



GREEN PARTY OF NOVA SCOTIA

POLICY DOCUMENT **(ratified 2016)**

Table of Contents

Full-Cost Accounting Policy	2
Community Strategy	3
Environmental Strategy	5
Aboriginal Affairs Policy	9
Agriculture Policy	12
Clean Air Policy	16
Climate Change Policy	17
Creativity: Arts and Culture Policy	19
Education Policy	22
Electoral Reform Policy	24
Energy Security Policy	25
Extractive Industries Policy	28
Fisheries Policy	31
Food Security Policy	33
Forestry Policy	35
Health Policy	36
Job Security Policy	39
Poverty Elimination Policy	41
Water Security Policy	43

Full-Cost Accounting Policy

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

The Green Party concedes that the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has its place as one type of measure of the economy; however, it is not useful in measuring progress or sustainability. The Green Party shares the goal outlined in the province's *Environmental and Sustainable Prosperity Act* to value natural, human, and social capital as well as built and financial capital. However, the Green Party does not agree with the treatment of these values as commodities to be traded against each other. Far too often, the term "balance" in decision-making has meant a trade-off, seriously undervaluing the natural, human, and social considerations, to push built and financial capital.

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

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

1. The Green Party of Nova Scotia will
 - 1.1 utilize full-cost accounting, that is the assessment of full economic, social, and environmental costs and benefits
 - 1.2 incorporate full-cost accounting as a primary measure and a planning guide for economic progress
 - 1.3 use the *Genuine Progress Index* approach to measure progress, to inform strategies for improvement, and in other appropriate applications, as well as its use in areas identified in the Constitution and By-laws.

[Back to Contents](#)

Community Strategy

The Green Party is founded on the principles of ecological wisdom; social justice; participatory democracy; nonviolence; sustainability; and respect for diversity, all of which are relevant to an holistic view of society and sense of community. In thriving communities the social, economic and environmental realities are inextricably linked. The Green Party supports holistic measurement of our true wealth, and that includes living standards, population health, education, time use, community vitality, and environmental quality.

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

The Green Party recognizes that the prosperity of complex communities needs to be considered beyond simple measurements of Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Nova Scotia has renewable resources, creative entrepreneurs, and an educated and capable workforce. A prosperous and bright green future for Nova Scotia is well within our reach.

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

1. The Green Party will

- 1.1 start a dialogue with Nova Scotians to formulate a comprehensive social strategy which
 - 1.1.1 ensures that their basic health, education, and economic needs are met within or near their home communities
 - 1.1.2 considers the geography, population, and natural resource base of their communities
 - 1.1.3 incorporates successful non-governmental programs and recommendations from grassroots community organizations
 - 1.1.4 uses full-cost accounting in setting and evaluating policy
- 1.2 work toward affordable adequate housing and poverty reduction,
- 1.3 work to secure local health care and education systems as well as centralized health services and educational institutions
- 1.4 work to increase initiatives for job creation and opportunities to invest in local businesses
 - 1.4.1 work to bring green businesses and industries to Nova Scotia
 - 1.4.2 promote existing green businesses to create local jobs and wealth
 - 1.4.3 encourage initiatives to provide secure sources of energy to Nova Scotians
 - 1.4.4 support sustainable transportation initiatives
 - 1.4.5 support family farms and other primary producers for an increasing local food supply.

- 1.5 work cooperatively with municipalities to improve the infrastructure of the province
 - 1.6 promote volunteerism and leadership in local communities
 - 1.7 collaborate with federal and municipal governments on issues which cut across all three levels of governance
 - 1.7.1 reduce government duplication of services and work toward a more effective and efficient delivery of social services.
2. The Green Party will work to ensure that:
- 2.1 the province's social strategy recognizes that before we can achieve sustainable prosperity, the basic needs of the citizens must be met and secured
 - 2.2 Nova Scotians have secure access to affordable shelter, dependable energy supply, nutritious food, clean water and air, and a fair wage.
 - 2.3 cultural diversity is respected and included in the principles that guide decisions in community development
 - 2.4 social services and resources are delivered equitably to rural communities
 - 2.5 the wage gap between men and women is closed and a guaranteed annual income system is established
 - 2.6 Nova Scotians who receive post-secondary education have relevant employment opportunities within Nova Scotia.
 - 2.7 research from the *Nova Scotia Genuine Progress Index (GPI)* is utilized in planning and policy assessments

[Back to Contents](#)

Environmental Strategy

The Green Party of Nova Scotia recognizes the intricate connections of a healthy environment, conservative use of our natural resources, thriving communities, and secure livelihoods in a sustainable economy. The Green Party welcomed the *Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act* as consistent with our goals.

The Green Party is dedicated to the establishment and maintenance of a focus on the respectful, efficient, and conservative use of our natural resources and adequate levels of protection for the environment. Progress toward sustainable long-term prosperity and well-being requires protection and strengthening of social and environmental assets and termination of damaging activities.

Developments and broadly based utilizations of our natural resources, both renewable and non-renewable, need to be evaluated within a comprehensive provincial strategy, incorporating environmental, social, and economic considerations. The acceptability of the utilization of a natural resource at a given location must be evaluated from both the technical and social perspectives.

1. The Green Party will

- 1.1 work with Nova Scotians to effect a comprehensive provincial strategy on natural resources which
 - 1.1.1 uses the Genuine Progress Index approach for full-cost accounting as the economic tool for assessment and planning
 - 1.1.2 incorporates interdepartmental cooperation and progressive programs
 - 1.1.3 ensures meaningful citizen participation in decision-making and continued responsiveness to the wisdom of Nova Scotians
- 1.2 take action toward clean air, water security, food security, and energy security
- 1.3 address issues related to climate change, forestry, and extractive industries
- 1.4 build on the leading role of the waste reduction management system
- 1.5 seek to reduce exposures to hazardous chemicals and minimize additional ionizing radiation for all Nova Scotians
 - 1.5.1 the precautionary principle will be applied with respect to potential exposures for workers, the public, and ecosystems of the province, for their protection and the protection of future generations
- 1.6 set a priority on completion of a protected areas network and protection of species at risk
- 1.7 take opportunities to work cooperatively with Land Trusts and other groups to secure Nova Scotia's natural spaces and public access to shorelines for present and future generations

- 1.8 endeavor to increase Nova Scotian's input and encourage Nova Scotian companies to participate in developments that are consistent with the comprehensive provincial strategy
 - 1.9 work to establish strong links across provincial government departments to ensure that the policy framework and the regulations relevant to natural resource utilization and to management plans for protected areas address biodiversity, water, soils and other natural resources in an holistic manner as well as the resource specific considerations
 - 1.10 seek a relationship with the Mi'kmaq First Nation to cooperatively address natural resources issues in a manner that respects the *Peace and Friendship Treaties*, the *Royal Proclamation of 1763* entrenched in Canada's *Constitution Act*, the rulings of the Supreme Court, and the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.
 - 1.11 work with federal and municipal governments to improve the manufacturers' responsibility for the lifetime stewardship of their products
 - 1.12 pressure the federal government to review international trade agreements and remove Canada from those that limit how we are permitted to use capital or natural resources; or limit our ability to use our governance and economic institutions to more adequately care for one another and our environment
2. The Green Party will work to ensure that:
- 2.1 the province's resource utilization policies clarify the provincial needs, the export intent, and the options and priorities as they relate to the comprehensive provincial strategy, including the benefits of the resources in their natural form and place
 - 2.2 regulatory requirements protect human and non-human life, and are not minimized to meet the feasibility limits of the technology associated with a development
 - 2.3 the values of the local community are respected and included in the principles that guide decisions in rural development
 - 2.4 the social and economic needs of rural communities are fairly addressed by an equitable provincial sharing, and no area is open to the pressures of accepting an unwanted development because of economic desperation.
 - 2.5 new and existing utilizations of natural resources must have broad public support
 - 2.6 environmental protection policies and regulations are supported by adequate enforcement
 - 2.6.1 existing laws for pollution are enforced with increased monitoring for industrial pollution and increased fines for pollution
 - 2.7 a process is established whereby citizens can call for an existing utilization to be assessed for ethical, social, environmental, and technical compliance

- 2.8 any new project would be developed within a sound ethical and social assessment framework; as well as scientific and technical assessment.
3. The Green Party will require that **proposed developments** be evaluated from environmental, social, and economic considerations to ensure:
- 3.1 priorities within the comprehensive provincial strategy are met
 - 3.2 protection of the environment, with the precautionary principle applied
 - 3.3 enforceable responsibility for mitigation and repair of any environmental damage
 - 3.4 equitable sharing of economic benefits
 - 3.5 efficient and conservative use of our natural resources
 - 3.6 responsibility to future generations, including consideration of long-term and cumulative impacts
 - 3.7 evaluations based on a sufficient baseline of information, with evaluation of interrelations of factors
 - 3.8 meaningful citizen participation in decision-making
 - 3.9 respect for Indigenous rights
 - 3.10 cooperation and information sharing
 - 3.11 accountability of those in positions of power
4. The Green Party will require that ***new projects involving a novel innovation*** must:
- 4.1 be thoroughly evaluated with the precautionary principle applied
 - 4.2 present modeling based on sound science and realistic data
 - 4.3 include thorough and participatory scenario analysis
 - 4.4 be considered in comparison with the risk, costs, and benefits of other options, including the benefits of the resources in their natural form and place
 - 4.5 be advanced by a stable and trustworthy proponent
 - 4.6 be overseen by an independent, trustworthy regulator
 - 4.7 be proven sufficiently robust and flexible to meet regulatory requirements
 - 4.8 be assessed on their capacity to be incremental and reversible

- 4.9 include transparency about the uncertainty and lack of knowledge
- 4.10 be assessed in a process for communities of concern, including civil society, to determine the social acceptability of an innovation, including the “acceptability” of the level of risk that the technical assessment forecasts, and that individual rights are protected from abuse;
 - 4.10.1 further this process needs to acknowledge that promotional propaganda is not education and citizen rejection does not equate to ignorance
- 4.11 include required payment of royalties by the proponent of innovative projects on Crown land
- 4.12 include a requirement for
 - 4.12.1 adequate fees, set to a level sufficient for remediation including a trust fund reflecting the uncertainty and mitigation,
 - 4.12.2 adequate research as appropriate,
 - 4.12.3 compensation for those most directly affected by a share of harm or damage, and
 - 4.12.4 support systems for start-up of local associated businesses and training for local jobs where appropriate
- 4.13 be regulated by government agencies that are clearly independent from the developers of the innovative products or projects and that
 - 4.13.1 government regulations ensure that innovative technologies are not used as a tool for increasing corporate control over essentials, like food and water
 - 4.13.2 in particular, the poor and marginalized must be protected from negative consequences of employing innovative technologies or products.

[Back to Contents](#)

Aboriginal Affairs Policy

The Green Party of Nova Scotia recognizes that the Aboriginal Peoples have suffered historic injustice as a result of the colonization of their territories and injustices continue to this day. While Canada's federal government issued a much-needed Apology for the Residential School policy, it has not addressed the full sense of the searing violence of generations of occupation and assault upon Aboriginal traditional cultures and values or the continuing systemic injustices inherent in the Indian Act and government departments.

The Mi'kmaq First Nation has been dispossessed of lands and resources contrary to agreements in the *Peace and Friendship Treaties* and the *Royal Proclamation of 1763* entrenched in Canada's Constitution.

There are both legal and human rights considerations. A number of Supreme Court Rulings have upheld the legal necessity to consult with Aboriginal Peoples, and the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* is the guide for government application of human rights to Aboriginal issues. The extent of consultation and accommodation that may be required or the veto power that can be exercised by the federal or provincial government, or the Mi'kmaq First Nation will be affected by the strength of the treaty and Aboriginal title claims, what will be impacted, and the seriousness of the impact of the proposed activity.

In Nova Scotia, for various legal and public policy reasons, the government began to become more inclusive in dealing with matters that affect Aboriginal peoples in the late 1990s. In 1999, the Office of Aboriginal Affairs (OAA) was created within the Nova Scotia government. Prior to that, in 1997, the Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Tripartite Forum had been established to resolve issues of mutual concern, where claimed treaty, title and Aboriginal rights are not an issue.

The legal duty to consult with the Mi'kmaq has led to the *Made-in-Nova Scotia Process* for Mi'kmaq, Nova Scotia, and Canada to resolve issues related to Mi'kmaq treaty rights, Aboriginal rights, including Aboriginal title, and Mi'kmaq governance. The *Terms of Reference for a Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Consultation Process* were agreed in 2010 after a 3-year trial, and the Province now has an *Interim Consultation Policy* and a *Proponents Guide to Engagement with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia*

1. The Green Party acknowledges a responsibility to repair relationships and address the continuing injustices for people on Mi'kmaq First Nation reserves and for off-reserve Aboriginal Peoples in Nova Scotia.
2. The Green Party grounds our work toward right and just relationship with the Mi'kmaq and off-reserve Aboriginal Peoples in Nova Scotia in the *Peace and Friendship Treaties* and the *Royal Proclamation of 1763* entrenched in Canada's Constitution, Supreme Court rulings, and the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.
3. The Green Party respects the Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Tripartite Forum and *Terms of Reference for Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Consultation Process*.

4. The Green Party will support processes driven by Aboriginal priorities and legal entitlements, in cooperation with the federal government

4.1 to address governance issues,

4.2 to establish just accommodation of Aboriginal peoples' aspirations

4.3 to establish with the Mi'kmaq First Nation a fair sharing of lands and Nova Scotia's resources,

4.3 to improve relations, and move toward reconciliation

4.4 to correct legislative inconsistencies and policy inequities,

4.5 to effectively address social and economic disparity

4.6 to address gender inequity

4.7 to change or, if in accordance with the wishes of First Nations, to phase-out the *Indian Act*

5. The Green Party will build capacity and awareness to undertake effective dialogue with Mi'kmaq First Nation and off-reserve Aboriginal Peoples, using available Mi'kmaq processes to the extent possible.

5.1 As well as consultation with the Assembly of NS Mi'kmaq Chiefs under the *Terms of Reference for Consultation*, the Green Party will seek to share information on various issues with and receive input from other Mi'kmaq organizations, including the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq, the Union of Nova Scotia Indians, the Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources, Native Women's Association, and the Native Council of Nova Scotia (NCNS).

6. The Green Party will promote processes whereby the conservation movement, farming community, fishers, developers, industries, and others consult and work with the Aboriginal communities on resource utilization issues

7. The Green Party will work to ensure that governments and corporations respect the legally confirmed right of Aboriginal Peoples to their resources, to be consulted, and to have their concerns accommodated regarding decisions that may impact their resources and their future.

8. The Green Party honours Mi'kmaq First Nation rights of self-determination and self-government.

9. The Green Party will work toward greater recognition of the Aboriginal ownership of cultural property on land and within institutions, to ensure Aboriginal control and management of their cultural property and protection of Aboriginal heritage

10. The Green Party will promote Mi'kmaq culture, language and history as a fundamental source of Nova Scotia's identity, including

10.1 greater inclusion of Mi'kmaq history and culture in the core program in Nova Scotia's schools

10.2 the introduction of courses that include both Western and Aboriginal perspectives at all levels of education.

10.3 support for programs that involve Elders mentoring young people

11. The Green Party will work with Aboriginal communities groups, Mi'kmaq Grandmothers and other Elders, professionals in education, and leaders in literacy programs to address issues to improve Aboriginal literacy in NS.

12. The Green Party will work with the federal government to support the right of Mi'kmaq to be involved in the design and management of the delivery of their health, justice, and education services, including

12.1 respect for Aboriginal communities' treatment, prevention, and healing programs

12.2 the delivery of health care, justice, education and other services in a way that incorporates traditional practices and recognizes the role of extended families and Elders.

13. The Green Party will work cooperatively with all levels of government to address the treatment of Aboriginals by Canadian police forces and the justice system.

14. The Green Party will demand more effective action to stop violence against Aboriginal women and increased support to investigate and address the disappearance of Aboriginal women.

15. The Green Party will urge the federal government

15.1 to implement recommendations of the *1996 Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples* embarking on true nation-to-nation negotiations on a full range of issues and act provincially with the federal government in the spirit of those recommendations

15.2 to honour the *Kelowna Accord*, restore the funding commitment, and act on the specifics of the *Kelowna Accord*

15.3 to move from endorsement to implementation of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* as a primary guide to the application of human rights to Aboriginal issues in Canada.

[Back to Contents](#)

Agriculture Policy

The Green Party of Nova Scotia understands that the corporate ethic of ever-increasing profit is untenable, and therefore will focus on sustainability with a reasonable level of profit security for farmers through a program of investment in the broadest sense.

Nova Scotia needs to support its agricultural sector, ensuring that producers, harvesters, and food processors are able to make an adequate livelihood. Agricultural production, harvesting, and food processing can be environmentally sustainable. Agriculture is an important part of our economy through direct, indirect, and induced benefits to Nova Scotia.

The Green Party places particular emphasis on organic production. We know that investment in organic food production triples, as it is also an investment in a healthier environment and a healthy population.

There is more value in a local food item than the price tag on a product. There is confidence in the control of the safety and quality of the product, the contribution to food security, reassurance of observance of human rights, support for ecologically sound agriculture, and participation in sustainable communities in Nova Scotia. The Green Party will support these values of agriculture in Nova Scotia as a priority over a multi-national profit margin.

1. The Green Party approach for supporting our agricultural sector will involve
 - 1.1 establishing a more comprehensive food security strategy
 - 1.2 reversing some historic and recent trends that have undermined Nova Scotia agriculture
 - 1.3 building on existing successful policies and programs
 - 1.4 introducing innovation at many levels.
2. The Green Party will work
 - 2.1 to address provincial policies and urge changes in federal policies to ensure that policies and programs subsidize, support, and promote the family farm as central to a successful agricultural program, a vibrant sustainable agricultural community, a healthy province, and a healthy country
 - 2.2 to establish a food policy council, with broad representation, as an advisory body to the Premier on the many food related issues that cross various provincial departments and related issues that are influenced by federal policy and programs
 - 2.3 to ensure that policy and the level of support reflect the value of the primary food producers as the foundation of the agricultural sector
 - 2.4 in consultation with the farming community, to build on existing provincial programs

- 2.5 to set provincial economic assistance to more justly meet the needs of primary food producers and pressure the federal government to alter their economic assistance to multinational corporations involved in food production, processing and distribution which has led to corporate concentration and control in the marketplace and disempowerment of the primary producers
- 2.6 to have supply management and orderly marketing plans that are designed for and supported by primary producers, with fair treatment of the smaller producers
- 2.7 to look at alternative economic directions and examine funding models and assistance models already in place in other countries which could ensure a reasonable return for farmers productive activities and opportunities to recoup costs for good land stewardship, food security, the rural cultural landscape, and other ecological goods
- 2.8 to reverse the trend that has taken processing and value-added food products away from Nova Scotia communities and to have the value-added processing done in the province
- 2.9 to ensure humane treatment of farm animals and take action to reduce distress, injury, and mortality resulting from long transport to abattoir by supporting investment in local slaughter facilities, including facilities capable of handling meats for specialty markets
- 2.10 to place the priority on the local, provincial, and regional markets and work regionally to buffer the Atlantic agricultural community from the market forces exerted from outside the region
- 2.11 to consult with the agricultural community to determine the steps needed to encourage and facilitate the entry of young people into the agricultural sector, and to take those steps
- 2.12 to maintain and improve services and infrastructure, and invest in infrastructure for processing, storing, and distributing food
- 2.13 to ensure better supply management for food security, including affordable grain and plant based animal feed; establish an "agricultural land for food first not fuel" policy in the province
- 2.14 to bring food providers and consumers closer together to facilitate building connections, a strong community culture of celebrating food, and greater resilience in farm communities
- 2.15 to explore and establish protection mechanisms province wide for the agricultural land resource to preserve and restore the land, including more support for environmental stewardship of the land, legal protection from non-

agricultural development, and the option of an agricultural land trust as a public investment

- 2.16 to require an evaluation of the soil and property and an assessment of the use of the property in the food security strategy before allowing non-agricultural use of marginal agricultural land
 - 2.17 to assist farmers to successfully transition to new products, production methods, and markets
 - 2.17.1 focus assistance especially on organic products and permaculture or other integrated farming with crop and livestock production
 - 2.17.2 encourage and facilitate the creation of organic dairy processing operations so organic milk producers can complete the organic process and sell their product as truly organic.
 - 2.17.3 support transition away from water intensive crops to sustainable crops in the face of climate change
 - 2.18 to develop with farmers innovative ways and means by which farm businesses can gain a fair share from the local and export markets
 - 2.19 to provide incentives and feed-in tariffs to support transition to renewable energy on a local level combined with farming
3. To further stimulate local marketing, the Green Party will support
- 3.1 hands-on agricultural education in the public school system
 - 3.2 school cafeterias supplied with local foods, and a buy-local purchasing priority for all institutional food services
 - 3.3 more investment in and support for organic farming, cooperative marketing initiatives, community supported agriculture and local farm markets
 - 3.4 expansion of the marketing programs which endeavour to encourage and facilitate the purchase of local products
 - 3.5 consumer education about the importance of access to secure, safe, sustainable, wholesome, locally grown food
 - 3.6 effective local food networks that support local production, processing, distribution, and consumption locally and regionally
 - 3.7 a moratorium on the use of bio-solids for application on farmland until it is proven safe in a public assessment process and demonstrated not to influence the public acceptance of food grown on land treated with bio-solids
 - 3.8 facilitating local on-farm food enterprises and innovative sources of farm income that are compatible with protection of agricultural land (maintaining soil quality and maintaining or increasing the acreage of arable land)

4. The Green Party would support the harmonization of federal and provincial regulations to better meet the needs of local producers.

4.1 To this end the Green Party recognizes that federal and provincial meat inspectors do work of equal quality and no preference should be given to meat from either federally or provincially inspected abattoirs

5. The Green Party will pressure the federal government to

5.1 stop permitting produce and products into Canada that would not meet Canadian standards and requirements had they been produced in Canada, including safety, environmental, and human rights standards; this trade practice puts our farmers at a market-price disadvantage and puts the citizens at risk

5.2 fund and promote public agricultural research, ensuring that food varieties and related research developed with mainly public resources remain public property; and that agricultural communities are part of the pre-commercial R&D team and supported financially as team members

5.3 protect the public, the market, and farmland from any further Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) in our food system (ratified 2012)

5.3.1 require that food labelling state GMO prominently if the food item or its ingredients have been genetically modified. (ratified 2012)

5. The Green Party will support measures to ensure seed security and varietal diversity including heritage seed varieties. (ratified 2012)

[Back to Contents](#)

Clean Air Policy

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

1. The Green Party will work toward a comprehensive strategy for clean air that incorporates intergovernmental cooperation to meet the goals for air quality set out in the *Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act*.
2. Toward this goal of clean air, the Green Party supports:
 - 2.1 respect for the role of vegetation, land forms, and aquatic systems in our air quality and reflect their value within cost-benefit assessments and relevant legislation and regulations
 - 2.2 actions that acknowledge the key role in air quality played by natural forests and take corrective action through regulations on forestry practices and promotion of protection on private and Crown land.
 - 2.3 initiatives for corrective actions in biologically impoverished areas to promote healthy plant biodiversity
 - 2.4 conversions of inanimate surfaces to healthy vegetation through education on options for residence, business, and institutional properties
 - 2.5 reduction of our electricity reliance on fossil fuels through energy efficiency, energy conservation, and the increasing utilization of appropriate applications of renewable energies
 - 2.6 steps to reduce the impact of our transportation system on air quality
 - 2.7 requirements on industrial users to meet higher standards of air quality prior to exhausting or otherwise distributing their gaseous and particulate wastes
 - 2.8 steps to address the radon issue
 - 2.8.1 providing information for Nova Scotians on radon, testing services, and remediation options
 - 2.8.2 ensuring regulations for new construction require the latest practices that mitigate against radon infiltration from the ground or from well water
 - 2.8.3 testing for radon and corrective action in all government buildings, schools, and institutions
 - 2.9 an airshed approach to air quality and co-operation regionally, nationally and internationally toward clean air.

[Back to Contents](#)

Climate Change Policy

The Green Party recognizes that both misuse of the living surfaces of the planet and energy choices play a significant role in the present climate instability. The *Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act* requires that the province reduce greenhouse gas emissions to set targets by specified dates. While a number of gases contribute to global warming, the situation with carbon dioxide is of particular concern.

The carbon cycle, one of life's sustaining systems, is out of balance. We need carbon dioxide in our atmosphere but the concentration is elevated and continuing to rise, with planetary consequences. We have released too much carbon dioxide, particularly through the use of fossil fuels, at the same time as we have reduced Earth's ability to absorb carbon oxide by our destruction of plant communities, particularly forests.

An important factor in the rising carbon dioxide levels is the loss of biologically diverse vegetation to biologically impoverished or inanimate cover. Failure to protect terrestrial and aquatic flora communities from toxins, over-use, and destruction has significant impacts on carbon dioxide levels as well as other negative impacts on all life cycles.

Carbon dioxide from our use of fossil fuels for energy has been identified as a major contributor to the carbon cycle imbalance. However, as well as addressing climate change issues, the goal is to move to options that reduce the environmental, health, and security risks of our energy choices. Also, our energy options must be assessed from starting materials to waste products.

1. The Green Party supports dedicated efforts toward
 - 1.1 energy conservation, co-generation, and improved energy efficiency
 - 1.2 increased development and use of sustainable, renewable energy
 - 1.3 a decentralization of electricity production to increase individual and community self-sufficiency in power
 - 1.4 improved public and alternate transportation
 - 1.5 regulations for lower fuel consumption and emissions for new vehicles
 - 1.6 improved energy efficiency and lower water consumption in buildings
 - 1.7 development of plans and tools for adaptation to climate change with
 - 1.7.1 proactive support to communities for mitigation of climate instability
 - 1.7.2 land use regulations for coastal areas that address the impacts of climate change
 - 1.7.3 preparedness for "100 year events" which could happen with greater frequency due to climate change
 - 1.7.4 support for research and coordinated action across provincial government departments, and with municipalities and the federal government

- 1.8 a predictable and steadily rising fee placed on GHG-emitting fossil fuels energy at the point of entry into commerce, with proceeds distributed to Nova Scotia residents and businesses in order to alleviate the effect of any cost increase due to the imposition of the fee.
2. The Green Party understands the need to use land for food, fodder, fiber, and fuel, and would promote agricultural land use for food first not biofuel.
3. The Green Party considers the use of forest biomass for electricity generation as counterproductive in addressing climate change.
4. The Green Party stands against nuclear power and will
 - 4.1 oppose the importation into Nova Scotia of electricity generated by nuclear power
 - 4.2 oppose the establishment of nuclear power facilities in Nova Scotia
 - 4.3 work to phase-out nuclear power nationally.
5. The Green Party supports corrective action to address the damage to ecosystems that resulted in the province's reduced capacity to absorb carbon dioxide, including:
 - 5.1 relevant legislation and regulations that reflect the value of forests, diverse vegetation, and aquatic systems in countering climate change through their role in the carbon cycle
 - 5.2 the inclusion of this value within cost-benefit assessments, environmental assessments, and measures of progress
 - 5.3 conversion of biologically impoverished areas and inanimate surfaces to healthy diverse vegetation, including options for built structures, private lots, and Crown land
 - 5.4 protection of a connected network of biologically diverse habitats, including significant stands of maturing forests.

[Back to Contents](#)

Creativity: Arts and Culture Policy

The Green Party of Nova Scotia is committed to helping this province become a community where the Arts, culture, crafts and heritage are supported and where expression through participation in and enjoyment of creative activities is promoted. The Arts are essential for enrichment of our quality of life, providing an opportunity for creative expression, empowerment, a cohesive sense of community, and celebration of our relationship with the environment.

Creative talent is an important resource. In this time of rapidly changing social, economic, and technological circumstances, creativity is essential in order to flourish in any field.

The Arts provide one way of restructuring the economy through jobs that are sustainable and are integral to Nova Scotia's clean, green economy. The Green Party is committed to the transformation of these activities into satisfying, sustainable work and small businesses.

The Green Party recognizes that a policy which provides financial and infrastructure support for creative endeavours must also maintain freedom from undue constraint by government and industry.

In acknowledging freedom of artistic expression, the Green Party recognizes that the Arts articulate changes in environmental, social, cultural and economic values.

New technologies and industries will require creative thinking, and artists can provide new and imaginative perspectives that can lead to more innovative approaches.

1. The Green Party of Nova Scotia supports arts, crafts, cultures and heritage as essential to the well-being of individuals, communities and the whole province, and will work with the arts community and all citizens of Nova Scotia to establish a provincial strategy that includes

1.1 arts, culture, craft, and heritage activities as essential elements in provincial policy across many departments, including education, economic development, and health

1.2 support for a dynamic arts, culture, craft, and heritage sector in NS as a good investment with great potential for economic and health benefits, and community well-being

1.3 increased opportunities for Nova Scotians to participate in artistic and cultural endeavours and to strive for excellence

1.4 acknowledgement that artists make a significant contribution to our culture, to the aesthetic aspects of the built environment, and to our economy

1.5 recognition that the enjoyment of arts and culture of others, and outlets for our own creativity are essential to our mental health and well-being

1.6 acknowledgement that schools have been a traditional center for music, theatre, art,

and other creative community activities, and contribute to a vibrant community life in danger of being compromised with the loss of local schools

2. The Green Party will work to:

2.1 preserve and promote what is of past and present significance as part of Nova Scotia's culture

2.2 support programs to select and maintain examples of our built heritage

2.3 build the Arts as a vibrant sector in our society and promote the Arts as a provider of jobs

2.4 support First Nation and multicultural arts as an expression of the cultural richness of Nova Scotia's society

2.5 establish an interdepartmental committee to facilitate effective support for arts, culture, crafts and heritage within departments and to assist the community in a coordinated manner

2.6 support the continued existence of a resident professional symphony orchestra as central to the musical life of Nova Scotia

2.7 encourage the involvement of local art and design in all aspects of Nova Scotian development, and support a budget for art in the planning of any public building project

2.8 encourage creativity in schools, at work, and in leisure

2.9 review the consolidation of schools using full-cost accounting that values the benefits of local schools to individual, family, and community well-being

2.10 establish visual art, music, dance, and drama as classes in the school curriculum, as well as the integration of creative thinking and expression across the curriculum at all grade levels

2.11 identify and co-ordinate, through consultation with artists and the community, those areas needing major support and development in specific art forms throughout the Province

2.12 support professional development for artists to examine and promote the

commercial potential of their industry

2.13 support the many craft industries

2.14 encourage public and corporate support for competitions, scholarships, prizes, awards, honours, exhibitions, galas and festivals appropriate to particular art forms and cultures, and in particular communities

2.15 provide specific opportunities for young people and for emerging artists

2.16 develop specific strategies to promote outstanding work to patrons, audiences and markets locally, nationally and internationally

2.17 support provincial museums, Art galleries and libraries

2.18 establish and provide secure funding for an independent body responsible for decisions through peer juries regarding funding to individual artists

2.19 work with other levels of government and regulators to strengthen legislation and where needed to establish provincial legislation

2.19.1 to ensure that artists have access to social and economic benefits,

2.19.2 to protect artists, intellectual property and cultural production,

2.19.3 to deal with related labour relations and taxation issues within provincial jurisdiction; and

2.19.4 to address other issues of equity for artists.

[Back to Contents](#)

Education Policy

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

We understand that educating youth to succeed in the 21st century economy requires the development of innovative curriculum and investment in technologies for classrooms across the province. We also understand new technologies in the classroom need to be paired with professional development for teachers, to ensure they are acquainted with the best practices for using these tools. These requirements put a demand on smaller local schools

The Green Party is concerned that the benefits of these local schools are not being fully valued in closure decisions. Schools are at the heart of a community. Local schools provide better integration of educational programs with parents and caregivers, facilitate access to extra-curricular activities, and provide many important services to their communities including space for vibrant community events.

The Green Party recognizes that growing numbers of Nova Scotia children and youth require additional assistance in their classrooms and communities. We believe the school should be a place of whole-child development. In addition to traditional curriculum, children and youth require training in social, emotional and psychological literacy. By establishing a formal interdepartmental strategy involving the social services, health, and education departments, educators will be provided with the support required to address more of their students' needs.

1. The Green Party supports a comprehensive education strategy that:
 - 1.1 upholds the principles of lifelong learning, and addresses the educational needs of all citizens
 - 1.2 supports teachers and public school administrators in rural, urban, and suburban community schools
 - 1.3 addresses the challenges of implementing standardized curriculum with diverse populations of learners and in varied facilities
 - 1.4 engages children and youth with their communities in meaningful ways.
2. The Green Party holds that an education strategy should:
 - 2.1 be developed through broad consultation
 - 2.2 be an inter-departmental strategy which weaves together education, health and community services to nurture whole-child development, and life-long learning
 - 2.3 encourage excellence among educators

2.4 explore alternative models of educating children and adults with special learning needs and developmental disorders, toward discovering options designed to maximize their potential for healthy and complete integration into the community

2.5 be designed to ensure that all Nova Scotians have access to education within or near their home communities

2.6 ensure the equitable distribution of resources and technology among all schools in the province

2.7 ensure that all new educational institutions are built to be energy and water efficient

2.8 include means by which to engage children and youth creatively and meaningfully with their communities through school sponsored volunteerism and cultural programs

2.9 utilize online collaborative technology to allow educators across the province to share their best practices and creative strategies

3. The Green Party supports a full evaluation of post-secondary student financing which would encompass:

3.1 the effects of student debt on the long-term financial security of graduates and the province

3.2 a cost-benefit analysis of additional funding directed to lower tuition at Nova Scotia's universities

3.3 a system of student loans for which parental annual income is not a criteria

3.4 a strategy for debt reduction for Nova Scotian students with post-secondary education who continue to work in the province for a set number of years after graduation

4. The Green Party supports curriculum development to better reflect the history of the diverse people of the province.

4.1 The Green Party will encourage universities and community colleges to be aware of and responsive to the training of people for the lifetime stewardship of products.

[Back to Contents](#)

Electoral Reform Policy

The Green Party of Nova Scotia sees that Nova Scotian democracy would benefit by reducing the financial barriers to running for political office, decision-making with meaningful participation of the citizens, and change to a voting system that more fairly translates people's votes into representation in the Legislative Assembly.

1. Green Party supports

- 1.1 a comprehensive study into electoral systems used around the world that are proportional and fairer than our current system
 - 1.1.1 the distribution of adequate information and educational opportunities on the various types of election processes
 - 1.1.2 the establishment of a Citizen's Assembly to determine models of proportional electoral systems suitable to Nova Scotia
 - 1.1.3 opportunities for meaningful citizen engagement in determining these models
- 1.2 the decision by voters at a provincial election through ballot question on whether they want to change our voting system, and which one of the options, prepared by the Citizen's Assembly, they prefer
- 1.3 the establishment of electronic and on-line voting methods for provincial elections and referenda
- 1.4 the establishment of guidelines for and enforcement of fair elections without the use of personal attack advertising or other behaviour judged to be unethical
- 1.5 a review of the provincial government's ethical conduct and accountability mechanisms.

[Back to Contents](#)

Energy Security Policy

The Green Party of Nova Scotia recognizes in its policies that we must move to a much more ecologically integrated energy strategy, drawing on energy sources in ways that do not damage ecosystems or compromise the capacity of our natural resources to meet the needs of current or future generations. A sustainable energy strategy would manage demand through high priority on conservation and energy efficiency including significant reductions in the energy needed per unit of production and transportation.

GPNS energy policy for Nova Scotia would shift away from the strategy of expanding supply through energy megaprojects and focus more on managing demand and development of renewable, alternative sources of a scale appropriate to the integrated environmental and social goals. Conservation is by far the least expensive and most doable step. There is also great potential in energy efficiency. For commercial operations, co-generation offers energy and economic gains where energy, especially heat, that would normally be wasted is recovered for use.

The GPNS supports development and utilization of appropriate technologies for small-scale, decentralized, renewable energy systems, including small-scale hydroelectric development and small-scale wind power that is well-designed and properly sited.

Large-scale energy projects often entail major disruptions to the environment and human communities. For large-scale wind turbines and arrays, GPNS insists that the health concerns that have been raised by citizens globally about existing large installations be considered epidemiologically significant and the precautionary principle be exercised. Mega-hydroelectric developments entail massive impacts on whole water-sheds, ecosystems, communities and a way of life.

Further investment in offshore oil and gas will not move Nova Scotia away from fossil fuels to a secure energy strategy. Onshore gas production from unconventional fields like shale carries unacceptably high risk, including potentially significant impacts on groundwater.

The goal is to move to options that reduce the environmental, health, and security risks of our energy choices. Also, our energy options must be assessed from starting materials to waste products. GPNS concludes that nuclear energy has no place in the energy strategy for Nova Scotia.

Harnessing tidal power in the region is in an early development. Small-scale projects are in fact in-situ experiments and responsible planning for reduction in fossil fuel use in the near future cannot depend on significant contributions from tidal power.

Solar is a renewable energy source that can increase energy self-sufficiency for individuals and businesses. Accelerated photovoltaic developments and efficient solar hot water systems are lowering base load demands in other countries as households convert to solar energy.

GPNS insists on the rights of communities and individuals most affected by large-scale energy development projects, including energy-related exploration, extraction, production, transportation or waste projects, to have the opportunity and intervener assistance to allow for

full and meaningful participation in decision-making regarding those projects, and that for the Mi'kmaq First Nation the principle of free, prior and informed consent be upheld.

GPNS stands against international trade agreements that prevent Nova Scotia from adopting measures to reorient its energy policy, and protect our communities and natural resources.

GPNS views government policy as a means to facilitate the reorganization of individual and community lifestyles in order to generate and use energy as efficiently and sustainably as possible, utilizing a variety of fiscal measures to make renewable sources more economically competitive and thus encourage the development of the renewable sector.

1. The Green Party will work to promote conservation, energy efficiency, and co-generation as cost effective steps that can be taken immediately.

2. The Green Party will work to ensure that the potential development of tidal power meets the environmental, social, and ethical considerations outlined under our "Environmental Protection and Natural Resources Utilization Strategy" including the additional requirements in that framework for new projects involving novel innovation.

3. The Green Party does not support onshore gas production by drilling and hydraulic fracturing or further investment in off-shore oil and gas.

4. The Green Party will require a comprehensive study of wind power for Nova Scotia with public participation on the environmental concerns, the comparative benefits of fixed blade turbines and smaller helical turbines, the risk of health impacts, including indirect health impacts, and other social consideration, including the levels of uncertainty in this data:

4.1 to establish provincial policies and regulation on wind energy, guided by the comprehensive study, the precautionary principle, and World Health guidelines

4.2 to determine flexibility in policy and regulations to allow for municipal decision-making on the suitability of specific wind power developments in their jurisdiction.

5. The Green Party will promote solar (passive, hot water, and photovoltaic) and support its development for building retro fits and new constructions.

6. The Green Party will move decisively and work deliberately to increase the energy security of the province. We support dedicated efforts to

6.1 stimulate our green energy industry by implementing feed-in tariffs that guarantee a fair price for local producers of renewable energy

6.2 upgrade transmission infrastructure to enable greater renewable energy capacity

6.3 decentralize electricity production to increase individual and community self-sufficiency in power.

7. The Green Party will work to

- 7.1 help Nova Scotians increase the energy efficiency of their homes through programs that subsidize efficiency renovations, particularly for lower income Nova Scotians
 - 7.2 help renters to access options to increase their home energy efficiency
 - 7.3 support the transition to renewable energy sources
 - 7.4 create a strategic heating oil reserve for heating emergencies while we transition towards sustainable heat sources
 - 7.5 promote solar for hot water
 - 7.6 require improved energy efficiency in new provincial building construction (to meet the most current recognized certification).
8. The Green Party will support action to increase the energy security of our transportation:
- 8.1 increased funding for public transit to the Canadian per capita average
 - 8.2 investment in rebuilding our rail system for cross province travel and movement of goods
 - 8.3 improved public and alternate transportation
 - 8.4 work with federal and provincial governments toward regulations for lower fuel consumption and lower emissions for new vehicles.
9. The Green Party stands against nuclear power and will
- 9.1 oppose the importation into Nova Scotia of electricity generated by nuclear power
 - 9.2 oppose the establishment of nuclear power facilities in Nova Scotia
 - 9.3 work to phase-out nuclear power nationally.

[Back to Contents](#)

Extractive Industries Policy

Extracted minerals, oil, and gas are essentially *non-renewable* resources and require particular attention. The Green Party principles necessitate that any development, including oil and gas extraction, mining, and quarries, must be evaluated from environmental, social, and economic considerations in a process that ensures meaningful participation of all communities of interest, and includes full-cost accounting that recognizes the value of healthy ecosystems, vibrant communities, and a clean environment.

1. The Green Party will work to ensure that there is a review to modernize the legislation and regulation regime regarding oil and gas extraction, mining, and quarries, and that it incorporates meaningful citizen participation.
2. The Green Party will use a comprehensive approach to address a number of key issues:
 - 2.1 out-dated laws on mineral, oil, and gas extraction that undermine landowners' rights and disregard rights of the Mi'kmaq First Nation
 - 2.2 incompatible land uses
 - 2.3 failure to take input from communities into decision-making
 - 2.4 loss of non-renewable resources to export
 - 2.5 chemical pollution from mining, and oil and gas extraction operations
 - 2.6 legacy of problems from abandoned sites
 - 2.7 the potential for extraction and distribution of highly toxic substance
 - 2.8 loss of non-renewable resources from use by future generations.
3. The Green Party will not support extractive industries within the impact zone of protected areas or acknowledged candidate areas for protection.
4. The Green Party does not support the One Window process for extractive industries whereby companies meet with government officials over an extended period and are assisted through the regulatory process before the public is consulted in a formal way.
 - 4.1 The Green Party requires meaningful participation of communities from the beginning and throughout the process for approval of developments
 - 4.2 The Green Party supports required engagement of the community in constructive dialogue in any review of and in the decision-making for any extractive industry development
 - 4.3 As part of ongoing, full, and sincere collaboration with the Mi'kmaq First Nation in Canada's implementation of the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, the Green Party supports the necessity of consultation with the Mi'kmaq for free, prior, and informed consent

- 4.3.1 for any extractive industry development considered by the province,
 - 4.3.2 throughout the steps for any subsequent development to proceed
- 5. The process of strip mining has its own set of particular environmental impacts, hence the Green Party supports
 - 5.1 a full review, by an independent panel with meaningful public participation, into the practice of strip mining in Nova Scotia, and
 - 5.2 a moratorium on considering new strip mining projects (i.e. no One Window preparatory proceedings during this period) pending the recommendations of that review.
- 6. The Green Party understands that for quarry development, it is not only the size of quarry but also where it is located and what is to be quarried that influences the need for environmental assessment.
 - 6.1 The Green Party will work for revision of the size limitation, to require environmental assessment on smaller developments based on the location and the resource.
- 7. The Green Party will require that as well as reclamation plans being assessed as part of the comprehensive assessment of the extractive industry proposal:
 - 7.1 the proponent will be required to outline a funding guarantee for the reclamation plans
 - 7.2 if the development is approved, the proponent will be required to have the full reclamation plans and funding guarantee in place *before* active extraction begins
 - 7.3 if development proceeds, the operator must regularly evaluate the reclamation plans in response to any changing on-site conditions, evolving industry best management, and provincial regulations and update their reclamation plan with the provincial departments of Natural Resources and Environment.
- 8. The Green Party supports the safe recycling of metals, including
 - 8.1 required life-cycle product stewardship of metals
 - 8.2 the shift of subsidies presently given to the mining sector into support for metal recycling within industries and the provincial Waste Management programs
- 9. The Green Party supports a legislated ban on extraction activities that would bring significant quantities of radioactive material to the surface, and on milling, tailings, or waste storage units that would involve immediate or long-term releases of radiation or radioactive substances that could contaminate air, soil, wells or watersheds.

10. The Green Party supports a legislated ban on shale gas extraction through drilling and hydraulic fracturing (fracking)
 - 10.1 The Green Party opposes the fluid waste from hydraulic fracturing in other provinces coming into NS for treatment, storage, or disposal
 - 10.2 The Green Party insists that old drill wells in NS are not to be used for storing fluids associated with hydraulic fracturing.
11. The Green Party does not support further provincial investment in offshore oil or gas
 - 11.1 The Green Party supports the establishment of a permanent moratorium on drilling on Georges Banks.

[Back to Contents](#)



Fisheries Policy

The Green Party of Nova Scotia recognizes the complexity of the issues in the fisheries, the importance of the fisheries and marine resources to Nova Scotia's community life, food security, and prosperity, and the devastation of the fishery in many areas in recent years. The Green Party supports policies and actions toward genuinely sustainable fisheries and healthy marine environments in Nova Scotia.

1. The Green Party supports:

- 1.1 valuing experienced fishers' input into assessments of developments and competing uses of marine environments and respect for their rights
- 1.2 providing assistance to fishers to transition to new products and new markets including converting to gear for sustainable fishing
- 1.3 programs to encourage more young fishers and to address the inequity that fewer Nova Scotians are sharing in the monetary output from Nova Scotia's fisheries
- 1.4 increased promotion of the fisheries in buy-local initiatives
- 1.5 protection of the remaining salt marshes and accelerated establishment of Marine Protected Areas
- 1.6 an extended moratorium on oil and gas development on Georges Bank
- 1.7 in cooperation with the federal government,
 - 1.7.1 encouraging sustainable fishing practices and working to eliminate destructive fishing practices and activities of other industries which damage fish habitat
 - 1.7.2 encouraging sustainable local aquaculture and regulate against agricultural practices that damage the marine environment or threaten human health
 - 1.7.3 the protection of the fisheries from genetically modified organisms (2012)
- 1.8 the use of the Genuine Progress Index to assess the sustainability of marine resource utilization and to guide appropriate policies and actions
- 1.9 the cooperative development of a plan for sustainable management that will address among other issues:
 - 1.9.1 the size and condition of fish stocks
 - 1.9.2 the size, age, and species distribution in the catch
 - 1.9.3 the impact of the catch on the ecological resilience in the marine ecosystems

- 1.9.4 marine species at risk
- 1.9.5 deterioration in the quality of the marine environment
- 1.9.6 the frequency and location of shellfish closures
- 1.9.7 the inequity in the monetary return for the fisher

[Back to Contents](#)



Food Security Policy

The Green Party of Nova Scotia views food as more than just a commodity or a component for international agri-business. Food is a necessity, yet Nova Scotia has the highest household food insecurity rate in Canada.

The Green Party recognizes that fundamental policies are missing that are necessary to correct the injustice of hunger and food insecurity in the province.

The Green Party principles call for an overarching strategy that addresses food issues across health, poverty prevention, agriculture, fisheries, and the environment.

1. The Green Party supports a food security strategy that would
 - 1.1 be developed through broad consultation with all communities of interest
 - 1.2 be an interdepartmental program that integrates a sustainable food system with social equity, public health, energy security, economic vitality, and environmental health
 - 1.3 set out a comprehensive approach for analyzing issues and policy design which recognizes the inter-relation between different parts of the food system, environmental issues, and social considerations, and the need for coordination and integration of actions
 - 1.4 include a mechanism, such as a Premier's advisory council on food policy, for on-going broad-based input to all the departments that have an influence on or are influenced by food
 - 1.5 be designed to ensure that all Nova Scotians have access to and can afford sufficient nutritious, safe foods, and recognize that policies aimed at reducing poverty are critical
 - 1.6 ensure that all foods are harvested, produced, procured, distributed, and equitably-traded in ways that are environmentally sound, socially just, and sustainable
 - 1.7 establish programs that incorporate the role of food in disease prevention and healing, including the role of breast feeding and organic foods
 - 1.8 encourage, support, and promote local food production, processing, and consumption recognizing the importance of community self-reliance and economic development through innovation in direct marketing, local processing methods, and community self-sufficiency in renewable energy.
 - 1.9 protect the natural resource base to produce and sustain our food supply;
 - 1.9.1 ensure sustainable environmental, agricultural, and fishery practices; and
 - 1.9.2 require assessment of food security impacts in development evaluations at municipal and provincial levels
 - 1.10 respect the knowledge of experienced local fishers and farmers and reject technologies that undermine or contaminate local food systems

1.10.1 protect the food system from genetically modified organisms

1.11 support secure fair livelihoods for and respect the work of all food providers

1.12 provide assistance to primary producers including support to transition to new products and new markets;

1.13 work with the federal government to correct the situation that grant programs for local foods are small in scale in comparison to those offered for industrial production

1.14 seek to improve the energy efficiency in our own food system including investment in the infrastructure necessary to store and distribute local food production

[Back to Contents](#)



Forestry Policy

The Green Party of Nova Scotia is very concerned that Nova Scotia's forests have been degraded to the point that their ability is seriously compromised to perform a wide range of forest functions that protect our soils, watersheds, and climate, that promote biodiversity through habitat for species, that allow aesthetic and recreational opportunities, and that provide sustainable jobs and high quality, wide diameter, clear timber. Further, the Green Party is concerned that Nova Scotia is passing up an opportunity to capture a large domestic market and to be a leader in sustainable technologies, for example hemp fiber and seed, which are growth industries.

1. The Green Party will work toward a comprehensive strategy to restore and protect the value of Nova Scotia's forests in meaningful consultation with all communities of interest, using the Genuine Progress Index approach as the measure for progress, incorporating interdepartmental cooperation, and ensuring full sharing of information including the Permanent Sample Plot data of the Department of Natural Resources.
2. The Green Party supports the development of a comprehensive strategy that includes
 - 2.1 the requirement that all Crown land in the province allocated for harvest is Forest Stewardship Council certified
 - 2.2 greater incentives to woodlot owners for investment in forest restoration including selective harvesting and forestry methods that restore the natural age distribution and species diversity in the forest
 - 2.3 support for private woodlot owner voluntary forestry certification standards
 - 2.4 sharp reduction in the volume of wood harvested annually and in clear-cutting, with no clear-cutting on Crown land
 - 2.5 incentives for the development of small-scale wood product industries, local manufacturing and value-added businesses to produce high-value wood products, retooling of sawmills, and increase in the number of jobs per unit of wood harvested
 - 2.6 retraining for forestry and pulp and paper industry workers to transfer skills and experience to new jobs
 - 2.7 immediate protection of all remaining old-growth forest and of older forests with good potential to return to their old-growth state
 - 2.8 completion of an adequate network of representative protected areas in Nova Scotia in a manner that connects protected spaces, utilizing Crown land and land trust options to secure forestry habitats and encourage private land conservation.

[Back to Contents](#)

Health Policy

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

The health of Nova Scotians is not only dependent on the health services they receive but on social policy that addresses poverty, provides for affordable housing and nutritious food, water and energy security, available employment, and accessible education.

Health promotion is fiscally prudent and will lead to improved wellness and more affordable health care for Nova Scotians. This, in turn, will lower the cost of health care for all Nova Scotians.

The Green Party strongly supports publicly funded health care, which should include both the removal of the financial barrier for the patient, and the reorganization and revamping of the health care social support system.

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

1. To achieve the goal of healthy communities and sustainable health care services the Green Party will work to:

1.1 increase financial support and incentives for the collaborative practice model: multidisciplinary clinics and practices that team doctors with nurses, nurse practitioners, dieticians, psychologists, counselors, physiotherapists and other allied health care providers

1.1.1 increase funding to Primary Health Care and Emergency Health Services in the province and ensure implementation of over capacity protocols for Emergency Rooms

1.2 complete assessments to identify focus areas to target with an increase in the budget of the Department of Health Promotion and Protection;

1.2.1 the high cancer rate in Nova Scotia must be addressed

1.3 create broad incentives for the establishment of community-based nonprofit long-term care facilities to displace profit as the prime motivator in long-term care facilities

1.3.1 ensure that new facilities are being planned ahead of time to deal with the increasing elderly population before demand problems develop

- 1.4 ensure development of multi-level Long-Term Care facilities to decrease the current cruel practice of separating couples who have different care needs
- 1.5 legislate full and open disclosure of all public-private partnership agreements for future development of health care facilities
 - 1.5.1 ensure all future health care buildings meet the Green Hospital Checklist proposed by the Canadian Coalition for Green Health Care
- 1.6 ensure that the composition of hospital boards adequately represents health care professionals to empower health practitioners at the local level and on the front lines to be more involved in decision making
- 1.7 provide financial incentives to encourage health practitioners to practice in under-served communities, including partial or full forgiving of student loans based on length of service.
- 1.8 take steps to ensure that citizens requiring mental health support can access the care they need by
 - 1.8.1 ensuring local as well as centralized mental health services;
 - 1.8.2 increasing the ease of access to psychological and psychiatric services by installing mental health care professionals in community clinics across the province
 - 1.8.3 reducing the need for GP referrals to access mental health care;
 - 1.8.4 increasing funding and resource allocation to mental health services
 - 1.8.5 supporting advocacy groups working directly with people with mental health issues, including veterans
- 1.9 improve drug and alcohol rehabilitation services, and harm-reduction initiatives
 - 1.9.1 increase support for all health services treating forms of substance and behavioral addictions
- 1.10 initiate stakeholder consultations on the best practices for the implementation of preventive and primary health care by family doctors, and other primary health providers
 - 1.10.1 resolve risk factors to optimize chronic disease management thereby removing the burden from the acute care system
- 1.11 improve access to quality alternative care options and complementary medicine
- 1.12 increase recognition for the important role of midwives, nurse practitioners, and home health care professionals as part of Nova Scotia's health care
- 1.13 increase funding to enable more hospital beds to be opened
- 1.14 immediately begin construction of affordable housing in communities across the province to meet the needs of Nova Scotians, which will alleviate two of the social determinants of health, employment and housing, by providing jobs and ensuring all Nova Scotians have a place to live

- 1.15 assist Nova Scotians to make healthy food choices, and support local agriculture and food producers
- 1.16 assist communities to provide outlets for cultural, artistic, and physical activity
- 1.17 launch research and feasibility studies to examine provincial pharmacare coverage and a province wide health formulary so that first line affordable medications are available to all Nova Scotians
- 1.18 re-examine the current system of remuneration of family physicians in the province to shift the focus onto promoting health and optimally treating chronic diseases rather than the historical payment model that emphasizes quantity but not quality of care
 - 1.18.1 increase support for preventive health care
- 1.19 clarify provincial responsibilities in the provision of services and improve flexibility in funding options for Nova Scotians with disabilities and their caregivers
- 1.20 support the availability of fluoride rinse program within schools as an option parents can choose for their child, provided there is assurance that there is proper training and supervision for the program.

[Back to Contents](#)

Job Security Policy

Stable and secure employment in today's market is a critical issue. The Green Party of Nova Scotia sees the role of government as a generator of opportunities for job creation, and conditions that encourage continued commitment of business and industry to Nova Scotia.

Building the green economy and creating green jobs is a powerful, sustainable, and achievable step toward solving the economic and environmental challenges we face. Long-term employment for thousands of Nova Scotians will be provided through strengthening our agriculture sector, rapidly expanding our renewable energy sector, developing sustainable transportation options, and increasing energy efficiency and conservation.

Proper use of Nova Scotia's renewable resources, support for our entrepreneurs, and retention of our educated and capable workforce will help ensure a prosperous future for Nova Scotia.

The Green Party has a commitment to sustainable industries, sustainable employment, and sustainable outputs, to create green jobs for Nova Scotians.

1. The Green Party will focus on budgetary measures that:
 - 1.1 support the creation of long-term jobs and business opportunities
 - 1.2 strengthen and develop our sustainable green economy
 - 1.3 support local small businesses, industries, and farms and their local markets
2. The Green Party strategy for renewable energy that will bring long-term employment includes:
 - 2.1 support for the feed-in-tariffs to guarantee a fair price for producers of renewable energy
 - 2.2 programs to encourage individual and community investment toward greater energy self-sufficiency and a reduction on the base-load requirement
 - 2.3 infrastructure upgrades to increase the ability of the grid to manage intermittent renewable energy, including smart grid technology
3. The Green Party supports measures for improved energy efficiency which in turn will provide jobs in a thriving construction sector, and in related businesses, including
 - 3.1 education for trades people
 - 3.2 training of professionals to identify and support energy conservation and efficiency options for businesses, home owners and renters

4. The Green Party will work on a comprehensive provincial plan of options for effective, sustainable transportation of goods and the public, which will provide substantial employment in the construction and manufacturing sectors as we seek to

4.1 improve transportation to support our economy

4.1.1 increase funding for sustainable transportation to a level that at least matches the Canadian average for provincial per capita funding

4.1.2 upgrade our public transit systems

4.1.3 support for the rebuilding of our rail infrastructure

4.1.4 revitalization and expansion of ferry services

4.2 increase transport safety

4.3 reduce greenhouse gas emissions

5. To offset layoffs in industry, the Green Party encourages job sharing programs bolstered by Employment Insurance funds to make up the wage shortfall.

6. The Green Party encourages systems of micro-credit opportunities for local entrepreneurs who cannot access credit from traditional sources

7. The Green Party supports the provincial program encouraging and facilitating investment in Nova Scotia businesses.

[Back to Contents](#)

Poverty Elimination Policy

The Green Party of Nova Scotia recognizes that a plan to build healthy sustainable communities must include a comprehensive strategy that addresses all aspects of poverty in Nova Scotia – its causes and effects. Poverty is a systemic problem that arises from low minimum wages, a precarious job market, a shortage of social housing, reductions in benefits and cuts in social programs.

The Green Party acknowledges the efforts of government departments and non-governmental organizations towards the relief of poverty in Nova Scotia. While poverty reduction strategies are important for immediate relief, in a province wealthy with natural resources and social capital, we should be working towards the elimination of the causes of poverty.

Before we expect Nova Scotians to become active social and economic investors in their communities, we must first ensure that they have secure access to affordable shelter, nutritious food, clean water, and a fair wage. Addressing poverty in our communities requires the collaborative effort of all government departments, along with thoughtful, considered policies and flexible service delivery.

To eliminate poverty, we must work toward a just society with a fair and compassionate social safety network

1. The Green Party of Nova Scotia supports a comprehensive strategy which:
 - 1.1 is informed by multiple stakeholders from the public and private sectors, along with community organizations and the citizens affected by poverty
 - 1.2 places affordable and suitable housing, food security, and equitable remuneration as the centerpiece
 - 1.3 sets realistic measurable targets, timelines and budgets which are accountable through evaluation and results reporting
 - 1.4 initiates policies informed by current research on the social indicators and full-cost accounting
 - 1.5 creates an infrastructure of support in the home communities of those living in poverty
 - 1.6 employs compassion and understanding as well as fiscal responsibility
 - 1.7 works to address and respond to the effects of poverty on physical, mental and community health.
2. The Green Party encourages the development of a housing strategy which:
 - 2.1 works to reduce class divisions in our communities by the strategic integration of affordable housing units, and avoiding the clustering of poverty

- 2.2 is community-centered and integrates supportive and financial assistance into its plan
- 2.3 addresses the complex housing needs of those living on the streets, including those suffering from mental health issues and our veterans
- 2.4 recognizes the CMHC definition of affordable housing and works to bring affordable housing in line with this threshold based on the actual average earning of low-income Nova Scotians
- 3. The Green Party supports a comprehensive food security program designed to ensure that all Nova Scotians have access to and can afford sufficiently nutritious and safe foods, and would ensure that these aspects also were included
 - 3.1 encouragement for the development of rural, urban, and community gardens with support programs to assist low-income families to grow their own food
 - 3.2 promotion of the breakfast programs as part of curriculum planning around education on nutrition, placing no stigma around the reality that a missed meal is a choice for some and unavoidable for others
 - 3.3 direct support for food banks and meal programs in rural and urban Nova Scotia until the root causes of poverty are properly addressed
- 4. The Green Party of Nova Scotia supports wage standards which:
 - 4.1 correct the inequities between male and female workers
 - 4.2 re-frame the concept of “minimum wage” into that of “living wage”
- 5. The Green Party supports the concept of guaranteed annual income, the cost of which is much less than what poverty is costing society whether traditional or full-cost accounting figures are used
 - 5.1 The Green Party will work cooperatively nationally and provincially to reduce child poverty through a strong commitment to guaranteeing that all families have the ability to provide for their children
- 6. The Green Party calls for a review of services to those on social assistance and disability
 - 6.1 To ensure that necessary services are covered, such as basic telephone
 - 6.2 To revise clauses that disadvantage women to give gender equity
 - 6.3 To provide adequate support for transportation, child care, and senior care

[Back to Contents](#)

Water Security Policy

The Green Party of Nova Scotia supports the right of human and other biological communities to clean water for all their diverse uses. Fundamental to water security is protection of surface water (fresh, brackish, and marine) and groundwater, and respect for the complexity of the water cycle and its primary role in maintaining life.

1. The Green Party will work toward a strategy for water security that incorporates ecological integrity, sustainable management, equitable access, and efficient and conservative use.
2. Toward this goal of water security, the Green Party supports these actions:
 - 2.1 set protection of watersheds as a priority
 - 2.2 assign greater responsibility at the provincial level for the protection of municipal water supplies
 - 2.2.1 move toward public acquisition of land in municipal source water areas to secure those areas at greatest risk in the watershed or groundwater recharge area
 - 2.2.2 increase support for expertise within Environment NS to assist the staff and source water protection committees at the municipal level to establish, manage, and enforce adequate source water protection.
 - 2.3 promote protection of riparian habitat as valued buffer areas around wetlands, water courses and coastal water bodies through legislated requirements and education
 - 2.4 take steps that ensure that shoreline communities and industries stop dumping untreated waste or insufficiently treated waste into rivers, lakes, and the ocean
 - 2.5 establish legislation to prohibit the use of Nova Scotia's lakes and other water bodies as tailings impoundments
 - 2.6 support a ban on bulk water export from Nova Scotia
 - 2.7 promote water conservation and water efficient technologies
 - 2.8 treat federal guidelines for drinking water quality as the minimum standards for secure clean drinking water
 - 2.8.1 establish a publicly available list of any chemicals of local concern for the source water in areas not served by a municipal water system
 - 2.8.2 require potable water be tested for chemicals of local concern, as well as the biological standard, as part of property sales involving a private well.
 - 2.9 work with municipalities to improve infrastructure for water, and sewage and wastewater treatment

- 2.10 support municipalities to replace or minimize chlorination systems by the use of oxygen-based systems, ultraviolet sterilization, sand filtration, membrane filtration, and other safe water purification systems
- 2.11 remove purchased bottled water and have drinking water freely available in all government buildings, institutions, and schools
 - 2.11.1 install filtration on drinking water sources in these buildings to remove chlorine and chlorinated organics until municipal systems no longer use chlorine
- 2.12 discourage water-wasting industrial technologies and move toward requiring that an industry's quality of exit water must equal or be better than the quality of its intake water
- 2.13 plan for water security and coastal protection in the face of climate change
- 2.14 ban the addition of fluoride compounds to a municipal water supply.

[Back to Contents](#)

