

DEMOCRATIC REFORM RESOLUTIONS  
NOVA SCOTIA LIBERAL PARTY  
2010 – 2013

## DEMOCRATIC REFORM

### Mobile voting stations on University Campuses

Whereas voter participation has been steadily decreasing in Nova Scotia with younger demographics having a significantly lower voter turnout than any other age demographic; and

Whereas all attempts to eliminate barriers for youth to participate in the democratic process should be eliminate to help elevate the difficulties experienced by youth when attempting to vote; and

Whereas many students find it difficult to vote in an election while attending University and would like the opportunity to vote in their home riding but do not want to interrupt their studies to do so; and

Whereas other jurisdictions have introduced changes to their election practices to allow for mobile voting stations on University campuses that allow University students the option to vote in their home riding or the University's riding;

Therefore be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party urge the government of Nova Scotia to introduce Mobile voting stations on all Nova Scotia University campuses which allow students the options to vote in their home riding or the riding the University is in before the next general election in Nova Scotia.

DEMOCRATIC REFORM

Braille Ballots

Whereas our voting system is based on the fundamental principle of a secret ballot; and

Whereas the blind and visually impaired in Nova Scotia require the assistance of a support individual or must rely on the Returning Office in a polling station to cast their ballot in an election; and

Whereas Braille ballots could be created to allow the blind and visually impaired individuals to cast their ballot without the aid of the returning officer or a supporting individual, thus upholding the principle of a secret ballot; and

Whereas Nova Scotia currently does not offer a Braille ballot for the visually impaired;

Therefore be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party implore the government of Nova Scotia to implement a Braille ballot option for the blind and visually impaired before the next general provincial election.

## DEMOCRATIC REFORM

### Utility and Review Board

Whereas, successive Nova Scotia Governments have increasingly handed over power and authority to the Utility and Review Board, whose membership is comprised of unelected appointees; and

Whereas this action reduces both the democratic process and transparency, and government accountability; and

Whereas this action allows the government of the day to abdicate responsibility for an increasing number of decisions that affect Nova Scotia residents; and

Whereas delegating such authority and power to the UARB reduces the role and responsibilities of serving MLA's to protect the best interests of Nova Scotians;

Be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Liberal Party urge the Government of Nova Scotia to cease the handing over of power and authority to this unelected body, without debate and approval of the House of Assembly and, restore decision-making authority and responsibility to the Legislature and to elected representatives of the people.

Be it further resolved that the Liberal party of Nova Scotia urge the provincial government to conduct a full review of this unelected body (UARB) in order to facilitate a more equitable balance of power and authority, along with responsibility, to our legislature and the elected representatives of the people of Nova Scotia.