

Wetlands 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 Wetlands.

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

The Green Party will:

1. **Vehicular Access:** introduce strict regulation of vehicular access to wetland areas
2. **Pollution:** increase policing and monitoring of potential pollutants in or near wetlands, particularly mining operations, landfill sites and agricultural operations.
3. Introduce adequate buffer zones around wetland areas to include residential and industrial development, as well as mining, forestry and agricultural operations.
4. **Industrial Pollution:** Implement world-leading emissions standards; encourage closed loop and recycled water systems for new and existing industry.
5. **Water Management Act:** To be introduced to cover water quality, groundwater, more effective catchment and wetlands management, and to apply to all land and water users including forestry, mining and agricultural activities.
6. **Wetlands Management:** develop whole-of-government programs to implement and promote total Wetlands management; promote the planning and structuring of management around bio-regions such as water catchments and wetlands.
7. **Public Participation:** improve communications and public access to information relating to the wetland and water catchment areas held by government bodies and agencies
8. Introduce a comprehensive catchment auditing regime to enable water managers to quantify total catchment yields and make decisions on water allocation that safeguard the health of catchments, wetlands and the water resources they provide.
9. Protect and restore water catchments and wetland areas compromised by land clearance to return the capacity of those catchments to store, purify and release water as close as practicable to their naturally occurring levels; encourage, through education, incentives, and regulation.