

## **CUMBERLAND-COLCHESTER: Voting Age Reduction**

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**WHEREAS** early establishment of voting practices form patterns of civic engagement that follow throughout life; and

**WHEREAS** the age to begin full time work, paying tax deductions to do so begin at the age of 16; and

**WHEREAS** at the age of 16 Nova Scotians have the ability to be licensed for operating a vehicle on the roads and bridges that those taxes pay to maintain; and

**WHEREAS** at the age of 16 Nova Scotians have up to 3 years of high school education remaining to present the electoral process and will likely provide the opportunity to use that new right in 2 of the 3 years at either the municipal or provincial level

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Government of Nova Scotia investigate and create a plan to alter the voting age for all future provincial and municipal elections in NS to be granted to those aged 16 or above; and

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a Liberal Government create and require an annual 1 week module to be taught in one of the compulsory classes for every grade 10, 11, and 12 student in Nova Scotia's high schools, where the module include but are not limited to:

- comparative electoral methods (ranked ballot, first past the post, party lists, runoff elections, exclusionary criteria for citizenship, etc.), walk through the current system for voting in Nova Scotia, why when and how often they are required to happen;
- how in Canadian Federalism the constitution outlines responsibilities of certain areas for the provincial government to manage, how are laws created to handle those areas, how towns are created and which responsibilities are given to the towns to manage; and,
- in groups the students must come up with one policy idea to pitch to the class in a mock municipal or provincial election and at the end of the week the citizens as a class will vote on the competing ideas under the different methods in the first section and compare the results.