

Green Party of Nova Scotia

BECAUSE THERE IS NO PLANET B.



**PLATFORM
2021**



BECAUSE THERE IS NO PLANET B

From Crisis to Resilience: Climate Justice and a Just Recovery from COVID-19 for Nova Scotia

Climate Justice is Racial Justice is Indigenous Sovereignty is Queer Liberation is Gender Justice is Disability Justice is Migrant Justice is Economic Justice is Language Justice is Justice for All

We, the Green Party of Nova Scotia, acknowledge that we are operating and living on the unceded land of the Mi'kmaq and that we have a responsibility as settlers and signatories of the Peace and Friendship Treaties to actively work to create a society where we are truly living in peace and friendship with the Mi'kmaq.

Our province is in crisis. The climate crisis, the housing crisis, and rising inequities are leaving too many people living on this land behind. We only have one planet, and one province, and this is our opportunity to make it one that is just, equitable, and sustainable. With great challenges, come major transitions. For too long our system has prioritized major multinational corporations, fossil fuels, the wealthy, and individual gain, and it is time for systemic change towards a system that prioritizes ecological stewardship, justice, and collaboration.

We present here today our vision for the future of Nova Scotia, one where justice is brought for the climate, the economy, languages, and for the racialized, Mi'kmaq, African Nova Scotian, Acadian, 2SLGBTQQA+, women, disabled, and migrant communities. We hope to build a future and a government that acts with integrity based on values and principles, rather than electoral and economic gain; where communities thrive and care for each other; where society works with nature; where stewardship of crown land is returned to the Mi'kmaq and collaboration between private landowners and Mi'kmaq communities is supported; where every resident living in Mi'kma'ki/Nova Scotia has the means to not only survive, but to thrive; and where our governance systems are decolonized, ensuring that concepts used to justify European sovereignty over Indigenous land and peoples such as the Doctrine of Discovery and terra nullius (unoccupied land) are repudiated.

We know that it is a difficult road ahead and that there is much work that must be done to get there, but we are willing and able to do that difficult work. We are committed to working with everyone towards real and actionable solutions. We must do what is necessary to combat the climate crisis and inequities, not what is politically easy.

We, the Green Party of Nova Scotia, are the party who will do what is **necessary**, no matter the political cost. We will govern with our values and principles leading us while ensuring that we are representing and acting upon the concerns of everyone living on this land. We **must** do everything we can to combat the climate crisis and ensure that no one is left behind in the process. We **must** create a liveable future following the leadership of youth and marginalized communities for current and future generations of this land, and this is the time to do so. We have a major opportunity for systemic change as we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. We should not, and cannot, return to the way things were before. We need to build back better. We need strong commitments to acting on the climate crisis and protecting natural resources and ecosystems, we need economic and social supports for everyone living on this land to ensure that everyone's basic needs are met, and we need elected officials in the legislature that are willing to do the difficult work of undoing the harm that colonization, slavery, and capitalism have caused the people and the ecology of this land.

Pillars:

Based on the principles of the Global Green Values, we are committed to taking action on the following in every aspect of governance. These values are guided through the lens of peaceful responsibility, which means affirming and taking action to undo historic and systemic violence. We will apply this through each of the following:

1. Ecological Stewardship

Through ecological stewardship, we see the earth as a whole, that human beings are part of the natural world. The wisdom of our home comes from the Mi'kmaq who have worked to preserve and strengthen the resilience of these lands. We must work together in an evidence-based approach, where Indigenous ecological knowledge is interconnected in our solutions. In order to collaborate, we must acknowledge and commit to continuous learning on the atrocities of colonization. Colonization has, in part, led to the degradation of land in Mi'kma'ki/Nova Scotia. We must work to reverse this.

2. Justice

Through justice, we work on undoing these atrocities of colonization through active decolonization and a commitment to UNDRIP (United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples), TRC (Truth and Reconciliation Commission) and MMIWG2S (Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls report). We ensure basic human needs are unconditionally met, seeking equity for all. Discrimination of any kind must never be tolerated, and we must uplift and support diversity and intersectionality in all its forms.

3. Empowering Democratic Collaboration

Through empowering democratic collaboration, we work on fostering a sense of belonging for everyone within local and global communities. That all peoples feel welcome and supported in participating in social, economic, environmental, and all types of political decision making. Power within leadership must be balanced equitably. Transparency, truthfulness, and accountability in governance must be achieved.

This vision for Nova Scotia was prepared by the volunteers from across the province on the Policy Committee of the Green Party of Nova Scotia. We are eternally grateful for the time and energy that these incredible volunteers have put into this platform.



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Topic Summaries:

Tackling the Climate Crisis

The climate crisis is the biggest threat facing our province. Rising sea levels, hotter temperatures, shorter winters, and larger storms are only some of the challenges that we will face. Some living in this province will experience the impacts of the climate crisis differently, and it could increase levels of poverty, violence, injustice, and physical and mental health problems. We will act immediately to cut carbon dioxide emissions that are accelerating the climate crisis, increase the amount of energy coming from sources that do not contribute to the climate crisis, and provide the resources for communities in Nova Scotia to be protected from the impacts of the climate crisis. We will immediately acknowledge the climate crisis as an emergency, provide funding to people and communities for renewable energy development and protection from the impacts of climate change, and ensure that fairness and justice are centered in all actions on the climate crisis.

Building a Resilient & Just Healthcare System

We have been weathering a tough couple of years because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and while we have been successful at limiting the spread of COVID-19, much still needs to be done to have a healthcare system that works for all who live in this province. There are service shortages across the province in healthcare from family doctors, to proper healthcare for 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples, to access in rural communities. We need to think of the healthcare system as a whole and ensure that we are strengthening it for future pandemics and health crises, but also for the present. Our healthcare vision focuses on three pillars: competence, first-person voice, and interaction between services. We want to ensure that all people living in Nova Scotia have access to good quality health care that takes their concerns and experiences seriously and integrates different types of healthcare into their treatment plans. We also want to make sure that no one living in this province is left out of the healthcare system, making sure that those who are historically underserved by the health care system, including: newcomers, migrants, 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples, the Mi'kmaq, African Nova Scotians, BIPOC, and disabled peoples have access to quality and appropriate healthcare.

Ensuring the Right to Safe & Affordable Housing

Access to proper housing is a human right, one that is not being upheld in this province. We are in a housing crisis, and we must improve access to quality affordable housing for everyone living on this land. Many are faced with unsafe living conditions and sky-rocketing rental rates which they cannot afford and this is only made worse when people face discrimination as a result of their identities. We will immediately limit the amount that rent can be increased as an emergency measure to prevent people from losing their homes. We need to build communities with many different types of housing units to increase availability and encourage the strengthening of ties between people of all kinds living in this province like co-op housing, apartments with units of different sizes, not-for-profit housing, secondary suites, among others. Safe housing is also environmentally friendly and sustainable housing. We will ensure that the amount of energy used in housing is reduced, and support the development of housing that follows LEED standards.

Creating Liveable Communities

Nova Scotians deserve to live in communities where they can thrive and be happy. Our communities must be redesigned to prioritize familial and community connections and activities and to reduce commuting times, separation of generations, and neighbourhoods without access to amenities. We believe that people should have access to everything they need to live, work, and entertain within their local communities including healthy and local food, public transportation, services and businesses, nature, and a healthy environment. We want to make sure that people also have access to fast, affordable, and environmentally sustainable transportation between areas of the province and to the rest of the country and can participate in global life and employment using their universal high-speed internet access. By building neighbourhoods to centre the community and not the individual consumer, it will be easier to weather the challenges and crises to come. We want this province to be one where everyone is welcomed and accepted, where people are held accountable for their actions and supported to resolve any issues, and where all can thrive in the communities where they want to live.

Eliminating Poverty through a Guaranteed Liveable Income (GLI)

Poverty is a policy choice. We have the resources and the knowledge to eliminate poverty in this province and provide financial and resource support to all who live on this land. The cost of poverty is huge, on our province, and on our people. We believe that people deserve the means to live regardless of their ability to work or contribute to the economy. We believe that people should not have to justify their value to the workforce to be able to survive. No one in this province should be living in poverty and this is why we propose redefining our values and creating a Guaranteed Liveable Income program. We want all Nova Scotians to have access to a liveable income, regardless of their employment status. They should be able to afford rent or mortgage payments, healthy and local food, education, care services, and entertainment. Based on the Parliamentary Budget Office report on a GLI, we aim to work towards a GLI of \$20,000 for all Nova Scotians who need it, and to add to pre-existing financial support programs. We also aim to increase the disability support by \$6000 a year and ensure that people with a documented disability have access to that financial support in all living situations. Our priority is to eliminate poverty and build a province where people work because they want to, and get to do the work they want, while surviving and thriving.

Improving the Stewardship of Land and Natural Resources

The land of this province is beautiful, and we must protect it. Past governments have not prioritized the conservation and stewardship of the land and natural resources of this province. We believe that to truly be stewards of this land, we must follow the leadership of Mi'kmaq communities and implement a Two-Eyed Seeing approach to natural resource management that incorporates Western Scientific Knowledge and Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge. We must stop devastating the forests, ocean, lakes, wetlands, air, and the unique ecosystems of this land. We strongly oppose the sale of Owl's Head Provincial Park, and we would immediately cancel the sale, and work to increase the amount of protected land in collaboration with Mi'kmaq communities. We aim to eventually eliminate clear cutting forestry practices in Nova Scotia. We also want to support the sustainable and healthy development of aquaculture in this province, and to do so, we must end open-pen finfish farming and work with the Mi'kmaq and settler fishers alike and communities across the province to determine a sustainable way forward.

Building an Equitable and Just Province

The systems in our province are failing many and the COVID-19 pandemic has only made that clearer. Many communities and people do not have equitable access to the necessary services for survival, and even if they do, they may not receive quality service. Social Justice and Respect for Diversity are two of the six fundamental pillars of the Green movement. That is why equity and justice are at the heart of the Green Party of Nova Scotia's policy-making. A just society is possible, and Nova Scotia has made great strides towards a more just society. However, past gains cannot be taken for granted or as an end point. Nova Scotians deserve better. Nova Scotians expect better. In this time of crisis, we must ensure that no one is being left behind. We will implement a climate justice lens in all policy and decision making, work to end violence against women and gender diverse people, work to build better supports for disabled people, and aim to end discrimination based on race, class, sexual orientation, gender identity, ability, or language ability of all in this province.

Decolonizing and Indigenizing Nova Scotia

We live in Mi'kma'ki, the unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq, and we are all treaty people. Canada can no longer hide the fact that it has committed genocide against the Indigenous Peoples of these lands. The issues impacting Indigenous Peoples in Canada are complex and cannot be assessed without an understanding of the violence of generations of occupation and assault upon their traditional cultures, values, languages, and their bodies. Nova Scotia must do its part in acknowledging and addressing colonisation and its effects. We have a responsibility to work with the Mi'kmaq to build a future for Nova Scotia where we work together and uphold the treaty rights. We will return the stewardship of crown land to Mi'kmaq communities and work to create a system for private landowners to return their land, should they choose to do so. We will also provide financial and resource support to promote and expand access to Mi'kmaq language programs and support the preservation of traditions.

Supporting Migrants and Newcomers

Nova Scotia benefits from welcoming migrants and newcomers to this province to live, work, and play. We are a country and province of immigrants, excluding the Mi'kmaq, and all who come to live or work on this land deserve proper access to services and a good quality of life.

We depend on migrant workers in many industries in this province, and newcomers/immigrants are leading many businesses and services, yet, are left out of healthcare services, democracy, and face violence and poverty in their daily lives. We are dedicated to making Nova Scotia a place where migrants and newcomers of all identities can thrive through working with universities and colleges to eliminate international student tuition fees, making newcomers eligible to vote in municipal elections based on length of residence in the province, ensuring that migrant workers have access to proper healthcare, and working with organizations to make sure that 2SLGBTQIA+, women, disabled, and other marginalized refugees are adequately supported.

Making Long-Term Care Accessible and Safe

The COVID-19 pandemic has made it clear that the Long-Term Care systems need to change. Nova Scotia's senior population is one of the highest in Canada and reports have estimated the rate of elderly to double in Atlantic Canada by 2040. People with disabilities are often excluded from discussions of long-term care altogether. The costs of care are simply too high, reducing the number of available choices, especially in rural areas. We will increase the availability and affordability of long-term care, while creating and upholding better standards of care to ensure that all people in long-term care in the province have proper care. We cannot fail our grandparents, parents, nurses and support workers, or residents in need of care for their disabilities. It should not be an isolation or death sentence to live in a long-term care facility for patients or staff.

Supporting Young Nova Scotians

Young Nova Scotians are facing a terrifying future and we need to change that. They are some of the most vulnerable to the climate, housing, and labour crises. They want to stay in this province, and they have suggestions for improvements, so we need to listen to them and support their leadership. We want young people to stay in this province but they will not be able to if we continue on the current trajectory. We must make education affordable, eventually eliminating tuition fees for all. We must increase the number of sustainable, green, and good-quality jobs, affordable housing, and we must take effective and rapid action on the climate crisis. This is our chance to build a province that will be welcoming and liveable for current and future generations to come.

Fostering a Just and Purposeful Education System

A good quality education is one of the most important factors in all of our lives, thus, it is a crucial aspect of the public services that the province offers. We believe that learning should be supported at all stages of life, truly fostering lifelong learning and inquiry. A community and province that continues to learn, is one that will be more prosperous and liveable for all. To foster learning, teachers and schools must be given proper support, training, and funding. Connection to nature and climate justice needs to be integrated into education throughout. We also must ensure that students graduate with the skills they need to survive and live in this province, through skills like finances, budgeting, or swimming. Education must be a priority in all aspects of public life. Teachers and learners of all kinds must be supported so that they can thrive, and this includes making sure that no learners are left behind. The current education system and priorities fail many, and this needs to change. Education can be the most important tool in fostering positive social and environmental change and wellbeing, and we hope to make Nova Scotia's education system one that does.

Making Nova Scotia Safe for All

The Green Party of Nova Scotia is committed to the principle of nonviolence. We recognize that Nova Scotia is a settler-colonial police state, where people face unsafe living conditions and housing, police brutality, mass shootings and domestic violence, and the highest human trafficking rates in Canada. This must change. We dream of a province where every being living on this land and these waters is safe and can thrive. The police services that are supposed to provide protection unfairly target those who are Black, Indigenous, or other people of colour, 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples, and those who are poor. We must redesign our community services to provide more funding to those that properly serve BIPOC and 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples. We will redirect some police funding towards community mental health services, housing services, and others that are needed and also work with affected communities to create a Nova Scotia Provincial Safety Force to replace the use of the RCMP.

Creating a more Accessible Political System

Our democratic political system only works when everyone can easily and effectively participate. Many face barriers to active participation in politics in this province as a result of

where they live or who they are. We believe that small and local rural communities should have political power, and that decisions must be those that are best for all, not only for some. We believe that to have a province where all can participate in public life, that there needs to be more power given to local levels of government and residents of this land. To achieve this vision, we will build a system that elects more MLAs that represent what people vote for, will lower the voting age to 16 to foster lifelong participation in politics, and will ensure that everyone has the resources they need to be heard and listened to in our political system.

THE FUTURE IS GREEN.

**GREEN PARTY
NOVA SCOTIA**



**PARTI VERT DE LA
NOUVELLE-ECOSSE**

authorized by the official agent for the green party of nova scotia

Glossary of Terms and Acronyms:

2SLGBTQIA+ - Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, and Asexual/Aromantic individuals and communities

Ableism - “Ableism is the discrimination of and social prejudice against people with disabilities based on the belief that typical abilities are superior. At its heart, ableism is rooted in the assumption that disabled people require ‘fixing’ and defines people by their disability. Like racism and sexism, ableism classifies entire groups of people as ‘less than,’ and includes harmful stereotypes, misconceptions, and generalizations of people with disabilities”¹

Accessibility - “Accessibility refers to the design of products, devices, services, or environments for people who experience disabilities”²

Accountability - being held responsible for one’s actions or words

BIPOC - Black, Indigenous, People of Colour

Climate crisis - “Global climate change refers to the average long-term changes over the entire Earth. These include warming temperatures and changes in precipitation, as well as the effects of Earth's warming, such as: Rising sea levels. Shrinking mountain glaciers”³

Climate justice - “is a term, and more than that a movement, that acknowledges climate change can have differing social, economic, public health, and other adverse impacts on underprivileged populations. Advocates for climate justice are striving to have these inequities addressed head-on through long-term mitigation and adaptation strategies”⁴

CMHC - Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

Decentralization - Gives more authority to residents and political decision makers at lower levels of government, focuses on collective and collaboration decision making that takes into account the knowledge and priorities of more people and groups.

¹ <https://www.accessliving.org/newsroom/blog/ableism-101/>

² <https://accessibilitycanada.ca/aoda/definitions/>

³ <https://climatekids.nasa.gov/climate-change-meaning/#:~:text=Global%20climate%20change%20refers%20to,Shrinking%20mountain%20glaciers>

⁴ <https://yaleclimateconnections.org/2020/07/what-is-climate-justice/>

Decolonization - “Decolonization is about shifting the way Indigenous Peoples view themselves and the way non-Indigenous people view Indigenous Peoples. Indigenous Peoples are reclaiming the family, community, culture, language, history and traditions that were taken from them under the federal government policies designed for assimilation. Some communities are reclaiming control via self-government agreements, treaties, or other negotiated agreements. It’s about revealing, renewal and rediscovery.”⁵

Ecological Stewardship - “The responsible use and protection of the natural environment through conservation and sustainable practices to enhance ecosystem resilience and human well-being”⁶

Ecological Wisdom - “Ecological Wisdom is a deeper knowing, a wisdom that can discern the interrelationship of the different components of life as the organisms to their environment which is the totality of all that humans do to maintain and support civilization and societies, including but not limited to the environment.”⁷

Environmental Racism - “Environmental racism refers to racial discrimination in the disproportionate location and greater exposure of Indigenous, Black, and other racialized communities to contamination and pollution from industry and other environmentally hazardous activities; the lack of political power these communities have to fight back against the placement of these industries in their communities; the implementation of policies that allow these harmful projects to be placed in these communities; the slow rates of cleanup of contaminants and pollutants in these communities; and the lack of representation of Black, Indigenous, and other racialized communities in mainstream environmental groups and on decision-making boards, commissions, and regulatory bodies.”⁸

ENRICH - Environmental Noxiousness, Racial Inequities & Community Health Project

Equity - “Equity, unlike the notion of equality, is not about sameness of treatment. Equity denotes fairness and justice in process and in results. Equitable outcomes often require differential treatment and resource redistribution so as to achieve a level playing field among all individuals and communities.”⁹

⁵ <https://www.ictinc.ca/blog/a-brief-definition-of-decolonization-and-indigenization>

⁶ <https://www.noaa.gov/resource-collections/common-measures-definitions/stewardship-definitions>

⁷ <https://green-horizon.org/eco-wisdom/#:~:text=Ecological%20Wisdom%20is%20a%20deeper,not%20limited%20to%20the%20environment.>

⁸ <https://www.enrichproject.org/about/background/>

⁹ <https://www.mcgill.ca/equity/resources/definitions>

FOI - Freedom of Information requests, “The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPOP) provides access to most records under the control of the provincial government, while protecting the privacy of individuals who do not want their personal information made public.”¹⁰

GLI - Guaranteed Liveable Income, “The GLI means every Canadian receives a regular minimum payment, establishing an income “floor” but with incentives for recipients to continue working and earn more”¹¹

Greenhouse gases - “Greenhouse gases are gases in Earth’s atmosphere that trap heat. They let sunlight pass through the atmosphere, but they prevent the heat that the sunlight brings from leaving the atmosphere.”¹²

Greenhouse gas emissions - the greenhouse gases that are released into the atmosphere by human activities and natural processes

Indigenization - “Indigenization requires non-Indigenous people to be aware of Indigenous worldviews and to respect that those worldviews are equal to other views. Indigenization is about incorporating Indigenous worldviews, knowledge and perspectives into the education system, right from primary grades to universities.”¹³

Intersectionality - the unique experiences of individuals are as a result of the sums of the barriers that they face as a result of their identities

IPCC - Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, “The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change.”¹⁴

LEED - Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, “the leading program for green buildings and communities worldwide.”¹⁵

¹⁰ <https://novascotia.ca/nse/dept/foipop.asp>

¹¹ <https://www.greenparty.ca/en/adopt-gli>

¹² <https://climatekids.nasa.gov/greenhouse-cards/>

¹³ <https://www.ictinc.ca/blog/a-brief-definition-of-decolonization-and-indigenization>

¹⁴ <https://www.ipcc.ch/>

¹⁵

https://www.usgbc.org/?utm_medium=ppc&gclid=Cj0KCQjw0emHBhC1ARIsAL1QGNclZ6tTxeTsBVt9zgXBGYQ-kSZUV517ShUcbJoGccL8m_LJ50TwcAoaAmUXEALw_wcB

Marginalized communities - “groups and communities that experience discrimination and exclusion (social, political and economic) because of unequal power relationships across economic, political, social and cultural dimensions”¹⁶

Migrants - “While there is no formal legal definition of an international migrant, most experts agree that an international migrant is someone who changes his or her country of usual residence, irrespective of the reason for migration or legal status”¹⁷

Newcomers - recent immigrants to Canada

Nonviolence - “We believe that security should not rest mainly on military strength but on cooperation, sound economic and social development, environmental safety, and respect for human rights”¹⁸ and that conflicts should be solved through peaceful collaboration and communication

NSHA - Nova Scotia Health Authority

NZER - Net Zero Energy Ready, “A net zero energy home is so energy efficient, it only uses as much energy as it can produce from on-site renewable energy”¹⁹

Participatory Democracy - “a democracy in which all citizens have the right to express their views, and are able to directly participate in the environmental, economic, social and political decisions which affect their lives; so that power and responsibility are concentrated in local and regional communities, and devolved only where essential to higher tiers of governance”²⁰

Refugees - “Refugees are persons who are outside their country of origin for reasons of feared persecution, conflict, generalized violence, or other circumstances that have seriously disturbed public order and, as a result, require international protection”²¹

Resilient - the ability to withstand challenges and bounce back

¹⁶ <https://nccdh.ca/glossary/entry/marginalized-populations>

¹⁷ <https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/definitions>

¹⁸ <https://www.greenparty.ca/en/party/values/non-violence>

¹⁹ <https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/energy-efficiency/energy-efficiency-homes/buying-energy-efficient-new-home/netzero-future-building-standards/20581>

²⁰ <https://www.greenparty.ca/en/party/values/participatory-democracy>

²¹ <https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/definitions>

Respect for Diversity - “honour cultural, linguistic, ethnic, sexual, religious and spiritual diversity within the context of individual responsibility toward all beings...defend the right of all persons, without discrimination, to an environment supportive of their dignity, bodily health, and spiritual well-being”²²

RRFB - Resource Recovery Fund Board (Divert NS)

Settler-Colonialism- “Settler colonialism is a distinct type of colonialism that functions through the replacement of indigenous populations with an invasive settler society...It is a structural system, not an event in history. In this sense, settler colonialism does not really ever end”²³

Social Justice - “Social justice is the equal access to wealth, opportunities, and privileges within a society”²⁴ for all

Sustainability - “Sustainability means meeting our own needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”²⁵

Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) - “Traditional Ecological Knowledge, also called by other names including Indigenous Knowledge or Native Science, (hereafter, TEK) refers to the evolving knowledge acquired by indigenous and local peoples over hundreds or thousands of years through direct contact with the environment”²⁶

Two-Eyed Seeing - “To see from one eye with the strengths of Indigenous ways of knowing, and to see from the other eye with the strengths of Western ways of knowing, and to use both of these eyes together”²⁷

²² <https://greenpartyns.ca/green-principles/respect-for-diversity/>

²³ <http://www.foodjustice.org/settlercolonialism>

²⁴ <https://www.pachamama.org/social-justice/what-is-social-justice>

²⁵ <https://www.mcgill.ca/sustainability/files/sustainability/what-is-sustainability.pdf>

²⁶ <https://www.fws.gov/nativeamerican/pdf/tek-fact-sheet.pdf>

²⁷ Elder Albert Marshall

Tackling the Climate Crisis

Climate change is the most serious threat facing Nova Scotia and we are not ready. The fires burning in British Columbia are the most recent evidence of this. Our governments are failing us. Extreme weather events are now common; species are disappearing, ice-caps are melting, oceans are warming and sea levels are rising. Governments talk about climate change mitigation and adaptation, but not enough concrete action is being taken to address the seriousness of the issue.

We are failing our children and our grandchildren. Urgency needs to be the order of the day.

The most recent IPCC 2022 draft report has been leaked to the press. According to the BBC podcast, the Climate Question, the tipping point or points where we will see collapsing ecosystems are predicted to arise sooner than climate scientists originally predicted.

It is time that we treated the climate emergency like the emergency it is.

Climate change is a direct consequence of increasing levels of greenhouse gases (GHG) in the atmosphere and it is a global problem.

Although in a global context, Nova Scotians do not emit a large proportion of GHG emissions, on a per capita basis, we are amongst the world's worst emitters. According to the Canada Energy Regulator Nova Scotia's emitted 16 megatons of GHG in 2017. The electricity sector accounted for 42%; transportation, 31%, and residential and commercial buildings accounted for 14%.

How we heat and cool our buildings and our transportation choices account for most of the GHG emissions in the province. The Nova Scotia government claims to have the most ambitious plan in the country but the legislation has not been enacted and the regulations are not in place.



It is imperative that we abandon fossil fuels and switch as rapidly as possible to renewable energy. But we must ensure that in doing so, those employed in the fossil fuel industry are provided with the necessary support to make the shift to employment in the clean energy sector.

We must also ensure that, as we take steps to a cleaner and greener future, the needs of ALL people and communities in this province are addressed and supported. To do so, we must ensure that we are supporting the communities who will face the worst consequences as a result of the climate crisis including Mi'kmaq, African Nova Scotian, Black, people of colour, 2SLGBTQQIA+, working class, women, rural, and disabled persons.

The Green Party will:

- Immediately declare a climate emergency focusing all government departments on climate change as a priority. This will include educating the public and our children about climate change, its impacts, and strategies to address
- Reduce our GHG emissions by 70% below 2005 levels by 2030 and achieve a net-zero-carbon economy by 2045
- Require that all of Nova Scotia's electricity would come from carbon-neutral sources by 2030
- End all provincial subsidies to fossil fuel sectors
- End exploration, drilling, and extraction of fossil fuels (including exploratory fracking) in Nova Scotia
- Provide funding for Mi'kmaq communities to bring all of their existing housing to net zero energy ready (NZER) standards within five years
- Provide \$50 million per year in funding to Housing Nova Scotia, to enable energy efficiency retrofits to all social housing units (using local contractors) to bring them to NZER standards
- Provide funding for the SolarHomes program to allow it to increase the rebate to \$1 watt and to continue after 2022
- Direct resources in all provincial government departments towards adapting to climate change and provide adequate financial and resource support to municipalities for mitigation and adaptation to climate change
- Introduce a Just Transition Act that will provide opportunities for workers in fossil fuel industries to have access to retraining and financial support to transition into the green energy sector

Building a Resilient and Just Healthcare System

The Green Party of Nova Scotia (GPNS) views wellness and health in a continuum. Flourishing health includes physical, emotional, mental and spiritual aspects and is not only the absence of illness.

Health and wellness are connected with access to art and physical activities, to communities where justice and equity are present, to affordable and safe housing, to food security, to education, and to active and public transportation.

Three pillars of Health Care

First pillar: competence

The first pillar of the delivery of services is the expertise and commitment of the physicians, professional staff, maintenance and clerical staff. The top-down approach of the Nova Scotia Health Authority (NSHA) and of the Department of Health has undermined the autonomy of essential workers and has had a negative impact on morale. In past years, reforms and changes have been made without true consultation. The Green Party of Nova Scotia rejects this type of top-down approach and will sit down with professionals, staff, and patients (first person) when planning services. Staff and physicians need to be supported in their work as opposed to being under constant pressure. The leaders need to promote a truly collaborative philosophy of care so that staff can have the time and energy to serve their patients.

Second pillar: first-person voice

The patients need to be offered a place to voice their concerns and suggestions on how services are delivered. The staff hold the scientific knowledge, the patient holds the knowledge of their experience. There is growing evidence that when patients feel they can collaborate in their care, healing and recovery can be enhanced.

Third pillar: interactions between services

The interactions between services need to permeate all aspects of services. The Green Party supports navigator services to help patients transition from one service into another.

Public Health

Public Health in Nova Scotia has done a remarkable job in its response to the pandemic. However, the federal public health agency and all provincial public health agencies did not at first fully evaluate the impact of the pandemic and did not respond with the right approach. This slow reaction is mostly due to budget cuts. It is obvious that more investment in Public Health is necessary so that it can properly fulfill its role.

Family Physicians



One of the most pressing problems our Healthcare system is facing is the chronic lack of access to a family doctor.

There are more people on the waitlist for a family physician in Nova Scotia than when the pandemic began in March 2020. This is simply not acceptable and may be a detriment in attracting interprovincial migration just at the moment when Nova Scotia's population is growing. This demands strong, bold, coordinated and collaborative efforts, exactly the type of approach the health care staff can do. It is the role of the Department of Health and of NSHA to promote and sustain these efforts in a practical way.

Recently, family physicians have been trained to work in interdisciplinary teams. The Clinic of the future, and the present, is an interdisciplinary team: two or more physicians, a nurse or nurse practitioner, physiotherapist, occupational therapist, mental health and addiction clinician and others. This Clinic provides services on evenings and, by partnering with other clinics in the same area, on weekends. This ensures a continuity of care and prevents unnecessary visits to the Emergency Room. The ER does then what it is best at doing: emergent and urgent care and screening for admission.

Dalhousie University has recently increased the number of admissions into medicine. We should explore the possibilities of further increasing admission into medicine. Many Nova Scotian students who are not admitted to Dalhousie choose to study abroad and then continue their career elsewhere. Nova Scotia should be able to attract and retain local and international medicine students.

Equity in Access to Appropriate Healthcare

Many people living in Nova Scotia do not have access to culturally or identity relevant healthcare. Access to appropriate healthcare is only available to some, and this must change. Creating a resilient and just healthcare system that looks at comprehensive and preventative well-being requires that we are providing appropriate healthcare for all. Indigenous peoples, Black Nova Scotians, French speakers, newcomers, migrant workers, 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples, women, people with disabilities, and those living in poverty are only some of the people experiencing unequal access to quality healthcare.

The Green Party of Nova Scotia will:

- Engage in consultations with staff, physicians and citizens when planning new services or modifying existing based on respect and participatory democracy;
- Increase collaboration and transition between health services by promoting the training and hiring of navigators
- Make the recruitment of physicians a priority by promoting collaboration between local hospitals, municipalities, not for profit agencies, and having a clear recruitment strategy
- Increase the number of admissions into medicine at Dalhousie University
- Increase the number of admissions in nurse practitioner programs
- Promote interdisciplinary approaches by providing professional services like nursing, mental health and addictions services, physiotherapy, etc. to medical clinics
- Improve access to health services in French
- Improve access to health services in Mi'kmaq
- Improve access to translators for health services for people who do not speak English
- Provide incentives to medical clinics so they can open on evenings and weekends
- Increase the budget of Public Health so it can fulfill its prevention mandate
- Invest in well-coordinated mental health and addiction services and improve the transition between services including supportive housing services
- Invest in regional mobile mental health crisis intervention services
- Improve access to mental health services for people living with disabilities, 2SLGBTQQIA+, BIPOC (Black Indigenous People of Colour), newcomers, migrants, and other marginalized peoples



- Increase access to appropriate reproductive healthcare throughout the province, particularly for survivors of sexual assault and gender diverse peoples
- Develop comprehensive strategies to provide relevant and appropriate mental health care and treatment for survivors of sexual and domestic assault
- Eliminate the cost of birth control for anyone seeking it
- Mandate ongoing cultural sensitivity and anti-oppression training for all healthcare professionals, ensuring that they are well educated on treating 2SLGBTQIA+ patients
- Increase availability and accessibility of gender-affirming care
- Require that mental health professionals are trained in climate grief and ecological anxiety
- Immediately implement a universal dental care and pharmacare program
- Maintain telehealth and online access to health services after the pandemic
- Drastically reduce ambulance fees, and work towards eliminating them with systems in place that will dissuade people from taking advantage of emergency services
- Provide universal access to fertility services for any who need them regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation and work with healthcare practitioners and 2SLGBTQIA+ and women's organizations to create the policy framework for universal access
- Work with Public Health, Healthcare practitioners, and Lyme Disease advocates to create a collaborative care plan to ensure adequate care for people at all stages of Lyme disease and proper prevention through instating tick testing and upholding standards of practice for diagnosing and treating Lyme Disease and other tick-borne diseases

Ensuring the Right to Safe & Affordable Housing

Adequate housing is a basic human right. This right is recognized by the UN International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Inadequate housing lowers one's quality of life, diminishes one's contribution to society and can lead to deterioration in mental and physical health. Poverty, racism, ableism, homophobia, transphobia, xenophobia, and sexism have exacerbated the problem. The lack of affordable housing forces people to choose between meeting basic needs such as food and medicine and paying their rent, and some are denied housing based on their identities. Good housing policy requires an integrated approach with other social, health, economic and environmental policies.

The low supply of affordable housing has reached crisis proportions. Supply has declined over time due to a variety of factors including availability of land, inequitable access to resources, inability of the marketplace to meet a range and mix of housing needs, and lack of investment in public housing. Federal policies have encouraged homeownership over rentals resulting in reductions in the supply of affordable rental properties. Further, gentrification of older sections of our cities has forced working and racialized families to move farther away from the city core in order to find affordable housing. This reduces their access to employment opportunities, basic services, and increases both the time and costs of commuting to work.

GPNS supports quick decisions to face the housing crisis as the lack of affordable housing has increased homelessness throughout the province. Some measures need to be taken immediately while a plan that will bring this sector of our economy to a green level is elaborated.



The long-term plan should include the impact of future developments on climate change. The scientific knowledge in this field is growing rapidly and includes zero or near zero-emitting buildings, LEED and other certification programs. This approach would include locating developments near services like grocery stores and other facilities, easy access to public transit, complete handicap accessibility, safe bike and electric bike racks, charging stations for electric vehicles, etc. Developments of units of different sizes will encourage people from different income levels to live in the same area and facilitate wide-ranging social interactions.

A strong collaboration between government and private developers is necessary. The higher costs of building better now will reduce the future cost of renovations as new units age. Government help will be key in supporting projects that emit little GHGs and are built to last as the scientific knowledge in this field is rapidly implemented in creative development practices. The possibility of subsidies and tax breaks will have to be carefully studied.

The Green Party of Nova Scotia will:

- Increase the supply of shelter beds and transitional housing for the homeless including shelter spaces and supported housing for intact families.
- Immediately implement rent control as an emergency measure to prevent people from losing their housing
- Consider the pertinence of rent control on a long-term basis
- Implement a Housing First²⁸ strategy in Sydney, Halifax and Truro
- Increase the supply of safe, affordable and quality housing across the province as the affordable housing stock needs to address the needs of all age groups, family sizes and people with disabilities
- Increase the mix of affordable housing to include public housing, co-ops, not for profits, small houses, and secondary suites, the mix will also include new builds, retrofitting existing buildings and repurposing empty buildings
- Guarantee that in no case will any disability benefits be reduced by any change in living situation
- Ensure that a provincial housing program is coordinated with other key policy areas such as a guaranteed liveable income, employment, recreation and leisure, transportation, health care and the environment
- Work with CMHC, municipalities, housing organizations, Mi'kmaq communities, and the private sector to ensure that the full range of strategies can be utilized to address the issue
- As recommended by the Nova Scotia Affordable Housing Commission, establish an arm's length independent provincial housing entity
- Have a long-term affordable housing strategy that will ensure that future housing developments are done with a climate change lens that includes low GHG emissions and principles of accessibility and equity
- Make 100% of social housing Net Zero Energy Ready (NZER) by 2030

Creating Liveable Communities

We want to work with all people living on this land to build communities that are sustainable, equitable and just, where everyone can thrive. We need to build liveable communities that are complete. We dream of communities where everything that one needs is accessible within a short 10-15 minute walking distance: school, work, shopping, community services, parks, and efficient public transit. We want to revitalize rural communities in Nova Scotia, and refocus urban and suburban communities on building up walkable amenities and services everywhere.

²⁸ <https://www.homelesshub.ca/solutions/housing-accommodation-and-supports/housing-first>

We acknowledge that historically and in the present day impoverished, particularly racialized, communities in this province have had unequal access to community services and amenities and that those they have had access to have been ineffectual and not culturally relevant. We must work with marginalized communities in Nova Scotia to build these liveable communities, and that includes empowering and providing financial support to leaders in those communities to lead the transition to more liveable and sustainable communities.

We want to create communities where everyone is welcomed and accepted, where there is zero tolerance for discrimination and violence, and where there is equitable access to transit, green spaces, emergency services, affordable housing, safe pedestrian infrastructure, community spaces, and healthy food.

In the development of liveable communities, we also must ensure that we are thinking about the future and building communities that will be resilient and adaptive in the face of the climate crisis. We need to strengthen the social safety net so that when we are faced with future crises like the COVID-19 pandemic, we can weather it as communities.

We need to create communities where urban and small-scale sustainable farming is feasible, where training programs and resource sharing are in place so that everyone can have access to local, healthy, and quality foods. We need to make it financially feasible for farmers and residents to grow their own food and to do so sustainably.

Thriving communities are also those where there is funding and support for the arts and cultural events. We dream of communities where there are opportunities for artists of all kinds to perform and showcase their work for a liveable income, where community programs are funded to support growth and connection within the community, and where the arts can be used as a tool for social change and connection.

This is one example of our vision: Within a ten-minute walk of your house, you have access to multiple well-maintained parks with recreational trails, outdoor gym equipment, artistic installations, and edible gardens. These parks are hubs of community activity from farmers' markets to recreational sports, community fairs, skill-sharing or building events, and community service.

Whatever produce you cannot grow or trade for yourself, you can purchase at the local farmer's market on the weekends. You work within the neighbourhood, or you have the ability to telecommute for some days a week on your high-speed internet connection regardless of where you live. You never need to worry about checking the bus schedule, or whether you have enough change, because public transit is free for all, and it comes consistently every ten minutes or more on major routes.

You don't need to worry about the diesel fumes from the buses because they are all electric, and the energy system has been completely transitioned over to renewable energy for many years.



Schools are accessible by foot and there are walking programs with other parents and children, who have been educated the whole way through on working with nature and the planet, and treating everyone with respect. Your kids leave school feeling empowered to contribute to their community and they are safe to play out in the neighbourhood with their friends.

When they graduate, they have the option to stay in the province and receive a free education at any of the public post-secondary institutions, and they will be guaranteed a liveable and fulfilling livelihood after they graduate. If they choose to leave the province, there is fast train service across the country that is sustainable and manageable for staying connected with family. When you or your parents grow old, there are senior living communities that remain in the community and participate in events. For those who choose to remain at home, there are financial services provided by the province for community members or family members to provide home care.

The Green Party of Nova Scotia will:

- Provide funding to municipal transport services to provide free public transit and develop free public transit across the province
- Rebuild the provincial rail service to provide rapid, efficient, and affordable transportation across the province and ensure that it is connected to the rest of Canada
- Remove barriers for community public transit systems to operate on a regional (across municipal lines) basis
- Serve every community of more than 1000 people in Nova Scotia by minimum-twice-daily bus service, connecting it to neighbouring communities and regional centres
- Work with municipalities, towns, and counties to focus on developing complete communities including improving active transportation infrastructure, revitalizing downtowns and commercial areas, and improving public/community transit in rural, urban, and suburban areas
- Ensure that there is universal access to rural high-speed internet across the province
- Provide funding and training programs for small-scale and urban farming
- Eliminate subsidies to large scale livestock and monoculture farming
- Ban the use of glyphosate
- Revitalize emergency services to make them accessible in all areas and communities of the province

- Guarantee a liveable income for all living in this province, regardless of employment status or level through existing programs like increasing minimum wage and Income Assistance payments until the implementation of a Guaranteed Liveable Income Program
- Create a Guaranteed Liveable Income program
- Create a micro small-business loan program for small businesses that will be administered by community members
- Work with Mi'kmaq leaders to create a Land Back program that will return the management and stewardship of all crown lands to Mi'kmaq communities and create a process for residents of the province to return the stewardship of their land back to Mi'kmaq communities
- Create a land trust program to make land affordable and accessible for new farmers, while preserving agricultural land
- Work with the other parties to pass the Environmental Racism bill and work with municipalities and African Nova Scotian & Mi'kmaq communities to eliminate environmental racism across the province
- Invest in libraries, heritage and cultural, facilities, festivals, and programming;
- Sustain funding for Arts Nova Scotia
- Work with Mi'kmaq, African Nova Scotian, Acadian and all other communities in Nova Scotia to develop a long-term, cohesive vision and strategy for tourism that recognizes the value of healthy land and cultural experiences like festivals are to our provincial identity
- Implement a 4-day work week province-wide
- Implement a paid sick leave policy of 5 days per year in normal times, and 10 days per year during times of health crisis
- Conduct a thorough review of the government budget, and look for inefficiencies with a target goal of finding 5% of the total budget that can be moved to Green initiatives
- Work with childcare professionals and parents to create a universal child care program, and ensure appropriate investment of federally directed child care dollars
- Create at least 15,000 new Green Jobs annually every year between now and 2030

Eliminating Poverty through a Guaranteed Liveable Income (GLI)

Poverty is a policy choice. One that has been made for too long. The Green Party of Nova Scotia believes that no one should have to live in poverty and that no one should be left behind. We have the means to raise everyone out of poverty and ensure that they can pay their bills, get training or further education that they need or want, and have a better work-life balance.

The Nova Scotia labour standards code law does not support a work-life balance. We need to work with unions, workers, and employers to create a labour system that supports a work-life balance and values the contributions of everyone living in this province, regardless of work situation. We believe that the value of a life is not based on the number of hours worked. If people have the option to work fewer hours and thrive, then there will be more jobs available.

A Guaranteed Liveable Income, GLI, is the way forward if we want to eradicate poverty, lower healthcare costs, ensure that more people can find housing and pay their bills. GLI would be a base income that everyone is entitled to. It is each person's share of our economic wealth.

Guaranteed Liveable Income means having an income floor, an amount based on real costs, that no one will have less than. These funds open up opportunities for people to start businesses, provide care to others, grow food, gain further education, create, make and live a healthier life with less stress and anxiety.

The Green Party of Nova Scotia proposes the implementation of a Guaranteed Liveable Income, or GLI starting at \$18,329 and increasing to \$20,000 over a period of four years. People who are able to and choose to work in addition to their GLI could actually perform paid work in something more meaningful to them, such as a business startup, in creative industries, or work in personal caregiving.

Let's be clear. Past studies of a guaranteed basic, liveable income, show that there is little disincentive to work when people receive it, and that it helps people rise up out of the suffering zone.

The Suffering Zone is the gap between what things cost and too low incomes for the cost of living. This leads to people not being able to buy the things that they need, or having to buy low-quality dollar store products that do not last. This leads to food insecurity as people only have access to convenient foods, like fast food, which are detrimental to health, or not being able to afford dental care or supportive products like orthotics. It also leads to the separation of families, where people might not be able to afford the gas or bus fare to visit their family members often enough.

The idea is that anyone living in this province can choose work that they find fulfilling, without having to worry about the paycheque. It also means that typically unpaid labour, like taking care of one's children, or loved ones, among others, can be more sustainable for families. It means that we are focusing on the value of people as humans, rather than their ability to work countless hours in sometimes questionable working conditions.

The fairest, easiest program to administrate would be to set an income floor - a guaranteed liveable income- set at a level that sustains life in a given economic region, not an arbitrary amount.

This is not only more equitable - it's also more efficient. We, the Greens, want to put resources where they are most needed. We believe in the ability of the people living in this province to manage their needs and make the choices that are best for them financially, mentally, and physically.

Our current system of income distribution has not eliminated poverty. The aim is that GLI eradicates poverty, not just lowering it. Numerous studies show that this is doable. There is a clear economic benefit to eliminating poverty, and a clear economic cost to having poverty in our communities.

How will we pay for this? It may seem like a large task, but we would focus on eliminating inefficiencies in the provincial budget and reducing redundancy, see costing below. The injury from poverty far outweighs the costs of GLI.

The Green Party of Nova Scotia will eradicate poverty by working across party lines to implement a Guaranteed Liveable Income for every person who needs it. We will do this by creating a program with an:

- Initial income amount of \$18,329 increasing to \$20,000 over a four-year period, which is 75 % of the Low-Income Measure as costed by the Parliamentary Budget Office.
 - Employment earnings are retained at 50% (GLI reduced by \$0.50 per dollar of employment earnings)
 - Participants receiving Employment Insurance or Canada Pension Plan payments would have their GLI reduced dollar for dollar
 - Participants receiving other benefits, such as the Canada Child Benefit, continued to receive them
- Where people with a documented disability receive an additional \$6000 per year regardless of living arrangements
- Awareness and education programmes about the benefits of a Guaranteed Liveable Income
- Work with other provinces and jurisdictions that have tested and implemented a Guaranteed Liveable Income
- Reduce the number of hours before workers are guaranteed overtime pay from 48 to 42 hours

Note of importance: A GLI should augment, not replace, such programs and services as housing, pharma, dental and health care, child care, education and retraining, as well as other vital specialized services such as those to support people with disabilities or developmental challenges. These programs help promote access to and affordability of certain resources and services that income support alone may not and that few Canadians can afford on their own.²⁹



²⁹ https://sencanada.ca/media/366455/senpate_glibi-perspective-document_08-15-2020_e.pdf

Costing:

Item	Cost/savings (millions)	Source
Total cost of GLI at 75% of the Low Income Measure	\$2,150	Costing a Guaranteed Basic Income During The COVID Pandemic ³⁰
Savings from programs and tax credits that are replaced by GLI	\$554	
Savings from remediating the costs of poverty for our healthcare and justice systems	\$278.7	The Cost of Poverty in the Atlantic Provinces ³¹
Net annual cost	\$1,317.3	

Note: the cost of GLI is approximately the cost of 63.4 km of twinned highway (of which we are continuously expanding), we CAN afford it!

Improving the stewardship of land and natural resources

We believe that it is our responsibility to care for the earth that sustains us. The earth and its many resources are not there for us to exploit and destroy.

The Green Party recognizes that our time on this earth is limited and that for the sake of current and future generations we need to ensure that all aspects of our environment are healthy and sustainable.

We are committed to integrating Indigenous knowledge with western scientific ways through Two-Eyed seeing to gain the benefits of both in a strengthened approach to sustaining and protecting the earth. Mi'kmaq communities have been in Nova Scotia for thousands of years and we acknowledge that they managed the ecological system of Mi'kma'ki sustainably during

³⁰ Figures have been adapted to 75% of the Low Income Measure.
https://www.pbo-dpb.gc.ca/web/default/files/Documents/Reports/RP-2021-014-M/RP-2021-014-M_en.pdf

³¹ Remedial costs here include health care costs and crime costs. Additional cost savings occur over time, such as intergenerational poverty costs and lost productivity as derived from
<https://www.policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/Nova%20Scotia%20Office/2021/04/Cost%20of%20poverty%20in%20Atlantic%20provinces%20CCPA.pdf>

that time. We believe that we must focus on learning from Mi'kmaq knowledge holders and following their leadership in the management of natural resources.

We believe in leaving no one behind as we address the climate crisis while we shift every aspect of our lives away from fossil fuels and towards a greener future. Climate change and ecological destruction disproportionately affect marginalized communities in this province. The pandemic has significantly worsened this situation. We believe that the government and those of us who are privileged have a responsibility to ensure that marginalized Nova Scotians are not bearing the brunt of ecological destruction.

We believe that people have a right to land that is healthy, with clean air and clean water. We believe that biodiversity needs to be protected. We believe in water security that incorporates ecological integrity, sustainable management, equitable access, and efficient and conservative use. We believe in the right 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.

The Green Party of Nova Scotia will:

- Enact an environmental bill of rights enshrining the principle of a basic human right to a healthy environment
- Immediately cancel the sale of Owl's Head Provincial Park
- Enact legislation to strengthen the protection of our land, air and water
- Enact legislation to strengthen the protection of other species that share the environment with us
- Establish strong links across provincial government departments to ensure that the policy framework and the regulations relevant to natural resource utilization and management plans for protected areas address biodiversity, water, soils and other natural resources in a holistic manner as well as the resource specific considerations



- Prioritize protecting natural areas in Nova Scotia through legally protecting at least 17% of the total landmass of Nova Scotia for nature conservation by 2025, and at least 20% by 2030. This Protected Areas network will now include Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas
- Ensure the social and economic needs of rural communities are fairly addressed by equitable sharing of resources, and no area is open to the pressures of accepting an unwanted development because of economic desperation;
- Immediately establish an Environmental Equity working group to address inequities in environmental stewardship and climate mitigation and adaptation

Forest

- Immediately implement the Lahey Report and work with researchers, forestry leaders, community organizers, and residents to build even more sustainable forestry practices
- Dramatically reduce clearcutting of forests in Nova Scotia and work towards eliminating clearcutting as a forestry practice
- Require all Crown land in the province allocated for harvest to be Forest Stewardship Council certified
- Ban the use of glyphosate in agriculture and forestry
- Ban the use of forest biomass for the purpose of electricity generation both domestically and abroad (i.e. exporting)

Coastline

- Work cooperatively with Land Trusts, Indigenous communities, African Nova Scotian communities, Acadian communities, Youth, and other groups to secure Nova Scotia's natural spaces and public access to shorelines for present and future generations
- Protect sensitive coastal ecosystems, and enhance the buffering capacity of our coasts
- Consult coastal communities on the overhaul of the regulation of aquaculture in Nova Scotia
- Address legitimate concerns, guided by the ideal of aquaculture that is low impact and high value, integrating economic prosperity, social well-being and environmental sustainability
- Ensure that aquaculture practices guard the health of wild salmon, i.e., prevent escapes

Clean Water

- Enact legislation to protect our oceans, lakes, rivers and streams from pollution, inappropriate development and climate change hazards
- Exclude water from all trade agreements
- Ban bulk water export from Nova Scotia
- Promote water conservation and water-efficient technologies
- Expand the availability of public water fountains to discourage the need and use of bottled water
- Ensure that shoreline communities and industries stop dumping untreated waste or insufficiently treated waste into rivers, lakes, and the ocean
- Update the environmental impact assessment process to consider the cumulative impacts of any development that would potentially affect wetlands, rivers, lakes, or other aquatic environments
- Ensure that all people living in Nova Scotia have access to safe and clean drinking water

Clean Air

- Create and implement a 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
- Respect the role of vegetation, landforms, and aquatic systems in our air quality and reflect their value within cost-benefit assessments and relevant legislation and regulation
- Increase access to carbon neutral forms of transportation (public transit, cycling, walking) and encourage their use through education programs

Waste Reduction and Management

- Build on the leading role of the waste reduction and management system and seek to reduce the need for new landfills
- Reduce solid waste disposal rate by 50% below 2020 levels by 2030 and achieve zero plastic waste by 2030
- Work with the Divert Nova Scotia and federal and municipal governments to enhance manufacturers' responsibility for the lifetime stewardship of their product
- Ban all single-use plastics in Nova Scotia businesses and institutions

Aquaculture

After years trying to change aquaculture regulations in Nova Scotia, it is clear today that the problems of escaped salmon, sea lice, disease, waste buildup, smell, noise and light pollution, and algae blooms from nutrition density plaguing the salmon farming industry cannot be fixed through regulation. To protect marine ecosystems and debilitated wild salmon populations, our only choice is to move salmon farms out of the water.

Fish farms are often perceived as necessary given that there is increasing pressure on food security and the depletion of wild salmon stock, as well as the stocks of other species, that have been the foundation of our fisheries in Nova Scotia.

The Green Party of Nova Scotia proposes a more sustainable Nova Scotia aquaculture industry. Nova Scotia companies are developing on-land salmon farming. These companies are able to measure stress hormones in the fish and show by reducing the stress levels of the fish that they reduce the need for medications.

Land-based fish farming can create fertilizer as a by-product of its wastes. While land-based aquaculture is energy-intensive, there are many opportunities for its sustainable development in Nova Scotia and we believe that it is a unique opportunity to create more jobs in a sustainable way.

Ultimately, we cannot risk expanding open-pen finfish farming; it simply cannot be done safely and cleanly.

The Green Party of Nova Scotia will:

- Implement an immediate moratorium on the expansion of open-pen finfish aquaculture in Nova Scotia waters and immediately phase out open-pen finfish farming with the aim of completely phasing it out by 2025
- Develop further self-contained alternatives to the current practices, including improved feed production and related industries
- Expand more sustainable aquaculture industries, like shellfish farm production

Building an equitable and just province

Social Justice and Respect for Diversity are two of the six fundamental pillars of the Green movement. That is why equity and justice are at the heart of the Green Party of Nova Scotia's policy-making. A just society is possible, and Nova Scotia has made great strides towards a more just society. However, past gains cannot be taken for granted or as an end point. Nova Scotians deserve better. Nova Scotians expect better.

The science is clear, we are in the midst of a climate and ecological emergency. Yet, government after government approaches this emergency through a technocratic and incremental market-based lens. Climate change and biodiversity loss are intersectional issues. Those who are already marginalized due to poverty, racism, sexism, xenophobia, homophobia, transphobia, will be more seriously affected. Nova Scotia is no exception to this rule. African Nova Scotians and Mi'kmaq communities have been raising their voices for years regarding environmental racism, which was laid bare by the ENRICH Project.

The Green Party of Nova Scotia acknowledges and understands the historical and ongoing discrimination and colonisation experienced by the Mi'kmaq, Indigenous Peoples, African Nova Scotians, Acadians, women, the 2SLGBTQQIA+ community, newcomers and refugees, disabled persons, and neurodivergent persons in Nova Scotia.

The Green Party of Nova Scotia will:

- Integrate a Climate Justice lens for all government policy and departments;
- Create a Climate Justice working group that brings an anti-racist and anti-oppressive lens to all policies and programs
- Review and reallocate police resources using an evidence-based approach (redirect some police funding to support community services)
- Create a Nova Scotia Disabilities Act to express Nova Scotians' vision of a more equitable society
- In collaboration with women's, 2SLGBTQQIA+, African Nova Scotian, disabled, newcomers, refugees, and Mi'kmaq organisations, develop a comprehensive plan of action - with a timetable and funding, with the aim of eliminating violence against women, girls and gender-diverse people

- Support public education to end prejudice and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity
- Foster a culture of consent in an effort to reduce instances of sexual abuse
- In collaboration with 2SLGBTQQIA+ organizations, create a 2SLGBTQQIA+ advisory council for the province

Decolonizing and Indigenizing Mi'kma'ki/Nova Scotia

We must begin by acknowledging that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People.

This territory is covered by the “Treaties of Peace and Friendship” which Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) people first signed with the British Crown. The treaties did not deal with surrender of lands and resources but in fact recognized Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) titles and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between nations.

Canada can no longer hide the fact that it has committed genocide against the Indigenous Peoples of these lands. The issues impacting Indigenous Peoples in Canada are complex and cannot be assessed without an understanding of the violence of generations of occupation and assault upon their traditional cultures, values, languages, and their bodies. Nova Scotia must do its part in acknowledging and addressing colonisation and its effects.

The Green Party of Nova Scotia will:

- Recognize and support the ability of Mi'kmaq people to maintain ways of living on the land that are vital to their cultures, health and well-being
- Support health-care services that incorporate traditional practices and recognise the role of extended families and elders
- Launch a public education program to build awareness about the rich history, culture, and wisdom of indigenous peoples in at least this part of Mi'kma'ki



- Advocate that the federal government finance native language immersion education for First Nations children, and support immersion teacher training to build capacity to strengthen the Mi'kmaq language
- Work with the federal government to fully implement the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the Missing and Murdered Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit Peoples report, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Immediately acknowledge the right of Mi'kmaq people to have decision-making authority over the use of land and resources covered by the Peace & Friendship treaties, including Nova Scotia, thereby setting up a system of co-management of all Crown and other public lands where no decision on the use or disposition of public land is made without the prior informed consent of Mi'kmaq people
- Work with Mi'kmaq leaders to create a Land Back program that will return the management and stewardship of all crown lands to Mi'kmaq communities and create a process for residents of the province to return the stewardship of their land back to Mi'kmaq communities
- By 2023, ensure that the laws of Nova Scotia are consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and implemented accordingly



Supporting Migrants and Newcomers

Nova Scotia's rate of immigration has significantly increased in recent years, with thousands of newcomers joining us every year. International students in particular have become leaders in revitalizing various sectors and promoting youth retainment in our province. Diversity is our strength and all of us are immigrants or the descendants of immigrants except Mi'kmaq people. The Ivany Report has been taken seriously by Nova Scotians, who recognize that immigrants face unique barriers to access in both urban and rural areas. The climate crisis will increasingly add to the ongoing refugee crisis, and we will continue to be leaders in supporting newcomers and their families. We must also support migrant workers who are the backbone of our agriculture sector and are not afforded the same rights as others living on this land. We must work to eliminate the discrimination of newcomers and migrant workers and ensure that they have equal access to public services and healthcare.

We will prioritize the inclusion and self-determination of immigrants and migrants in our economy and our communities.

The Green Party of Nova Scotia will:

- Work with universities to eventually eliminate international student tuition fees
- Follow the Ivany Report's recommendations through to 2024 and beyond.
- Support the Atlantic Immigration Pilot and increasing Nova Scotia's rate of immigration above the current standards
 - This includes encouraging more representation of low-skilled workers in our immigration numbers, who must be equally valued, as well as continuing to encourage our focus on high-skilled workers
- Increase the provision of publicly-funded skills and language training for all newcomers
- Increase accrediting of more foreign-trained individuals and recognizing their skills/credentials to reflect the earned labour of newcomers in the economy and providing publicly-funded equivalency training if needed
- Recognize the skills of immigrant women, who often provide unpaid labour in child-raising and familial care
- Take leadership to support and protect 2SLGBTQIA+ refugees

- Value the community leadership of nonprofits and organizations supporting newcomers, refugees, and migrant workers and increasing their supports
- Ensure that there is immediate access to full MSI benefits for all newcomers, refugees, and migrant workers
- Encourage newcomers' participation and leadership in politics - in particular, giving municipalities the right to grant newcomers the right to vote in municipal elections based on time of residence, not citizenship status
- Allow and encourage migrant workers to unionize with all benefits and upholding labour standards in workplaces employing migrant workers
- Educate Nova Scotians about the ongoing climate refugee crisis in which we must take global leadership
- Develop programs to support climate refugees from across Canada and the globe
- Remove bureaucratic barriers that do not compromise public safety to streamline applicants
- Aggregate data and statistics on immigration and newcomers in the comprehensive economic and social spheres
- Encourage language diversity in public signage and businesses, particularly in areas with high minority-language speaking populations (e.g. Arabic, Chinese, Farsi, etc.)
- Work with municipalities and the RCMP to end carding, which disproportionately targets BIPOC populations, and redirect police resources to community services through an evidence-based approach

Making Long-Term Care Accessible and Safe

The pandemic highlighted a number of longstanding fatal flaws in our home and long-term care systems. Nova Scotia's senior population is one of the highest in Canada at 21.3% and reports have estimated the rate of elderly to double in Atlantic Canada by 2040. People with disabilities are often excluded from discussions of long-term care altogether and that needs to change. The costs of care are simply too high, reducing the number of available choices, especially in rural areas.

The Green Party of Nova Scotia believes that Home Care/Seniors Care and Long-Term Care should be seen as a continuum. Residents receiving home care services will often need the more intensive services provided in a Long-Term Care home.

Because these services are presently offered in silos, access to long term care beds is difficult. It usually occurs after a dramatic health deterioration and a hospitalization. Given the scarcity of hospital beds, the family is put under strong pressure to take their loved one back home until a Long-Term Care bed is available. This puts an emotional burden on the family and can be a breaking point when the caregiver is no longer capable of providing the care, in which case the person is brought back to a hospital where they wait for “placement”.

Our long-term care centres are in dire need of government action. The number of beds is grossly insufficient and individuals are often forced to share rooms to save costs or simply due to a lack of choices. Families may take on caregiving responsibilities without fair compensation, and the person receiving care is left without self-determination over their decisions. Persons with long-term care needs must be ensured, to the extent possible, the full ability to make decisions over their care. In particular, they must have equitable access to participate in our community and public/outdoor spaces.



The Green Party of Nova Scotia will:

- Comprehensively evaluate Nova Scotia’s current home and long-term care delivery system. We will:
 - Increase the number of long-term care beds and prioritize keeping individuals close to their communities and loved ones.
 - Ensure rigorous health and safety evaluations of all home and long-term care delivery providers in Nova Scotia and mandate infectious disease professionals be on staff.
 - Set clear labour standards and protections for home and long-term care staff (incl. maintenance) that ensures competitive salaries.
 - Establish publicly-funded training for low-income families looking to provide sustainable and supportive home care to a loved one.
 - Ensure that every person over 65 is contacted once a year by a healthcare professional for an assessment of their health and living conditions;

- Provide a stipend for families who wish to care for their ageing or vulnerable members in their own homes.
- Implement affordable navigator services to help individuals and loved ones access the appropriate level of care at the right time.
- Ensure the development of multi-level Long Term Care facilities to limit the separation of couples in Long Term Care
- Stand up for palliative care and the right to medically-assisted dying while ensuring any political decision-making is done in consultation with disabled communities who have expressed concerns about assisted-dying legislation
- Build upon accessible public transit services, such as Access-A-Bus, by raising frequency and reliability standards and permanently waiving all transit fees.
- Design all public and outdoor spaces, particularly those near long-term care centres, to be accessible and welcoming for seniors and persons with disabilities.
- Increase home care services so that seniors can stay in their homes for as long as their health and family situation permit
- Support alternative housing options, such as cooperatives and programs like seniors living with youth.
- Introduce a Guaranteed Liveable Income, which would provide financial autonomy for more free choice in-home and long-term care decision-making.

Supporting Young Nova Scotians

Young Nova Scotians face severe challenges today due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the climate and ecological emergency, and economic instability. From unemployment to a rapidly increasing mental health crisis, young Nova Scotians are in need of support and a clear plan to ensure that they have a safe, healthy, and sustainable future. They are vulnerable to economic and social dislocation due to a lack of skills to compete strongly for scarce new jobs and yet cannot gain these skills without a job. They are in a Catch-22. To compound their predicament, they are faced with rapidly rising post-secondary education tuition, a lack of affordable housing, and severe mental distress due to economic instability and the climate and ecological emergency.

Young Nova Scotians in foster care are even further left behind and often experience immense trauma and instability, without adequate support from foster parents or the province. Young Nova Scotians want to stay and many young Canadians want to move to Nova Scotia, but they are unable to afford to do so. This is leading to an exodus of young, talented people and to a worrying future.

We must be decisive and proactive in addressing the challenges facing young Nova Scotians. The cost of inaction is unimaginable, while the cost of bold action to ensure a happy, healthy, and economically stable generation is, in relative terms, low.

The Green Party of Nova Scotia acknowledges the intersectional and intergenerational challenges facing young Nova Scotians, and the need for bold action to address this. Social Justice, Sustainability, and Participatory Democracy are three of the six fundamental pillars of the Green movement. The Green Party of Nova Scotia is committed to taking bold action to address the climate and ecological emergencies, to help young Nova Scotians live healthy, economically stable lives and to protect access to post-secondary education.



The Green Party of Nova Scotia will:

- Lower voting age to 16 years old, giving young people more say in their future and instilling habits of civic participation
- Support the creation of financially accessible and culturally appropriate mental health resources and services for young Nova Scotians experiencing the mental ill-effects of the climate and ecological emergency
- Establish an independent Office of the Child and Youth Advocate in Nova Scotia, similar to the current system seen in PEI
- Boost access to apprenticeship programs, supporting those with skills to train youth through financial support;

- Provide funding for small scale and urban farming initiatives to increase access to high quality, healthy, and fresh food across the province
- Eliminate tuition fees for Nova Scotia Community Colleges for Nova Scotia residents and work towards eliminating fees for domestic and international students at all post-secondary institutions in Nova Scotia
- Convert all current student loans held with the province to grants and only offer grants moving forward
- Support the provision of better training and support systems for foster parents and aim to redesign the foster care system in partnership with foster care advocates, children in foster care, foster parents, social workers, and community leaders from communities with high numbers of children in care.

Fostering a Just and Purposeful Education System

The Green Party of Nova Scotia commits to building a just and purposeful education system that leaves no one behind in working towards a prosperous and sustainable future. We support equitable access to programmes and resources for lifelong education throughout early



childhood, elementary and secondary, post-secondary, and stages of adulthood. We view the lessons from Covid-19 as opportunities to recognize our collective and individual responsibilities to participate democratically in creating healthy and meaningful futures for all and in integrating climate justice for the well-being of all. Individuals and communities have significant roles in contributing the skills, expertise, and knowledge to move forward in determining the educational goals that will benefit our communities and our province.

As treaty people on shared Mi'kmaq territory, our educational policies and practices must recognize and honour Indigenous ecological knowledge and protocols for sharing as expressed in Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action. We express our gratitude to the Mi'kmaq for sharing their understanding of *msit no'kmaq*, the interconnectedness of all things, and strive to emphasize this concept through inclusive learning, integrated curriculum, and safe, respectful, healthy, and sustainable indoor and outdoor learning environments.

We aim to rebuild and improve our educational system by participating in community-based consultative processes for decision-making that will include Mi'kmaq, African Nova Scotian communities, Acadian, 2SLGBTQQIA+, disabled, and newcomer communities, NSTU/teachers, school staff, parents, community members, students, and other stakeholders. This framework for restoring trust and transparency will be instrumental in determining the resources and supports to help all learners realize their potential in contributing to a healthier and sustainable future.

We need to equip learners with the necessary skills of this 21st Century including innovation, critical thinking, collaboration, communication, digital literacy, and respect for diverse identities and cultures, and to align these competencies with our Green Party principles of ecological stewardship, respect for diversity, sustainability, social justice, participatory democracy, and nonviolence. Our collective educational aims will support each person in reaching their own unique goals through an engaged and constructive process. We envision a hopeful future based on sharing skills, knowledge, and responsibility for each other and for our planet.

The Green Party of Nova Scotia will:

- Improve classroom and school conditions to increase the well-being of learners, teachers, and all school-based personnel
- Provide additional teaching and support staff to address post-COVID concerns and recovery
- Develop a collaborative structure for communication between government and teachers to resolve concerns with class sizes, hiring of teachers from under-represented groups, supports for inclusive education, teachers' workloads and classroom conditions, and to build trust and transparency
- Support Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action related to education
- Introduce targeted training and programmes related to respect for diversity, anti-oppression, and anti-racism

- Work with teachers to improve the sex education curriculum to foster a culture of consent and explore gender and sexual identities
- Provide adequate training to health education teachers for sex education on consent, gender and sexual identities, and reproductive health
- Increase support for implementation of the recommendations of the BLAC (Black Learners Advisory Committee) Report, a valuable research and participatory action study for redressing inequities and empowering Black learners
- Work with teachers to improve the civic education curriculum and encourage civic engagement within and outside of classrooms
- Invest in school-based supports for health, mental health, and family services
- Introduce a specific autism-related comprehensive long-term plan with well-researched approaches and strategies for teaching and supporting children and youth on the autism spectrum
- Eliminate root causes of the child poverty crisis throughout the province as food security has a major impact on well-being, capacity for learning, and future opportunities with Guaranteed Liveable income
- Develop a whole school approach that introduces Environmental Action/Climate Justice with a strong focus on climate change as an integrated and cross-curricular subject at all grade levels from Grade Primary to 12, in partnership with Mi'kmaq communities and in consultation with all stakeholders
- Provide guidance and supports for current and future school/community gardens in all schools, or alternatively communities, in the province to promote food security, environmental sustainability, lifelong healthy food choices, social inclusion, life skills, the arts, and all subject areas, through integrated curricular action plans and inquiry and project-based learning on a classroom as well as a school-wide basis
- Initiate an environmental assessment and plan for the environmentally sustainable greening of schoolyards as outdoor spaces for integrated Environmental Action/Climate Justice project-based learning and safe learning spaces in all subject areas
- Integrate a wide range of technology to support a balance of in-class and online learning opportunities
- Expand access to online learning throughout the province to enhance creative forms of collaboration between schools, classrooms, and communities
- Expand school-based arts programmes including visual, musical, performing, and dramatic arts

- Introduce required Grade 10, 11 and 12 adulting courses/workshops that help students learn practical skills and awareness related to the following: first aid, developing healthy relationships including respectful friendships and sexual interactions, conflict resolution, stress management, managing money including budgeting and banking, public transportation advantages, buying and driving a car and car maintenance, home maintenance, sewing, cooking, and cleaning living spaces, finding and interviewing for a job among others
- Provide resources for homeschoolers and children and youth in care
- Introduce required swimming and water safety lessons for all students in early elementary years of schooling
- Revisit the Glaze Report to emphasize the proposed but still unaddressed gaps:
- Develop targeted strategies for problem areas in education such as rural education, French language instruction, and students living in poverty or in care
- Provide appropriate resources to the Conseil Acadien Provincial including for the promotion of the French language outside the classrooms in youth leadership activities and community development activities
- Provide coherent support for emerging immigrant (and refugee communities) for students, parents, and teachers
- Initiate a workforce planning strategy to recruit and train teachers who work in marginalized and underserved communities
- Restore trades and other skills-based curricula in intermediate and high schools, and expand paid apprenticeships and co-op placement programmes
- Increase access to adult learning and lifelong education through providing staff and resources to address learning goals and needs related to literacy, numeracy, upgrading, computer literacy, skills training, and English as an Additional Language learning among others
- Eliminate tuition fees for Nova Scotia Community Colleges for Nova Scotia residents and work towards free tuition for all domestic and international students at all post-secondary institutions in Nova Scotia
- Immediately provide free post-secondary education to youth who were formerly in care

Making Nova Scotia Safe for All

The Green Party of Nova Scotia is committed to the principle of nonviolence. We recognize that Nova Scotia is a settler-colonial police state, where people face among other things unsafe living conditions and housing, police brutality, mass shootings and domestic violence, and the highest human trafficking rates in Canada. This must change. We dream of a province where every being living on this land and these waters is safe and can thrive.

Trauma from the Portapique mass shooting in April 2020 continues to remind Nova Scotians that women and gender-diverse individuals, especially domestic violence survivors, are too often not believed by police or our judicial system. Religious minorities, persons with disabilities, and 2SLGBTQQA+ individuals are also targets of oppressive societal structures. Rates of physical and verbal assaults against immigrants have risen since the pandemic started, especially older women. Safety is a key determinant of personal happiness, success, and our ability to retain our population for the long-term.

Mi'kmaq communities face colonial barriers and violence simply when defending their self-determination over land and resources. The 2019 Halifax Street Checks Report prepared by the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission makes clear that Mi'kmaq and Black Nova Scotians are disproportionately targeted and criminalized by police. We are also in an opioid crisis and Nova Scotians deserve a government that treats addiction as a public health issue, instead of criminalizing it. Our services that are supposed to keep Nova Scotians safe are endangering them. We can do better.

All those living on this land deserve the basic right to feel safe. We are all treaty people of the Peace and Friendship Treaties living on this land of Mi'kma'ki. This means that as a settler-colonial state, we have the moral and legal responsibility to uphold our end of the treaty and work in friendship and collaboration with Mi'kmaq communities to provide safe living conditions, access to services, and protection to everyone living on this land.

The Green Party of Nova Scotia will:

- Support government data aggregation and initiatives like the ENRICH Project which assess equity disparities for Nova Scotians (ex. environmental racism statistics)

- Support public school teachers and staff safety in schools by providing more support to non-policing intervention options in certain violent youth situations. Generally, uniformed officers - particularly those with firearms - should have no day-to-day role to play in our schools.
- Work with municipal and federal governments, Black and African Nova Scotian communities, Mi'kmaq and Indigenous communities, and the 2SLGBTQQIA+ community to redirect police funds towards community services including poverty reduction, recreational services, educational services, mental health services, and career transition services with the aim of redefining public safety and the role of the police as an agency of social control.
- Establish a Nova Scotia Provincial Safety Force to replace the employment of the costly RCMP with standards that include specialized training for working with residents who are disabled, 2SLGBTQQIA+, women, transgender, newcomers, racialized, Indigenous, Black, or of various religions
- Support and learn from legal activists and groups representing communities underrepresented within the staff of the justice system, such as women, Black Nova Scotians, 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals, persons with disabilities, and newcomers and other persons of colour
- Engage with self-determination efforts of Mi'kmaq people to establish independent legal courts and promote restorative justice practices over further criminalization practices
- Work with the federal government to reduce current incarceration rates by transitioning criminal offenders out of prison through rehabilitation and re-entry programs
- Ensure public accountability in Nova Scotia's emergency alert system through a comprehensive review of provincial protocol and community accessibility to information during crises
- Transform services offered by the province to be focused on the peoples' life experience and needs by conducting reviews of all social, family, and disability support services with marginalized communities and adapting existing programs to be more equitable
- Eliminate the NSLC monopoly over cannabis by allowing a hybrid model for private retailers, prioritizing Indigenous and Black Nova Scotian leadership
- Decriminalize personal possession of some illicit drugs, such as recreational psilocybin mushrooms

- Increase the number of safe injection sites in Nova Scotia.
- Hold the provincial government accountable to follow through on the recommendations of the Mass Casualty Commission and to further investigate gender-based violence and domestic abuse in anti-terror operations
- Immediately decriminalize sex work and build strategies to protect sex workers

Creating a More Accessible Political System

Nova Scotia is the birthplace of responsible government in Canada, and yet across party lines, people feel more and more left out of politics. Only 54% of eligible voters cast their ballots in 2017, and youth turnout did not increase in any age categories below 34. The traditional parties pick and choose when voters get to be included and dictate politics to the people. As a result, our politics have become centralized in the Premier's office, with our rural communities left behind and a lack of bold action clearly noticed by the electorate.

Greens fundamentally believe in participatory democracy and decentralized decision-making. We do not whip our representatives and we encourage working across the aisle with other parties. By electing Green MLAs, the Nova Scotia legislature can once again be a place for collaboration and transparency.

The Green Party of Nova Scotia will:

- Lower the voting age to 16 years old
- Make Election Day a provincial statutory holiday
- Implement a fixed election date in Nova Scotia.
- Implement a proportional representation system and hold a referendum on the new system after two election cycles or eight years (whichever is longer)
- Automatically register eligible voters
- Support efforts that encourage and help women and gender-diverse/2SLGBTQQIA+, persons with disabilities, and BIPOC individuals to run for office and engage politically.
- Adopt measures to better support independent, alternative, rural, and Indigenous media outlets and sources.
- Enact strong conflict of interest guidelines for elected representatives, including barring candidates who violate lobbying rules from participating in future elections.

- Require inter-Party cooperation by:
 - Requiring two-thirds majorities in the House of Assembly for motions that reduce or diminish time for public debate of legislation
 - Enhancing the role of Opposition MLAs by giving the Opposition a majority on the Law Amendments Committee.
- Encourage transparency in the government by setting maximum fees, improving wait times, and minimizing requirements on freedom of information (FOI) requests.
- Implement strong protections for whistleblowers in the public service.
- Mandating that the legislative assembly sits for at least 30 days in each sitting.
- Elected Greens will consider every vote a free vote, other than confidence motions, such as the budget. The other parties tell their members how to vote on issues. We want our caucus members to vote with their conscience and with their constituents

Conclusion

Our thanks go out to the many independent groups whose research and recommendations have helped to guide our platform. Thanks to the many volunteers who worked together to create and revise this document. Thanks to all the candidates championing these goals. Thanks to you, the reader, for taking the time and energy to educate yourself about our platform and thank you to everyone who votes, who participates to create a more representative democracy, and to everyone who believes in a better way forward. Wela'lin. Merci. Thank you. Please reach out to us to discuss what YOU want to see in the future for Nova Scotia.

