

Water Security Policy (Last reviewed 2016)**PREAMBLE:**

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.