annually. It was the first time the provincial Cabinet met with the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs.
- Consulted widely on initiatives to improve homeowner protection. As a first step,



passed legislation to offer deposit protection to Nova Scotians who enter into construction agreements for new homes.

- Established a satellite office for the Office of African Nova Scotian Affairs in Cape Breton.
- Introduced gas regulation. Completed a two-year review of gas regulation which showed gas prices are more stable and predictable, rural gas stations are more protected and regional gas price differences are minimal.
- Passed changes to create a more level playing field with elections financing by putting in place an annual maximum contribution of \$5,000. This means that political parties cannot depend on large donations from any one person or organization, including private corporations and unions, and only residents of Nova Scotia can make donations.

## ☐ **WHAT'S NEXT?**

- Continue Province's partnership with Scotia Surgery to help serve more Nova Scotians.
- In 2009-10, investing \$1.7 million for orthopaedic services at Capital Health, which includes support for the Orthopaedic Assessment Clinic which has reduced assessment wait times from 18 months to as low as four.
- A PC Government will provide funding to allow district health authorities and the IWK to purchase diagnostic, therapeutic, and surgical equipment. Money is also flowing through the department to support a number of facility upgrades and some new construction. Hospitals may also benefit from energy retrofits for provincial public buildings. State-of-the-art facilities and equipment are two important factors necessary to improve access and reduce wait times.
- Committed to an investment of \$3.96 million to establish a selfcare/telecare service. In Summer 2009, will make the new Telecare system operational - making health information more accessible, giving Nova Scotians access to a registered nurse 24-hours a day, seven days a week by calling 8-1-1.
- Moving forward on the Electronic Health Record, or the SHARE (Secure Health Access Record) project to improve the delivery of health care in Nova Scotia by making it easier to share health information between health care providers - scheduled to be in place province-wide by the end of 2009.
- Investing \$900,000 in the Panorama IT system - a health information system being developed nationally.
- A PC Government will invest in a major renovation of the Aberdeen Hospital in New Glasgow, with particular emphasis on the emergency department.

- A PC Government will complete an additional 500 km of trails.
- An additional \$2 million will go toward the Building Facilities and Infrastructure Together (B-FIT) program. Funding for the B-FIT program will now increase to \$7 million annually.
- A new investment of \$2 million will go toward revitalizing rinks and arenas in communities throughout the province.
- A PC Government will continue to target youth before they take up the habit of smoking to further reduce the numbers.
- Budgeting an increase in the tax on tobacco - adding 5 cents per cigarette, 5 cents per pre-proportioned tobacco stick, and 5 cents per gram of fine-cut tobacco. The increase was recommended by Smoke-Free Nova Scotia which estimates will reduce consumption by just over four percent and save 1,200 lives.
- Continue to move forward on the Stroke Strategy initiative in partnership with the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Nova Scotia.
- With an investment of \$260 million over ten years will continue to put in place the promised 1,320 long term care beds by 2015. Expect that 240 beds will be ready by the end of this year, with another 564 to follow in the fall of 2010.
- To help seniors remain at home and independent, the PC Government has committed to raising the Seniors Property Tax Rebate Program - from \$400 to \$600.
- Relying on input already gathered, a PC Government will work with disabled community and stakeholders to develop a Nova Scotians with Disabilities Act, which would outline steps to realize a vision of social and economic inclusion of persons with disabilities in Nova Scotia.
- Investing an additional \$900,000 to provide a monthly allowance of \$400 to caregivers of low income seniors to support their very important role, bringing the total commitment to \$2.7 million.
- Continue to add seats to our medical and nursing schools. In 2009-10, investing \$1.2 million for additional seats for physicians.
- A PC Government will invest \$700,000 annually over the next 20 years to create a new Integrated Learning Centre for health professionals in partnership with Dalhousie University. This centre will allow team-based learning for doctors and nurses - in keeping with the health transformation agenda.
- Expanding the Nova Scotia Child Benefit so more families can qualify and take advantage of the children's low income pharamacare program.

- Moving forward with a \$133-million, two-year investment to create homes for seniors and persons with disabilities and to renovate and retrofit our social housing portfolio.
- Review accessibility standards for public housing.
- For the sixth year in a row, increasing the employment support and income assistance rates for both personal and shelter allowances - for a total investment of \$21 million.
- Complete the nine additional state-of-the-art schools on the way. On top of those projects, 40 schools will receive renovations. The funding is part of a new, seven-year, \$307.3 million school construction and renovation program - a component of *Building for Growth*.

***“School Spending Necessary Investment ~  
This is not just about education, either. Decent schools are anchors for entire communities, especially in rural Nova Scotia, and they act as magnets for young professionals with children who might be interested in settling here. The economic spinoffs are much more profound than we think.”  
~Chronicle Herald ~ April 17, 2009***

- Adding \$700,000 in funding to the International Baccalaureate or IB program. Nova Scotia will be among the first in the world to pilot the online IB courses - starting September 2009.
- An additional \$2.2 million will expand the highly successful *Options and Opportunities* program.
- Investing \$4.1 million this year in the Black Learners Advisory Committee.
- Respond to the Special Needs Internal Review recommendations to ensure our students who have special requirements are treated with fairness and compassion through a new strategy to provide enriched programming and the hiring of a learning disabilities consultant.
- A \$14-million Student Information System will focus on measuring student achievement and school performance, with tangible benefits for the classroom; \$2.4 million will be invested this year to begin putting the system in place.
- In partnership with the federal government, investing \$114 million for maintenance and upgrades to university and community college campuses.
- Continue to strategically expand seats at the Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) - keeping in mind the needs of tomorrow's labour market. Investing \$22.6 million to add 2,000 more seats by 2013, for a total of 12,400 seats across the province. This is in addition to the PC Government's original investment of \$123-million in the NSCC.

- Begin the visioning process to move the Marconi Campus to Downtown Sydney to serve as an added stimulus in the revitalization of the area.
- Committed to an additional \$66 million in a Nova Scotia University Student Bursary Trust to provide a maximum per-student benefit of \$761 in 2008–2009, \$1,022 in 2009–10, and \$1,283 in 2010–11 for Nova Scotians. Out-of-province students will benefit from the tuition freeze and a \$261 bursary in 2010–11.
- Expanding the Dartmouth Waterfront NSCC Campus - The Centre for the Built Environment is set for completion in 2010 and will serve as an innovative world-class learning environment.
- Boosting Regional Library Boards with an additional \$1 million in grants.
- Work with disabled community and stakeholders to develop a Nova Scotians with Disabilities Act, which would require government and business to treat persons with disabilities identically with other citizens.
- Continue to work with Mi'kmaq leadership to build a stronger relationship.
- Proceed with Climate Change Strategy. To help create the climate change adaptation fund, investing an additional \$500,000.
- Investing \$17 million through the EcoNova Scotia fund on clean air and climate change projects.
- Continue to work aggressively toward our goal of legally protecting 12 per cent of the province's land mass by 2015.
- Complete and implement the provincial water strategy to guide decision-making about water resources strategy - set for completion by 2010.
- Investing \$50 million under our *Building for Growth* program to make our schools, hospitals and provincial buildings greener.
- Set up a distinguished panel to oversee the development of a new strategy that will govern our natural resources.
- Investing \$1 million for the forestry joint task force.
- As world leaders of solid waste management, will invest \$200,000 to encourage the redevelopment of contaminated land, and to further reduce our disposal rates.

# ROADS...INFRASTRUCTURE

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## □ THE RECORD

*The condition of our roads is vital to our economy, to our tourism sector and to the safety of all Nova Scotians. In 1999, the condition of our roads was deplorable. We have paved over 3700 km of roads over the last decade at a cost of \$800 million. A PC Government will continue to pave our roads and build and repair our infrastructure.*

- Committed to twin or modernize roads from one end of Nova Scotia to the other.
- Announced \$1.9-billion action plan to rev up the economy of the province and keep Nova Scotia in business - creating or maintaining up to 20,000 jobs over the next three years - one of the largest infrastructure programs in Nova Scotia's history.  
Funding is being directed to five priorities:
  1. Energy conservation - Part of the planning for all new buildings. Through \$50 million, will make existing government buildings, schools and hospitals more energy efficient.
  2. Roads, bridges, and highways - Investing a billion dollars in a modern highway system to support our Atlantic Gateway growth.
  3. Schools and Information Technology - \$480 million will be directed to building and improving schools, more work at our modern Nova Scotia Community Colleges. Also making information technology investments in areas such as health to help enable us to deliver tests and treatment more quickly.
  4. Healthy, safe communities - An estimated \$380 million will go towards renovating hospitals, building more affordable housing, building courts and jails.
  5. Tourism, culture, and heritage - Preserving and enhancing our museums, parks, resorts and waterfront development through approximately \$40 million.

**“This is a large increase in spending over the next three years that will lead to significant shorter-term job creation and capital investment within our industry. The long-term result of this investment will be tangible assets that benefit Nova Scotians for many years to come.”**

**~ Grant Feltmate, Nova Scotia Road Builders' Association ~ March 23, 2009**

- Completing, this year, our 2006 commitment to pave 2,000 km of roads in Nova Scotia over four years.
- Communities across Nova Scotia will benefit from a \$136-million joint investment in key infrastructure projects, thanks to a partnership between the governments of Nova Scotia and Canada. Announced funding for shovel-ready infrastructure projects under existing infrastructure programs and new money allocated in Canada's Economic Action Plan.

- Increased the entire capital budget for highway and road construction 60 per cent over last year--creating or maintaining about 11,000 jobs.
- Made a commitment to twin and modernize highways from Yarmouth to Sydney by 2020.
  - Made progress on twinning Highway 103 and committed to doing more. About \$60 million was spent to twin up to Exit 5 to deal with the highest traffic volumes. Moving forward with Phase I of a plan to build a controlled access highway from Broad River to Sable River - improving safety along this stretch of highway, while supporting the local economy.
  - Built a new and improved four-lane section of twinned Highway 101 between Falmouth and Avonport - marking the completion of the 11.8 km of twinned highway. Also started on an \$8 million twinning project between St. Croix and Ellershouse.
  - Have made considerable progress on Highway 104. A tender was called in Spring 2009 to clear the right-of-way for the construction of four new lanes of Highway 104 west of Exit 31A, near Antigonish.
- Paving important tourism routes such as sections of the Cabot Trail and Route 333 to Peggy's Cove to allow cyclists and motorists to safely share the road.
- Ensuring that municipalities are able to take advantage of stimulus funding, and will provide \$28 million over two years so they can match federal funds for capital grants. As a result, the three levels of government will provide new capital grants of \$84 million for much needed infrastructure projects and jobs.
- Boosted the growth of Atlantic Gateway projects. With funding from the Federal government, the province and Gateway partners, six projects worth \$172 million will support the longer-term objectives of the Atlantic Gateway - an efficient, integrated and competitive transportation system with direct and reliable access to and from North America's economic heartland. Projects include:
  - Burnside Connector;
  - The Port of Halifax - Richmond Terminals Multi-purpose Gateway Extension;
  - Port of Halifax-Ocean Terminals Extension of Pier C and land expansion;
  - Truro High Speed Interchange;
  - Off-site Highway Upgrades - Melford Container Terminal; and
  - Business development and marketing.
- Dalhousie University is launching a unique two-year Gateway initiative through its new Centre for International Trade and Transportation.
- Announced the Knowledge Infrastructure Program - a cost-shared initiative with the federal government to renew college and university campuses. The projects will create and maintain jobs and contribute to the high quality of Nova Scotia's post-secondary education system. Projects include renovation, information technology, energy efficiency and environmental initiatives and are set to begin as soon as possible and be completed by March 31, 2011. The province, under its *Building for Growth* stimulus plan, and universities will invest \$57.2 million.

The federal government will contribute \$56.75 million.

- Along with the governments of New Brunswick and Canada, further funded the Digby-Saint John ferry service to ensure its continued operation until 2011.
- Exploring new possibilities through strategic partnerships to look at new ways to build roads and other projects to address the province's multi-billion dollar infrastructure deficit. Currently working to develop new highway, corrections and mobile radio through strategic infrastructure partnerships.
- Set an ambitious goal to ensure all Nova Scotians had Broadband access. The \$75-million *Broadband for Rural Nova Scotia* initiative promises high-speed access across the province.
- Toughening the consequences for people caught driving with a blood alcohol level of .05. Currently, people who register between .05 to .08 on a roadside alcohol screening test receive a 24-hour licence suspension. The amendment to the Motor Vehicle Act increases the suspension time.
- Consulting with the trucking industry on improvements to the way the industry is governed to better regulate a vital part of our economy.
- Helped municipalities provide public transit in unserved and underserved rural areas through an incentive program.

## **WHAT'S NEXT?**

- Under *Building for Growth*, in partnership with the federal government, a PC Government will invest \$1.9 billion in provincially-owned infrastructure projects over the next three years. This investment will keep about 20,000 Nova Scotians working.
- Exceed annual targets of our party's 2006 commitment to pave at least 2,000 km of roads across Nova Scotia over four years. We will exceed the annual target this year by 75 km.
- Continue to work towards commitment to twin highways from Yarmouth to Sydney by 2020.
- Move forward on Gateway initiatives announced in Spring 2009 to secure Nova Scotia and Atlantic Canada's natural position as the Atlantic Gateway to the World.

## Costing

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There are an additional nine commitments over and above our 2009-10 Budget and our \$1.9 billion *Building For Growth* Plan. These are fully costed below.

New Commitments	Cost			
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
1. RESP Tax Credit (Infant)	\$87,500	\$370,000	\$370,000	\$370,000
2. HRM Amalgamation Review	\$100,000	-	-	-
3. Apprenticeship Payroll Rebate	-	\$4.3 million	\$4.3 million	\$4.3 million
4. <i>Buy Local</i> Increase	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$150,000	-
5. Lobster Marketing Program	\$250,000	-	-	-
<i>(Community Development Trust)</i>				
6. Planning New Marconi Campus	-	-	-	-
<i>(Absorbed Internally)</i>				
7. Youth Curfew	-	-	-	-
8. Parental Liability	-	-	-	-
9. Red Tape Cap	-	-	-	-



# Budget Summary Estimate Forecast Estimate

## 2009-2010

Total Revenues	8,176,506
Total Expenses	8,645,736
Consolidation Adjustments	112,907
Government Business Enterprises	360,352
Provincial Surplus	<b>4,029</b>

### Provincial Revenue Sources

Corporate Income Tax	318,818
Harmonized Sales Tax	1,200,485
Individual Income Tax	1,810,000
Interest Revenues	93,178
Motive Fuel Taxes	249,374
Registry of Motor Vehicles	103,332
Royalties - Petroleum	195,916
Tobacco Tax	174,652
Other Provincial Sources	275,329
TCA Cost Shared Revenue	14,000
Fees and Other Charges	61,540
Ordinary Recoveries	281,153
Sinking Fund Earnings	93,011
Total - Provincial Sources	<b>4,870,788</b>

### Federal Sources

Canada Health Transfer	700,137
Canada Social Transfer	304,089
C48 Infrastructure Trust Funds	8,500
C52 Trust Funds	21,961
Crown Share	79,352
Equalization Payments	1,464,935
Knowledge Infrastructure Program	17,873
Offshore Oil and Gas Payments	180,072
Other Federal Sources	62,945
TCA Cost Shared Revenue	166,817
Ordinary Recoveries	299,037
Total - Federal Sources	<b>3,305,718</b>

### Expenses

Agriculture	60,686
Community Services	944,369
Economic and Rural Development	80,243
Education and Universities	1,385,906
Energy	31,864
Environment	44,873
Finance	30,288
Fisheries and Aquaculture	11,100
Health	3,454,729
Health Promotion and Protection	93,674
Justice	281,016
Labour and Workforce Development	134,009
Natural Resources	85,698

Public Service	174,266
Seniors	1,957
Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations	282,975
Tourism, Culture and Heritage	61,959
Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal	376,449
Restructuring Costs	124,673
Pension Valuation Adjustment	82,440
Debt Servicing Costs	902,562
<b>Total - Program Expenses</b>	<b>8,645,736</b>

(Source: Nova Scotia Department of Finance)

## Conclusion

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Because of our current economic situation, our party is presenting a prudent, realistic, costed four-year plan. It's based on our proven record of economic growth, job creation and balanced budgets. It's not like the NDP's four page pamphlet which provides incorrect costs or no costs at all. It's not like the Liberal wish list of promises that will return Nova Scotia to the days of Liberal deficit spending of the 1990s.

In 2006, our government presented Nova Scotians with a comprehensive, four-year platform. In less than three years we accomplished or set in motion the majority of those promises.

We have presented our government's eighth balanced budget, which not only offers an economic action plan to stimulate the economy and produce or maintain 20,000 jobs, it protects vital government programs, services and jobs.

The opposition chose to defeat these positive measures and instead force an election, delaying needed work around Nova Scotia and refusing to say what they would do differently. A PC Government will immediately pass this budget and get Nova Scotia's economy moving forward.

The economy has been our priority since 1999 and it remains our priority. Without a prosperous economy, the enviable quality of life in our province will suffer.

On June 9<sup>th</sup>, when Nova Scotians vote, they will have a clear choice.

Support the risky schemes put forward by the NDP in these tough economic times, or support the proven record of the Progressive Conservative Party...a Party that has shown it has a clear plan to create good jobs, manage our finances and grow our economy.

I believe Nova Scotians will make the right choice.

***Standing on a Proven Record.***

***Putting the Economy First.***