

Coastal and Shoreline Protection Policy (Adopted 27 October 2018)

PREAMBLE:

In government and in all our public participation, the Green Party of Nova Scotia (“the Green Party”) intends to develop and support policy in Health, Education, Environment, Economics, and all areas that will underpin the Clean, Green and healthy lifestyles that are important to Nova Scotians.

This document represents the Green Party’s policies in the area of Coastal and Shoreline Protection.

This document was last modified in October 2018, and was last reviewed in October 2018.

The Green Party will:

1. **Provincial Coastal Policy:** develop a new provincial Coastal Policy, which will
 - a. give certainty to communities and developers by clearly defining areas off limits to developers and clarifying which types of development are allowable in which areas;
 - b. ensure that the provisions of such regulation are reflected in local government planning schemes; and
 - c. ensure that a new provincial Coastal Policy is designed primarily to protect the social, cultural and environmental values of Nova Scotia’s coastline, not to facilitate development.
2. **Coastal Management:** Create a Coastal Management Unit within the provincial Policies Authority to
 - a. oversee compliance with the provincial Coastal Policy;
 - b. support any prosecution of breaches; and
 - c. assist citizens in their rightful prosecution of legitimate cases against non-compliance.
3. **Coastal and Marine Reserves:**
 - a. Extend and strengthen existing marine reserves to establish a comprehensive, adequate and representative system of marine, wetland, estuarine and coastal reserves; and
 - b. Legislate to prevent the selling of coastal and marine reserves.
4. **Coastal Development:**
 - a. Require the preparation of proponent-funded environmental impact statements, including climate change analysis, for all proposed developments, sales or leases within the coastal zone.
5. **Public Open Space:**
 - a. Recognize the value of public open space to Nova Scotia and Nova Scotian communities; and
 - b. Ensure that public open space is not sold to developers unless the proposal has local community support.

6. **Sand Mining:**
 - a. Prohibit sand mining (removal at a rate greater than natural replenishment) in the coastal zone.
7. **Vehicular Access:**
 - a. Introduce strict regulation of vehicular access to coastal zones
8. **Coastal Pollution:**
 - a. Increase policing and monitoring of potential pollutants in the coastal zone, particularly sewerage operations and landfill sites;
 - b. Legislate to provide for stronger penalties for breaches including higher maximum fines and revocation of operating licences.
9. **Catchment Management:**
 - a. Develop whole-of-government programs to implement and promote total catchment management;
 - b. Promote the planning and structuring of management around bio-regions such as water catchments.
10. **Public Participation:**
 - a. Improve inter-agency communications and public access to information relating to the coastal zones held by government bodies and agencies.
11. **Climate Change:**
 - a. Complete, as a matter of urgency, Nova Scotia's overdue Climate Change Strategy due to the overwhelming scientific consensus that climate change and a resultant sea level rise is occurring;
 - b. Ensure that adaptation and mitigation measures are included in all coastal management processes.
12. **Public Education:**
 - a. Ensure the development and promotion of public information campaigns to raise the profile of coastal and marine issues;
 - b. Inform and educate the community about threats to Nova Scotia's coastline.